



STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

A Stock Life Insurance Company
900 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1282
(503) 321-7000

CERTIFICATE GROUP EYE CARE INSURANCE

The Policyholder **MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Policy Number **160-755633** **Insured Person**

Plan Effective Date **September 1, 2017** **Certificate Effective Date**
Refer to Exceptions on 9070

Plan Change Effective Date **June 1, 2021**

Class Number 2

Standard Insurance Company certifies that you will be insured for the benefits described on the following pages, according to all the terms of the group policy numbered above which has been issued to the Policyholder.

Possession of this certificate does not necessarily mean you are insured. You are insured only if you meet the requirements set out in this certificate.

The group policy may be amended or cancelled without the consent of the insured person.

The group policy and this certificate are governed by the laws of the state in which the group policy was delivered.

This is not a policy of workers' compensation insurance. The employer does not become a subscriber to the workers compensation system by purchasing his policy, and if the employer is a non-subscriber, the employer loses those benefits that would otherwise accrue under the workers' compensation laws. The employer must comply with the workers' compensation law as it pertains to non-subscribers and the required notifications that must be filed and posted.

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Greg Ness". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "J" being particularly large and stylized.

J. Greg Ness
Chairman and CEO

Have a complaint or need help?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company or HMO first. If you can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company or HMO. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

Standard Insurance Company

To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company or HMO:

Call: Complaint Officer at 888-418-6811 (Toll Free)

Email: standard@employeebenefitservice.com

Mail: P.O. Box 82629, Lincoln, NE 68501-2629

The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439

File a complaint: www.tdi.texas.gov

Email: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Mail: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

Standard Insurance Company

Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros o HMO:

Llame a: **Complaint Officer al 888-418-6811 (Teléfono gratuito)**

Correo electrónico: standard@employeebenefitservice.com

Dirección postal: P.O. Box 82629, Lincoln, NE 68501-2629

El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439

Presente una queja en: www.tdi.texas.gov

Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

Notice of Complaint and Appeal Procedures - TEXAS

Please read this notice carefully. Please also review your plan documents and Explanation of Benefits you receive with a benefit decision resulting from a claim or elective request for a pre-treatment estimate of benefits. This notice contains important information about how to file complaints or appeals.

I. Definitions

“Adverse Determination” means that benefits are not available based on a utilization review determination that services provided or proposed are not medically necessary or are experimental. All adverse determinations are made by licensed dentists. Adverse determinations are made in accordance with the Utilization Review Agent's (URA) Clinical Guidelines, which are based upon Current Dental Terminology nomenclature and definitions, as well as professional clinical standards of care garnered through clinical experience and publications by organized dentistry.

“Complaint” means an oral or written expression of dissatisfaction concerning the URA's process in conducting a utilization review. The term "complaint" does not include an expression of dissatisfaction constituting an appeal or a misunderstanding or misinformation that is resolved promptly by supplying the appropriate information or by clearing up the misunderstanding to the satisfaction of the complaining party.

“Independent Review Organization” (“IRO”) means an entity authorized by the Texas Department of Insurance to provide an external review of an adverse determination.

“Prospective Review” means a benefits review prior to receiving a service. Prospective reviews are not required under this policy, but you or your provider may choose to request a pre-treatment estimate of benefits before a service is performed.

“Reasonable Opportunity” means at least one documented good faith attempt to contact the provider of record that provides an opportunity for the provider of record to discuss the services under review with us during normal business hours prior to issuing a prospective, concurrent, or retrospective utilization review adverse determination:

- (A) no less than one working day prior to issuing a prospective utilization review adverse determination;
- (B) no less than five working days prior to issuing a retrospective utilization review adverse determination; or
- (C) prior to issuing a concurrent or post-stabilization review adverse determination.

“Retrospective Utilization Review” means a form of utilization review for health care services that have been provided to a member. Retrospective utilization review does not include review of services for which prospective or concurrent utilization reviews were previously conducted or should have been previously conducted.

II. Our Benefit Notices

If we make an adverse determination as defined above, after giving the treating provider a reasonable opportunity for discussion, you, an individual acting on your behalf, and the provider will have access to our appeals process even if the discussion does not occur. An Explanation of Benefits or Payment will also be included, that includes:

1. principal reason for the benefit decision, and
2. the clinical basis and description or source of screening criteria.

For adverse determinations, you, an individual acting on your behalf, or the provider has a right to request a review by an IRO. You can request an immediate review by an IRO in cases of life threatening conditions. Please find attached the Independent Review request forms.

III. Designated Person Responsible For Complaints and Appeals Management

Name: Kate McCown
Second Vice President - Group Compliance
Address: P.O. Box 82629
Lincoln, NE 68501-2629
Email: <http://standard@employeebenefitsservice.com>
Phone: 888-418-6871 (Toll-Free)
Fax: 402-309-2579

IV. Levels of Review Available

A. Our Internal Review

The member or someone acting on the member's behalf and the provider of record has the right to appeal an adverse determination (denial) orally or in writing. A licensed dentist who has not previously reviewed the case will make the appeal decision. The appealing party must send us the appeal no later than 30 calendar days after the date of this letter.

- **Written Appeal:** To submit a written appeal, mail or fax the written appeal to the address or fax number listed above.
- **Oral Appeal:** To file an oral appeal, call the following toll-free number: 877-897-4328.

There are three types of appeals:

- **Standard Appeal:** An appeal that does not involve urgent care such as emergency care, life-threatening conditions, or continued hospitalization.
- **Expedited Appeal:** An expedited appeal is available for emergency care, life-threatening conditions, and hospitalized members. An expedited appeal is also available for denials of prescription drugs and intravenous infusions for which the member is currently receiving benefits.
- **Acquired Brain Injury Appeal (this type of appeal may not be applicable in your case):** An appeal of denied services concerning an acquired brain injury.

Appeal Acknowledgment: Within five working days of receipt of the appeal, we will send the appealing party a letter acknowledging the date that we received the appeal and a list of documents that we may need for the appeal. If the appeal is oral, we will send the appealing party a one-page appeal form. The appealing party does not have to return the appeal form but we encourage its return because the form will help us resolve the appeal.

Our deadlines to resolve the appeal and send a written decision to the member or someone acting on the member's behalf and the provider of record are:

- **Standard Appeal:** 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal
- **Expedited Appeal:** One working day from the date we receive all information necessary to complete the appeal. We may provide the determination by telephone or electronic transmission, but will provide a written determination within three working days of the initial telephonic or electronic notification.
- **Retrospective (claim) Appeal:** 30 calendar days after receipt of appeal. However, we may extend this deadline once for a period not to exceed 15 days.
- **Acquired Brain Injury Appeal (this type of appeal may not be applicable in your case):** Not later than three business days after the date on which the individual submits the appeal. The notification of the determination must be provided through a direct telephone contact to the individual making the request. We will provide a written determination within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal.

Life-Threatening Conditions: If the patient has a life-threatening condition or receives a denial for prescription drugs or intravenous infusions for which they are currently receiving benefits, the patient, or someone acting on the patient's behalf, and the provider of record can request an immediate review by an independent review organization (IRO) and is not required to follow our internal appeal procedures. See below for more information about the independent review.

After our internal review of your appeal, we will send a written decision, including:

- A statement of the specific medical, dental, or contractual reasons for the resolution;
- The clinical basis for the decision

- A description of or the source of the screening criteria that were utilized in making the determination
- The professional specialty of the provider who made the determination
- Notice of the appealing party's right to seek review of the adverse determination by an IRO under 28 TAC 19.1717
- A copy of a request for a review by an IRO form;
- Procedures for filing a complaint as described in 28 TAC 19.1705 (f).

Exhaustion of Internal Appeals: We will not require exhaustion of our internal appeals process if: (a) we fail to meet our internal appeal process timelines, or (b) the claimant with an urgent care situation files an external review before exhausting our internal appeal process, or (c) we decide to waive the appeal process requirements.

B. Independent Review

If we deny the appeal (continue to deny the services or treatment described above), the member or someone acting on the member's behalf and the provider of record has the right to request a review by an IRO. The IRO does not have an affiliation with your payor (insurance company or health plan), your health care providers, or the URA. To request the independent review, fill out the enclosed form and return it to the address or fax number listed in Section III. above. The patient, parent, or the patient's legal guardian must sign the consent to release medical information to the IRO (included as part of the IRO form). We will notify the Texas Department of Insurance of the request for an Independent Review within one working day from the date the IRO request is received. The Texas Department of Insurance will randomly assign an IRO to review the matter. We will provide all required information to the IRO within three working days after the date we receive a request for IRO review. We will bear the costs of the Independent Review and will comply with their benefit decisions.

V. Complaint Procedures

The enrollee, an individual acting on behalf of the enrollee, or the provider of record may file an oral or a written complaint regarding our utilization review process or procedures by using the contact information listed above. We will respond to your complaint within 30 calendar days.

You always have the right to file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance

333 Guadalupe St.
P.O. Box 149104
Austin, TX 78714-9104
Web: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov>
Toll Free: 1-800- 252-3439
Fax: 512- 490-1007

How you're protected if your life or health insurance company fails

The Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association protects you by paying your covered claims if your life or health insurance company is insolvent (can't pay its debts). **This notice summarizes your protections.**

The Association will pay your claims, with some exceptions required by law, if your company is licensed in Texas and a court has declared it insolvent. You must live in Texas when your company fails. If you don't live in Texas, you may still have some protections.

For each insolvent company, the Association will pay a person's claims only up to these dollar limits set by law:

- **Accident, accident and health, or health insurance (including HMOs):**
 - Up to \$500,000 for health benefit plans, with some exceptions.
 - Up to \$300,000 for disability income benefits.
 - Up to \$300,000 for long-term care insurance benefits.
 - Up to \$200,000 for all other types of health insurance.
- **Life insurance:**
 - Up to \$100,000 in net cash surrender or withdrawal value.
 - Up to \$300,000 in death benefits.
- **Individual annuities:** Up to \$250,000 in the present value of benefits, including cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values.
- **Other policy types:** Limits for group policies, retirement plans and structured settlement annuities are in Chapter 463 of the Texas Insurance Code.
- **Individual aggregate limit:** Up to \$300,000 per person, regardless of the number of policies or contracts. A limit of \$500,000 may apply for people with health benefit plans.
- **Parts of some policies might not be protected:** For example, there is no protection for parts of a policy or contract that the insurance company doesn't guarantee, such as some additions to the value of variable life or annuity policies.

To learn more about the Association and your protections, contact: Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association 515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1875 Austin, TX 78701 1-800-982-6362 or www.txlifega.org	For questions about insurance, contact: Texas Department of Insurance P.O. Box 149104 Austin, TX 78714-9104 1-800-252-3439 or www.tdi.texas.gov
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Note: You're receiving this notice because Texas law requires your insurance company to send you a summary of your protections under the Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act (Insurance Code, Chapter 463). These protections apply to insolvencies that occur on or after September 1, 2019. **There may be other exceptions that aren't included in this notice.** When choosing an insurance company, you should not rely on the Association's coverage. Texas law prohibits companies and agents from using the Association as an inducement to buy insurance or HMO coverage.

Chapter 463 controls if there are differences between the law and this summary.

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**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS
OUTLINE OF COVERAGE**

The Insurance for each Insured and each Insured Dependent will be based on the Insured's class shown in this Schedule of Benefits.

<u>Benefit Class</u>	<u>Class Description</u>
Class 2	Eligible Employee Electing The Premier Plan

EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS

When you select a Contracting Provider, a discounted fee schedule is used which is intended to provide you, the Insured, reduced out of pocket costs.

Deductible Amount:

When a Contracting Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$15
Contact Lens Fitting and Evaluation - Each Benefit Period	\$60
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$25
Progressive Lenses - Each Benefit Period	\$50

When a Non-Contracting Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$15
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$25
Progressive Lenses - Each Benefit Period	\$50

Please refer to the EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS page for details regarding frequency, limitations, and exclusions.

DEFINITIONS

COMPANY refers to Standard Insurance Company. The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to Company. Our Home Office address is 900 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204-1282.

POLICYHOLDER refers to the Policyholder stated on the face page of the policy.

INSURED refers to a person:

- a. who is a Member of the eligible class; and
- b. who has qualified for insurance by completing the eligibility period, if any; and
- c. for whom the insurance has become effective.

DOMESTIC PARTNER: Refers to two unrelated individuals who share the necessities of life, live together, and have an emotional and financial commitment to one another, similar to that of a spouse.

CHILD. Child refers to the child of the Insured, a child of the Insured's spouse or a child of the Insured's Domestic Partner, if they otherwise meet the definition of Dependent.

DEPENDENT refers to:

- a. an Insured's spouse or Domestic Partner.
- b. each unmarried and married child less than 26 years of age, for whom the Insured, the Insured's spouse, or the Insured's Domestic Partner is legally responsible, including natural born children, adopted children from the date of placement for adoption, or from the date that the insured is a party to a suit to adopt the child, whichever is earlier, grandchildren, if such children are dependents of the Insured for federal income tax purposes at the time application of coverage of the child is made, children covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by applicable Federal and State laws and any child if the parent is required by a court order or administrative order to provide health insurance coverage for the child. Spouses of Dependents and other Dependent family members under the age of 26 are not eligible for coverage under this plan.
- c. each unmarried child age 26 or older who is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or physical disability, and chiefly dependent on the insured or group member for support and maintenance. To obtain coverage for a child as described by Subsection (c), You must provide US proof of the child's incapacity and dependency, not later than the 31st day after the date the child attains the limiting age, and subsequently We require, except that we may not require proof more frequently than annually after the second anniversary of the date the child attains limiting age, and each unmarried grandchild less than 25 years of age, if such children are dependents of the Insured for federal income tax purposes at the time application for coverage of the child is made.
- d. Totally Disabled and becomes Totally Disabled as defined below while insured as a dependent under b. above. Coverage of such child will not cease if proof of dependency and disability is given within 31 days of attaining the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by us but not more frequently than annually after the child's attaining the limiting age. Any costs for providing continuing proof will be at our expense.

TOTAL DISABILITY describes the Insured's Dependent as:

1. Continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or physical handicap; and
2. Chiefly dependent upon the Insured for support and maintenance.

DEPENDENT UNIT refers to all of the people who are insured as the dependents of any one Insured.

PROVIDER refers to any person who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of the license.

CONTRACTING AND NON-CONTRACTING PROVIDERS. A Contracting Provider is a Provider who has a contract with Us to provide services to Insureds at a discount. A Contracting Provider is also referred to as a "Network Provider". The terms and conditions of the agreement with our network providers are available upon request. Members are required to pay the difference between the plan payment and the Contracting Provider's contracted fees for covered services. A Non-Contracting Provider is any other provider and may also be referred to as an "Out-of-Network Provider." Members are required to pay the difference between the plan payment and the provider's actual fee for covered services. Therefore, the out-of-pocket expenses may be lower if services are provided by a Contracting Provider.

PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE refers to the date coverage under the policy becomes effective. The Plan Effective Date for the Policyholder is shown on the policy cover. The effective date of coverage for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder's records.

All insurance will begin at 12:01 A.M. on the Effective Date. It will end after 11:59 P.M. on the Termination Date. All times are stated as Standard Time of the residence of the Insured.

PLAN CHANGE EFFECTIVE DATE refers to the date that the policy provisions originally issued to the Policyholder change as requested by the Policyholder. The Plan Change Effective date for the Policyholder will be shown on the policy cover, if the Policyholder has requested a change. The plan change effective date for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder's records or on the cover of the certificate.

CONDITIONS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR MEMBERS. The members of the eligible class(es) are shown on the Schedule of Benefits. Each member of the eligible class (referred to as "Member") will qualify for such insurance on the day he or she completes the required eligibility period, if any. Members choosing to elect coverage will hereinafter be referred to as "Insured."

A member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is any eligible employee electing the premier plan working at least 18.75 hours per week.

Substitute Employees Who Work 18.75+ Hours are excluded from the Eligible Class for Insurance.

If both spouses are Members, and if either of them insures their dependent children, then the spouse, whoever elects, will be considered the dependent of the other. As a dependent, the person will not be considered a Member of the Eligible Class, but will be eligible for insurance as a dependent.

ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR DEPENDENT INSURANCE. Each Member of the eligible class(es) for dependent coverage is eligible for the Dependent Insurance under the policy and will qualify for this Dependent Insurance on the first of the month falling on or first following the latest of:

1. the day he or she qualifies for coverage as a Member;
2. the day he or she first becomes a Member; or
3. the day he or she first has a dependent.

COVERAGE FOR NEWBORN AND ADOPTED CHILDREN. A newborn child will be covered from the date of birth. An adopted child will be covered from the date an insured enters in suit seeking adoption of a child. A foster child and other child in court-ordered custody will be covered from the date of placement in the Insured's residence.

Initial coverage for a newborn child will be covered for a period of 31 days. For coverage to continue beyond this initial 31-day period, the Insured must give us notice and we will charge the applicable additional premium from the date of birth.

A Member must be an Insured to also insure his or her dependents.

A member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance is any eligible employee electing the premier plan working at least 18.75 hours per week and has eligible dependents.

Substitute Employees Who Work 18.75+ Hours are excluded from the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

Any spouse who elects to be a dependent rather than a member of the Eligible Class for Personal Insurance, as explained above, is not a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

When a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance dies and, if at the date of death, has dependents insured, the Policyholder has the option of offering the dependents of the deceased employee continued coverage. If elected by the Policyholder and the affected dependents, the name of such deceased member will continue to be listed as a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS. Member Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of his or her insurance premiums.

Dependent Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of insurance premiums for his or her dependents.

SECTION 125. This plan is provided as part of the Employer's Section 125 Plan. Each Member has the option under the Section 125 Plan of participating or not participating in this plan.

If a Member does not elect to participate when initially eligible, the Member may elect to participate at a subsequent Election Period. This Election Period will be held each year and those who elect to participate in this plan at that time will have their coverage become effective on September 1.

Members may change their election option only during an Election Period, except for a change in family status. Such events would be marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a spouse or child, or termination of employment of a spouse.

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD. For Members on the Plan Effective Date of the policy, coverage is effective immediately.

For persons who become Members after the Plan Effective Date of the policy, qualification will occur on the first of the month falling on or first following the date of employment.

An Insured whose eligibility terminates and is established again, may or may not have to complete a new eligibility period before he or she can again qualify for insurance.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Each Member has the option of being insured and insuring his or her Dependents. To elect coverage, he or she must agree in writing to contribute to the payment of the insurance premiums. The Effective Date for each Member and his or her Dependents, will be the first of the month falling on or first following:

1. the date on which the Member qualifies for insurance, if the Member agrees to contribute on or before that date.
2. the date on which the Member agrees to contribute, if that date is within 31 days after the date he or she qualifies for insurance.

EXCEPTIONS. A Member must be in active service on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. If not, the insurance will not take effect until the day he or she returns to active service. Active service refers to the performance in the customary manner by an employee of all the regular duties of his or her employment with his or her employer on a full time basis at one of the employer's business establishments or at some location to which the employer's business requires the employee to travel.

A Member will be in active service on any regular non-working day if he or she is not totally disabled on that day and if he or she was in active service on the regular working day before that day.

A Member must not be totally disabled on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. The insurance will not take effect until the day after he or she ceases to be totally disabled.

But any person who is not in active service or is totally disabled will be insured on the Effective Date if:

- a. the person was insured under a policy of group insurance providing like benefits which ended on the day immediately before the Effective Date of the policy providing this coverage; and

- b. the person is considered a Member or an eligible Dependent under the policy providing this coverage; and had the prior policy contained the same definition of eligibility, would have been a Member or Dependent under the prior policy.

TERMINATION DATES

INSUREDS. The insurance for any Insured, will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the **earliest of:**

1. the date the Insured ceases to be a Member;
2. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
3. the date the policy is terminated.

DEPENDENTS. The insurance for all of an Insured's dependents will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the **earliest of:**

1. the date on which the Insured's coverage terminates;
2. the date on which the Insured ceases to be a Member;
3. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
4. the date all Dependent Insurance under the policy is terminated.

The insurance for any Dependent will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the day before the date on which the dependent no longer meets the definition of a dependent. See "Definitions."

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE. If coverage ceases according to TERMINATION DATE, some or all of the insurance coverages may be continued. Contact your plan administrator for details.

Strike or Lockout

For Employees Only

This continuation only applies when the Employer is required by a collective bargaining agreement to pay all or part of the Insured's premium.

1. The Insured may continue coverage if it would stop because the Insured's work is stopped due to:
 - a. a strike; or
 - b. a lockout;

provided premiums are paid by the Insured.

The Insured may also continue to insure his or her dependents.

2. **Benefits**
This continuation applies to all benefits payable under the policy.
3. **Termination**
Such insurance will stop on the earlier of:
 - a. the last day of the period for which the premium is paid;
 - b. the date coverage would normally stop under the terms of the policy;
 - c. the date the Insured becomes eligible under another group health plan;
 - d. the date coverage has been continued for six months;

- e. the date seventy-five percent (75%) of the covered employees continue coverage;
- f. the date the policy terminates.

4. Premiums

We may charge the full premium, i.e. the employee and employer's portion, during the continuation period.

We may change the premium rate at any time the Insured's group plan premium rate is changed.

EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS

If an Insured has Covered Expenses under this section, we pay benefits as described. The Insured can choose any provider at any time.

COVERED EXPENSES

Covered Expenses include the lesser of:

- a. the charge for the covered procedure furnished; or
- b. the Maximum Covered Expense for such services or supplies shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Services.

Covered Expenses are the eye care expenses incurred by an Insured for services or supplies. We pay up to the Maximum Covered Expense shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Services.

DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT

The Deductible Amount is on the Schedule of Benefits. It is an amount of Covered Expenses for which no benefits are payable. It applies separately to each Insured. Benefits are paid only for those Covered Expenses that are over the Deductible Amount.

CONTRACTING PROVIDERS

A Contracting Provider is a provider who has agreed to participate in the VSP network and agrees to provide services and supplies to the Insured at a discounted fee. For questions related to providers or benefit payments, VSP's Customer Care Division is available at (800) 877-7195.

NON-CONTRACTING PROVIDER

A Non-Contracting Provider is any other provider. Non-Contracting providers may be referred to as Affiliate or Open Access Providers. Non-Contracting Providers are not subject to our Quality Management Programs. Your out-of-pocket expenses may be greater when you visit a Non-Contracting Provider. However, more cost savings or convenience may be available through VSP arrangements with Affiliate Providers. You may contact VSP's Customer Care Division for details at (800) 877-7195).

EYE CARE SUPPLIES

Eye care supplies are all services listed on the Schedule of Eye Care Services. They exclude services related to Eye Care Exams.

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

When requesting services from a Contracting Provider's office, the Insured must advise the Contracting Provider's office if he or she has coverage under this network plan. No notification is required if requesting services from a Non-Contracting Provider.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

Unless we receive a written Assignment of Benefits to the contrary, we pay benefits to the Contracting Provider for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Contracting Provider performs services, we pay benefits to the Insured unless arranged differently through an Affiliate or Open Access provider, or otherwise required by state regulation.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

If your policy terminates, we will pay claims for eye care services and supplies that you received or ordered prior to your policy's termination. You will have six months following the date of service to submit your claim. If it was not reasonably possible to submit a claim within the period stated above, we will not reduce or deny the claim for this reason if the claim is submitted as soon as is reasonably possible.

EXPENSES INCURRED

An expense is incurred at the time a service is rendered or a supply item furnished.

PROOF OF LOSS

Written proof of loss must be given to us within 180 days after completion of the service for a claim to be covered. An exception may be made if the Insured shows it was not reasonably possible to submit the proof of loss within this period.

LIMITATIONS

This plan has the following limitation:

Some brands of spectacle frames may be unavailable at all locations for purchase as Covered Expenses, or may be subject to additional out-of-pocket expenses. Insureds may obtain details regarding frame brand availability from their treating provider or by calling VSP's Customer Care Division at (800) 877-7195.

EXCLUSIONS

This plan does not cover:

Services and/or materials not specifically included in this Schedule as covered Plan Benefits,

Plano lenses (lenses with refractive correction of less than plus or minus .50 diopter) except as specifically allowed in the frames benefit section below,

Services or materials that are cosmetic, including Plano contact lenses to change eye color and artistically painted Contact Lenses,

Two pairs of glasses in lieu of Bifocals,

Replacement of Spectacle Lenses, Frames, and/or contact lenses furnished under this plan that are lost or damaged, except at the normal intervals when services are otherwise available,

Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing,

Medical or surgical treatment of the eyes,

Contact lens modification, polishing or cleaning,

The refitting of Contact Lenses after the initial 90-day fitting period,

Contact Lens insurance policies or service contracts,

Additional office visits associated with contact lens pathology,

Local, state and/or federal taxes, except where law requires us to pay,

Membership fees for any retail center in which an Affiliate or Open Access provider office may be located. Covered persons may be required to purchase a membership in such entities as a condition of accessing Plan Benefits.

SCHEDULE OF EYE CARE SERVICES

The following is a complete list of eye care services for which benefits are payable under this section, You must first pay a Deductible for certain services as indicated on the Schedule of Benefits in the - Eye Care Expense Benefits section.

SERVICE	WHEN COVERED	PLAN MAXIMUM COVERED EXPENSE	
		<i>Contracting Provider</i>	<i>Non-Contracting Provider*</i>
Vision Examination(s)			
Eye Exam	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 45.00
Contact Lens Fitting & Evaluation	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	See Elective Contact Lenses benefit below
Complete Pair of Spectacles			
Lenses (per pair, only one pair of lens type below allowed per covered period)			
Single Vision	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 30.00
Lined Bifocal	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 50.00
Lined Trifocal	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 65.00
Lenticular	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$105.00
Progressive	Once every 12 months	Covered In Full	Covered In Full
Frames			
Single Frame	Once every 24 months	Up to \$150.00	Up to \$ 70.00
Contact Lenses (in lieu of Complete Pair of Spectacles)			
Elective	Once every 12 months	Up to \$150.00	Up to \$120.00
Medically Necessary**	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$210.00

Low Vision (for severe visual problems not correctable with regular lenses, as determined by the treating provider) Insureds can receive professional services for treatment of severe visual problems that are not correctable with regular lenses. The treating provider determines if an Insured's condition meets the criteria for coverage of this benefit. Insureds may contact VSP's Customer Care Division for details at (800-877-7195) for additional information.

*Insureds may receive additional savings and some services may be covered in full by choosing to visit an Affiliate Non-Contracting Provider.

**The benefit for Medically Necessary contact lenses is in lieu of the Elective contact lenses benefit listed. The treating provider determines if an Insured meets the coverage criteria for this benefit.

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

The Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies if an Insured person has eye care coverage under more than one **Plan**. **Plan** is defined below. All benefits provided under this policy are subject to this section.

The order of benefit determination rules govern the order in which each **Plan** will pay a claim for benefits. The **Plan** that pays first is called the **Primary plan**. The **Primary plan** must pay benefits in accordance with its policy terms without regard to the possibility that another **Plan** may cover some expenses. The **Plan** that pays after the **Primary plan** is the **Secondary plan**. The **Secondary plan** may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all Plans do not exceed 100% of the total **Allowable expense**.

DEFINITIONS

A. A **Plan** is any of the following that provides benefits or services for medical or eye care or treatment. If separate contracts are used to provide coordinated coverage for members of a group, the separate contracts are considered parts of the same plan and there is no COB among those separate contracts.

(1) **Plan** includes: group insurance contracts, health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts, closed panel plans or other forms of group or group-type coverage (whether insured or uninsured); medical care components of long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; medical benefits under group or individual automobile contracts; and Medicare or any other federal governmental plan, as permitted by law.

(2) **Plan** does not include: hospital indemnity coverage or other fixed indemnity coverage; accident only coverage other than the medical benefits coverage in automobile "no fault" and traditional "fault" type contracts; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefits for non-medical components of long-term care policies; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid policies; or coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

Each contract for coverage under (1) or (2) is a separate **Plan**. If a **Plan** has two parts and COB rules apply only to one of the two, each of the parts is treated as a separate **Plan**.

B. **This plan** means, in a **COB** provision, the part of the contract providing the health care benefits to which the **COB** provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other plans. Any other part of the contract providing health care benefits is separate from this plan. A contract may apply one **COB** provision to certain benefits, such as eye care benefits, coordinating only with similar benefits, and may apply another **COB** provision to coordinate other benefits.

C. The order of benefit determination rules determine whether **This plan** is a **Primary plan** or **Secondary plan** when the person has health care coverage under more than one **Plan**.

When **This plan** is primary, it determines payment for its benefits first before those of any other **Plan** without considering any other **Plan's** benefits. When **This plan** is secondary, it determines its benefits after those of another **Plan** and may reduce the benefits it pays so that all **Plan** benefits do not exceed 100% of the total **Allowable expense**.

D. **Allowable expense** is a health care expense, including deductibles, coinsurance and co-payments, that is covered at least in part by any **Plan** covering the person. When a **Plan** provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an **Allowable expense** and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any **Plan** covering the person is not an **Allowable expense**. In addition, any expense that a provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a covered person is not an **Allowable expense**.

The following are examples of expenses that are not **Allowable expenses**:

- (1) If a person is covered by 2 or more **Plans** that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an **Allowable expense**.
- (2) If a person is covered by 2 or more **Plans** that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees is not an **Allowable expense**.
- (3) If a person is covered by one **Plan** that calculates its benefits or services on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology and another **Plan** that provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, the **Primary plan's** payment arrangement shall be the **Allowable expense** for all **Plans**. However, if the provider has contracted with the **Secondary plan** to provide the benefit or service for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the **Primary plan's** payment arrangement and if the provider's contract permits, the negotiated fee or payment shall be the **Allowable expense** used by the **Secondary plan** to determine its benefits.
- (4) The amount of any benefit reduction by the **Primary plan** because a covered person has failed to comply with the **Plan** provisions is not an **Allowable expense**. Examples of these types of plan provisions include second surgical opinions, precertification of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.

E. **Closed panel plan** is a **Plan** that provides health care benefits to covered persons primarily in the form of services through a panel of providers that have contracted with or are employed by the **Plan**, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.

F. **Custodial parent** is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES

When a person is covered by two or more **Plans**, the rules for determining the order of benefit payments are as follows:

- A. The **Primary plan** pays or provides its benefits according to its terms of coverage and without regard to the benefits of under any other **Plan**.
- B. (1) Except as provided in Paragraph B(2) below, a **Plan** that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this regulation is always primary unless the provisions of both **Plans** state that the complying plan is primary.

(2) Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage shall be excess to any other parts of the **Plan** provided by the contract holder. Examples of these types of situations are major medical coverages that are superimposed over base plan hospital and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a **Closed panel plan** to provide out-of-network benefits.
- C. A **Plan** may consider the benefits paid or provided by another **Plan** in calculating payment of its benefits only when it is secondary to that other **Plan**.
- D. Each **Plan** determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules that apply:

(1) Non-Dependent or Dependent. The **Plan** that covers the person other than as a dependent, for example as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the **Primary plan** and the **Plan** that covers the person as a dependent is the **Secondary plan**. However, if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law, Medicare is secondary to the **Plan** covering the person as a dependent; and primary to the **Plan** covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g. a retired employee); then the order of benefits between the two **Plans** is reversed so that the **Plan** covering the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the **Secondary plan** and the other **Plan** is the **Primary plan**.

(2) Dependent Child Covered Under More Than One Plan. Unless there is a court decree stating otherwise, when a dependent child is covered by more than one **Plan** the order of benefits is determined as follows:

(a) For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married:

The **Plan** of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the **Primary plan**; or

If both parents have the same birthday, the **Plan** that has covered the parent the longest is the **Primary plan**.

(b) For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:

(i) If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage and the **Plan** of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that **Plan** is primary. This rule applies to plan years commencing after the **Plan** is given notice of the court decree;

(ii) If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) above shall determine the order of benefits;

(iii) If a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the health care expenses or health care coverage of the dependent child, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) above shall determine the order of benefits; or

(iv) If there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:

The **Plan** covering the **Custodial parent**;

The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **Custodial parent**;

The **Plan** covering the **non-custodial parent**; and then

The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **non-custodial parent**.

(c) For a dependent child covered under more than one **Plan** of individuals who are the parents of the child, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) or (b) above shall determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.

(3) Active Employee or Retired or Laid-off Employee. The **Plan** that covers a person as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired, is the **Primary plan**. The **Plan** covering that same person as a retired or laid-off employee is the **Secondary plan**. The same would hold true if a person is a dependent of an active employee and that same person is a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee. If the other **Plan** does not have this rule, and as a result, the **Plans** do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled D(1) can determine the order of benefits.

(4) COBRA or State Continuation Coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided pursuant to COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another **Plan**, the **Plan** covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree or covering the person as a dependent of an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is the **Primary plan** and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the **Secondary plan**. If the other **Plan** does not have this rule, and as a result, the **Plans** do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled D(1) can determine the order of benefits.

(5) Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The **Plan** that covered the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree longer is the **Primary plan** and the **Plan** that covered the person the shorter period of time is the **Secondary plan**.

(6) If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the **Allowable expenses** shall be shared equally between the **Plans** meeting the definition of **Plan**. In addition, **This plan** will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the **Primary plan**.

EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

A. When **This plan** is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all **Plans** during a plan year are not more than the total **Allowable expenses**. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the **Secondary plan** will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of other health care coverage and apply that calculated amount to any **Allowable expense** under its **Plan** that is unpaid by the **Primary plan**. The **Secondary plan** may then reduce its payment by the amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the **Primary plan**, the total benefits paid or provided by all **Plans** for the claim do not exceed the total **Allowable expense** for that claim. In addition, the **Secondary plan** shall credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.

B. If a covered person is enrolled in two or more **Closed panel** plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-panel provider, benefits are not payable by one **Closed panel plan**, **COB** shall not apply between that **Plan** and other **Closed panel plans**.

RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these **COB** rules and to determine benefits payable under **This plan** and other **Plans**. The Company may get the facts it needs from or give them to other organizations or persons for the purpose of applying these rules and determining benefits payable under **This plan** and other **Plans** covering the person claiming benefits. The Company need not tell, or get the consent of, any person to do this. Each person claiming benefits under **This plan** must give the Company any facts it needs to apply those rules and determine benefits payable.

FACILITY OF PAYMENT

A Payment made under another **Plan** may include an amount that should have been paid under **This plan**. If it does, the Company may pay that amount to the organization that made that payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under **This plan**. The Company will not have to pay that amount again. The term "payment made" includes providing benefits in the form of services, in which case "payment made" means the reasonable cash value of the benefits provided in the form of services.

RIGHT OF RECOVERY

If the amount of the payments made by the Company is more than it should have paid under this **COB** provision, it may recover the excess from one or more of the persons it has paid or for whom it has paid; or any other person or organization that may be responsible for the benefits or services provided for the covered person. The "amount of the payments made" includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

NOTICE OF CLAIM. Written notice of a claim must be given to us within 90 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable.

Notice must be given to us at our Home Office, or to one of our agents. Notice should include the Policyholder's name, Insured's name, and policy number. If it was not reasonably possible to give written notice within the 90 day period stated above, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if notice is filed as soon as is reasonably possible.

CLAIM FORMS. When we receive the notice of a claim, we will send the claimant forms for filing proof of loss. If these forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice, the claimant will meet our proof of loss requirements by giving us a written statement of the nature and extent of loss within the time limit for filing proofs of loss.

PROOF OF LOSS. Written proof of loss must be given to us within 90 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable. If it is impossible to give written proof within the 90 day period, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if the proof is filed as soon as is reasonably possible, and unless the claimant does not have the legal capacity to provide proof of loss, proof of loss is provided not later than the first anniversary of the date proof of loss is otherwise required. For Eye Care benefits that use either the EyeMed or VSP network, please refer to the limitations section on the Eye Care Expense Benefits page.

TIME OF PAYMENT. We will pay all benefits no later than the 60th day after the date the Proof of Loss is received. Any balance remaining unpaid at the end of any period for which we are liable will be paid at that time.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS. Contracting Providers have agreed to accept assignment of benefits for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Contracting Provider performs services, all benefits will be paid to the Insured unless otherwise indicated by the Insured's authorization to pay the Non-Contracting Provider directly.

Direct Payment of the Texas Department of Human Services

Other provisions of the policy notwithstanding, whenever we are notified that the Texas Department of Human Services has incurred expenses in connection with dental treatment for a person who is insured under this policy, benefits which would otherwise be payable to the Insured, if any, will be paid to the Texas Department of Human Services, but only to the extent of the actual costs incurred by such Department.

Benefit Payment to Parent of a Dependent Child

Regardless of any policy provision to the contrary, if:

1. a minor child is a dependent under this policy; and
2. such dependent child incurs expenses;

we will pay benefits to the parent of the dependent child who is not a Member of the group. Such parent must be legally designated the managing conservator of the child. We must receive evidence of this before we will pay benefits.

We will not pay benefits to the managing conservator in the following situations:

1. If the parent who is a Member of the group has legally assigned benefits to a provider, we will pay benefits to the provider.

2. If the parent who is a Member of the group has paid any portion of the expenses and those expenses are covered under the terms of the policy, we will pay benefits to the Member.

FACILITY OF PAYMENT. If an Insured or beneficiary is not capable of giving us a valid receipt for any payment or if benefits are payable to the estate of the Insured, then we may pay the benefit in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to the insured or the insured's assignee.

Any equitable payment made in good faith will release us from liability to the extent of payment.

PROVIDER-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP. The Insured may choose any Provider who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of their license. We will in no way disturb the provider-patient relationship.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. No legal action can be brought against us until 60 days after the Insured sends us the required proof of loss. No legal action against us can start more than three years after proof of loss is required.

INCONTESTABILITY. Any statement made by the Policyholder to obtain the Policy is a representation and not a warranty. No misrepresentation by the Policyholder will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Policy unless:

1. The Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder that contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for one year, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

MISSTATEMENT OF AGE. If the age of an Insured has been misstated, the amounts payable under this policy are the amounts the premium paid would have purchased at the correct age.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION. The coverage provided under the Policy is not a substitute for coverage under a workmen's compensation or state disability income benefit law and does not relieve the Policyholder of any obligation to provide such coverage.



TheStandard®

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

To: All Insureds covered under a Eye Care Insurance policy ("Health Plan") with Standard Insurance Company

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Standard Insurance Company ("The Standard") is committed to protecting the health information that we maintain about you. As required by rules effective April 14, 2003, under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), this notice provides you with information about your rights and our legal duties and practices with respect to the privacy of protected health information. This notice also discusses the uses and disclosures that The Standard will make of your protected health information.

"Protected health information" includes any identifiable information that we obtain from you or others that relates to your past, present or future health care and treatment or the payment for your health care and treatment. Your health care professional may have different policies or notices regarding his or her use and disclosure of your health information created in the health care professional's office or clinic.

The Standard reserves the right to change the terms of this notice and to make the revised notice effective for all protected health information we maintain. You may request a paper copy of the most current privacy notice from our office or access it on our Web site at www.standard.com/hipaa.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures of Your Health Information

We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law. For example, we may disclose health information when required by a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process. The following describes the purposes for which The Standard is permitted or required by law to use or disclose your Health Plan coverage information without your authorization:

Treatment. This means the provision, coordination or management of your health care and related services, including any referrals for health care from one health professional to another. For example, we may use or disclose health information about you to facilitate treatment or services by health care providers. We may disclose health information about you to other health care professionals who are involved in taking care of you.

Payment. This means activities to facilitate payment for the treatment and services you receive from health care professionals, including to obtain premium, to determine eligibility, coverage or benefit responsibilities under your insurance coverage, or to coordinate your insurance coverage. For example, the information on claim forms sent to us may include information that identifies you, as well as your diagnosis, and the procedures and supplies used. We may share this information with outside health care consultants performing a business service for The Standard. Likewise, we may share health information with other insurance carriers to coordinate benefit payments. We mail Explanation of Benefits forms and other information to the address we have on record for the primary member. In addition, claim information may be accessible through our website requiring an access code and our toll-free number.

Health Care Operations. This means the support functions related to treatment and payment, such as quality assurance activities, case management, underwriting, premium rating, business management and other general administrative activities. For example, we may use health information in connection with conducting quality assessment and improvement activities, underwriting, premium rating and other activities relating to your coverage, including auditing functions and fraud detection and reporting. We may also disclose health information to business associates if they need to receive health information to provide a service to us and by contract agree to abide by the same high standards of safeguarding your health information. We are prohibited from using or disclosing your genetic health information for underwriting purposes.

Public Health Activities. We may disclose health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury (including abuse) or disability, or to a governmental agency or regulator with health care oversight responsibilities.

Military and Veterans. If you are a member of the armed forces, we may disclose health information about you as required by military command authorities.

Workers' Compensation. We may disclose health information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Coroners and Medical Examiners. We may disclose health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.

Organ and Tissue Donation. We may disclose health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes, or tissue for the purpose of facilitating organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

Research Purposes. We may disclose health information for research purposes.

Lawsuits and Disputes. If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute.

Law Enforcement and National Security and Intelligence Activities. We may disclose health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process. We may disclose health information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence and other national security activities authorized by law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may disclose health information to avert a serious threat to someone's health or safety. We may disclose health information to federal, state or local agencies engaged in disaster relief to allow such entities to carry out their responsibilities in specific disaster situations.

Inmates. If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose health information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care, (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Disclosure to your Plan Sponsor. Information may be disclosed to your plan sponsor for purposes of plan administration if the plan sponsor has certified that plan documents have been amended as required by HIPAA. De-identified summary health information may be disclosed to your plan sponsor for the purposes of obtaining health insurance bids or modifying, amending, or terminating the health plan.

In the following situations generally we must obtain your authorization before disclosing your health information:

Sale of Protected Health Information. We must obtain your authorization prior to selling your health information. If we will obtain financial remuneration for such sale, we must disclose that to you in the authorization.

Psychotherapy Notes. Most uses and disclosures of your psychotherapy notes require your authorization.

Marketing. We must obtain your authorization prior to using or disclosing your health information for marketing purposes in most situations. If we will obtain financial remuneration for such marketing, we must disclose that to you in the authorization.

Other Uses and Disclosures of Your Health Information. Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission in writing at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization, except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance on your authorization.

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

The following describes your rights regarding the health information we maintain about you. To exercise your rights, you must submit your request in writing to Standard Insurance Company, Attn: Quality Assurance Specialist, PO Box 82629, Lincoln, NE 68501-2629.

Right to Inspect and Copy. You have the right to inspect and copy health information that we maintain about you. To inspect or copy your health information, you must submit your request in writing. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Please contact our Privacy Contact at the address or telephone number listed on the last page of this document if you have questions about access to your health information.

Right to Amend. If you feel that the health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us in writing to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as we maintain the information.

In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request. Any agreed-upon correction to your health information will be included as an addition to, and not a replacement of, already existing records.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that (1) is not part of the health information kept by us, (2) was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment, (3) is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy or (4) is accurate and complete.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures of your health information made by us in the six years prior to the date that the accounting is requested (or shorter period as requested). This does not include disclosures (1) to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations; (2) made to you or pursuant to your authorization; (3) for national security or intelligence purposes; (4) to corrections institutions or law enforcement officials or (5) made prior to April 14, 2003.

Your first request for an accounting in any 12-month period shall be provided without charge. A reasonable fee shall be imposed for each subsequent request for an accounting within the same 12-month period.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation of the health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. We are not required to agree to

your request unless your request is to restrict disclosure to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations when you or someone on your behalf (but not the health plan) has already made full payment.

To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to our Privacy Contact indicated below. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you about health matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. We will accommodate reasonable requests. We will not ask you the reason for your request. Please make this request in writing to our Privacy Contact indicated below.

Right to Breach Notification. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information. We are also required by law to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured health information.

Your Right to File a Complaint. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, please submit your complaint in writing to:

Standard Insurance Company
Attn: Quality Assurance Specialist
PO Box 82629
Lincoln, NE 68501-2629

You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

Privacy Contact

If you have any questions or would like further information about this notice or your rights regarding your health information, please contact the Quality Assurance Specialist at 800.547.9515 or the above address.

This notice is revised effective September 23, 2016.