

**STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY**

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

**CERTIFICATE AND SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION  
GROUP EYE CARE INSURANCE**

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**The Policyholder**      **AGC HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST- ALASKA & WASHINGTON CHAPTERS  
AGC HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST**

**Policy Number**      **160-751752**      **Insured Person**

**Plan Effective Date**      **August 1, 2016**      **Certificate Effective Date**  
**Refer to Exceptions on**  
**Conditions for Insurance**

**Class Number 11**

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.

**STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY**



J. Greg Ness  
President



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

Benefit Class

Class Description

Class 11

Employee Electing The Vsp Contributory Plan 5

**EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS**

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

Deductible Amount:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$10
Frames and Lenses - Each Benefit Period	\$0

*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.** "State registered domestic partners" means two adults who meet the requirements for a valid state registered domestic partnership as established by RCW 26.60.030 and who have been issued a certificate of state registered domestic partnership by the Washington Secretary of State's Office. All provisions related to Spouse apply equally to state registered Domestic Partners.

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

**DEPENDENT** refers to:

- a. an Insured's spouse.
- b. each child less than 26 years of age, for whom the Insured or the Insured's spouse is legally responsible, or is eligible under the federal laws identified below, including:
  - i. natural born children;
  - ii. adopted children, eligible from the date of placement for adoption;
  - iii. children covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by applicable Federal and State laws.

Spouses of Dependents and children of Dependents may not be enrolled under this policy. Additionally, if the Policyholder's separate medical plans are considered to have "grandfathered status" as defined in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, Dependents may not be eligible Dependents under such medical plans if they are eligible to enroll in an eligible employer-sponsored health plan other than a group health plan of a parent for plan years beginning before January 1, 2014. Dependents that are ineligible under the Policyholder's separate medical plans will be ineligible under this Policy as well.

- c. each child age 26 or older who:
  - i. is Totally Disabled as defined below; and
  - ii. becomes Totally Disabled 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 initial two-year period following 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 developmental disability 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.

**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 and/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."

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is any employee electing the vsp contributory plan 5 working at least 20 hours per week. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

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 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 who is an eligible dependent will be covered from the date of birth.

An adopted child, foster child and other child in court-ordered custody will be covered from the date of placement in the Insured's residence. A newborn adopted child will be covered from the date of birth if the Insured has agreed in writing to adopt the child prior to its ultimately placed in the Insured's residence.

Coverage for a newborn child shall consist of coverage for covered expenses, subject to applicable deductibles, coinsurance percentages, maximums and limitations, resulting from care or treatment of congenital defects, birth abnormalities and premature birth.

Written notice should be provided within 60 days of the date of birth or placement of a dependent child to start coverage. We will charge the applicable additional premium from the date of birth or placement for an adopted child. We will not deny coverage for a child due to the failure of the Insured to notify us.

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

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance is any employee electing the vsp contributory plan 5 working at least 20 hours per week and has eligible dependents. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

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.

**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 after an eligibility period defined by the Policyholder is satisfied. The same eligibility period will be applied to all members.

If employment is the basis for membership in the Eligible Class for Members, 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:

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.** If employment is the basis for membership, 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.

If membership is by reason other than employment, 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.

## ***TERMINATION DATES***

**INSUREDS.** The insurance for any Insured, will automatically terminate on 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 **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 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.

### Labor Dispute

Any employee whose compensation includes group disability or blanket disability insurance providing health care services, the premiums for which are paid in full or in part by an employer including the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, or municipal corporations, or paid by payroll deduction, may pay the premiums as they become due directly to the policyholder whenever the employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly as the result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute, for a period not exceeding six months and at the rate and coverages as the policy provides. During that period of time the policy may not be altered or changed. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to impair the right of the insurer to make normal decreases or increases of the premium rate upon expiration and renewal of the policy, in accordance with the provisions of the policy. Thereafter, if such insurance coverage is no longer available, then the employee shall be given the opportunity to purchase an individual policy at a rate consistent with rates filed by the insurer with the commissioner. When the employee's compensation is so suspended or terminated, the employee shall be notified immediately by the policyholder in writing, by mail addressed to the address last on record with the policyholder, that the employee may pay the premiums to the policyholder as they become due as provided in this section.

Payment of the premiums must be made when due or the insurance coverage may be terminated by the insurer.



## **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.

### **AMOUNT PAYABLE**

The Amount Payable for Covered Expenses is the lesser of the provider's charge, or the Maximum Covered Expense for such services or supplies. This is shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Services below.

### **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.

### **PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS**

A Participating 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-PARTICIPATING PROVIDER**

A Non-Participating Provider is any other provider. Non-Participating providers may be referred to as Affiliate or Open Access Providers. Non-Participating Providers are not subject to our Quality Management Programs. Your out-of-pocket expenses may be greater when you visit a Non-Participating 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.

### **COVERED EXPENSES**

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.

### **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, the Insured must advise the Participating Provider's office that he or she has coverage under this network plan. If the Insured receives services from a Participating Provider without this notification, the benefits may be limited to those for a Non-Participating Provider.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS**

We pay benefits to the Participating Provider for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Participating 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.

### **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 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 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>Participating Provider</i>	<i>Non-Participating Provider*</i>
<b>Vision Examination(s)</b>			
Eye Exam	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 45.00
<b>Complete Pair of Spectacles</b>			
<b>Lenses</b> (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 \$100.00
<b>Frames</b>			
Single Frame <sup>%</sup>	Once every 24 months	Up to \$150.00	Up to \$ 75.00
<b>Contact Lenses</b> (in lieu of Complete Pair of Spectacles)	Includes allowance for Contact Lens Fitting & Evaluation		
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-Participating Provider.

<sup>%</sup>Frame allowance may be applied towards non-prescription sunglasses for post PRK, LASIK, or Customer LASIK patients as determined by the VSP Participating Provider. Frame allowance may be applied towards non-prescription sunglasses, exhausting both frame and lens eligibility.





## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

The Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies when a person has eye care coverage under more than one **Plan**. **Plan** is defined below.

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 according to 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**.

If you are covered by more than one health benefit **Plan**, and you do not know which is your **Primary plan**, you or your provider should contact any one of the health **Plans** to verify which **Plan** is primary. The health **Plan** you contact is responsible for working with the other **Plan** to determine which is primary and will let you know within thirty calendar days.

**CAUTION:** All health **Plans** have timely claim filing requirements. If you or your provider fail to submit your claim to a **Secondary Plan** within that **Plan's** claim filing time limit, the **Plan** can deny the claim. If you experience delays in the processing of your claim by the **Primary Plan**, you or your provider will need to submit your claim to the **Secondary Plan** within its claim filing time limit to prevent a denial of the claim.

To avoid delays in claims processing, if you are covered by more than one **Plan** you should promptly report to your providers and **Plans** any changes in your coverage

### 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. However, if COB rules do not apply to all contracts, or to all benefits in the same contract, the contract or benefit to which COB does not apply is treated as a separate plan.

(1) **Plan** includes: Group, individual or blanket disability insurance contracts, and group or individual contracts issued by health care service contractors or health maintenance organizations (HMO), closed panel plans or other forms of group coverage; medical care components of long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; and Medicare or any other federal governmental plan, as permitted by law.

(2) **Plan** does not include: Hospital indemnity or fixed payment coverage or other fixed indemnity or fixed payment coverage; accident only coverage; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefits for nonmedical components of long-term care policies; automobile insurance policies required by statute to provide medical benefits; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid coverage; 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 must make payment in an 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 equal 100% of the **Total allowable expense** for that claim. This means that when this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it must pay the amount which, when combined with what the **Primary plan** paid, totals 100% of the highest **Allowable expense**. In addition, if this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it must calculate its savings (its amount paid subtracted from the amount it would have paid had it been the **Primary plan**) and record these savings as a benefit reserve for the covered person. This reserve must be used to pay any expenses during that calendar year, whether or not they are an **Allowable expense** under this **Plan**. If this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it will not be required to pay an amount in excess of its maximum benefit plus any accrued savings.

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**.

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

(1) The difference between the cost of a semi-private hospital room and a private hospital room is not an **Allowable expense**, unless one of the **Plans** provides coverage for private hospital room expenses.

(2) If a person is covered by two or more **Plans** that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement method or other similar reimbursement method, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an **Allowable expense**.

(3) If a person is covered by two 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**.

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 who 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 under any other **Plan**.

B. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a **Plan** that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this chapter 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 include major medical coverages that are superimposed over 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) Nondependent 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 claim determination periods commencing after the **Plan** is given notice of the court decree;

(ii) If a court decree states one parent is to assume primary financial responsibility for the dependent child but does not mention responsibility for health care expenses, the plan of the parent assuming financial responsibility is primary;

(iii) 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 determine the order of benefits;

(iv) 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 subsection (a) above determine the order of benefits; or

(v) 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**, first;
- The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **custodial parent**, second;
- The **Plan** covering the **noncustodial parent**, third; and then
- The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **Noncustodial parent**, last (c) For a dependent child covered under more than one **Plan** of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) above 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 under section D (1) can determine the order of benefits.

(4) COBRA or state continuation coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided under 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 under section 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** must 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**

When this **Plan** is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all **Plans** during a claim determination period are not more than the total **Allowable expenses**. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the **Secondary plan** must make payment in an 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 equal one hundred percent of the total **Allowable expense** for that claim **Total allowable expense** is the highest **Allowable expense** of the **Primary plan** or the **Secondary plan**. In addition, the **Secondary plan** must credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.

If a **Primary plan** has not adjudicated a claim within sixty calendar days of receipt of the claim and all supporting documentation, and if the **Primary plan** is not waiting for information from the provider or from the enrollee needed to adjudicate the claim, the provider or enrollee may submit the claim and notice of the **Primary plan's** failure to pay to the **Secondary plan** which shall pay the provider's claim as primary within thirty calendar days.

If this **plan** is required by the time limit above to make payment as the **Primary plan**, this **Plan** may exercise its rights under its "right of recovery" provision for recovery of any excess payments.

## **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**

If payments that should have been made under **this Plan** are made by another **Plan**, the issuer has the right, at its discretion, to remit to the other **plan** the amount it determines appropriate to satisfy the intent of this provision. The amounts paid to the other **Plan** are considered benefits paid under **this Plan**. To the extent of such payments, the issuer is fully discharged from liability under **this Plan**.

## **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

The issuer has the right to recover excess payment whenever it has paid allowable expenses in excess of the maximum amount of payment necessary to satisfy the intent of this provision. The issuer may recover excess payment from any person to whom or for whom payment was made or any other issuers or plans.

**Questions about Coordination of Benefits?**

**Contact Your State Insurance Department**



## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**NOTICE OF CLAIM.** Written notice of a claim must be given to us within 30 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 30 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. 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 immediately when we receive due proof. Any balance remaining unpaid at the end of any period for which we are liable will be paid at that time.

**PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.** All benefits will be paid to the Insured unless otherwise agreed upon through your authorization or provider contracts.

**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, at our option, pay the benefit up to an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the Insured who is considered by us to be equitably entitled to the benefit.

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 five 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.

**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.



## ERISA INFORMATION AND NOTICE OF YOUR RIGHTS

### A. General Plan Information

Name of Plan: Eye Care Insurance

Name, Address of Plan Sponsor: AGC HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST- ALASKA &  
WASHINGTON CHAPTERS  
  
1200 WESTLAKE AVE N  
SEATTLE, WA 98109

Plan Sponsor Tax ID Number: 91-6060872

Plan Number: 501

Type of Plan: Group Insurance Plan

Name, Address, Phone  
Number of Plan Administrator: DOUG PETERSON  
AGC HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST- ALASKA &  
WASHINGTON CHAPTERS  
1200 WESTLAKE AVE N  
SEATTLE, WA 98109  
877-694-8291

Name, Address of Registered Agent  
for Service of Legal Process: Plan Sponsor

If Legal Process Involves Claims  
For Benefits Under The Group  
Policy, Additional Notification of  
Legal Process Must Be Sent To: Standard Insurance Company  
1100 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland OR 97204-1093

Sources of Contributions: Employer/Member

Funding Method: Standard Insurance Company--Fully Insured

Plan Fiscal Year End: December 31

Type of Administration:  
General Administration Plan Sponsor  
Contract & Claim Administration Standard Insurance Company

### B. Notice of Legal Process

Service of legal process may be made upon the plan administrator at the address listed above.

**C. Eligibility and Benefits Provided Under the Group Policy**

Please refer to the **Conditions for Insurance** within the Group Policy and Certificate of Coverage for a detailed description of the eligibility for participation under the plan as well as the benefits provided. If this plan includes a participating provider (PPO) option, provider lists are furnished without charge, as a separate document.

**D. Qualified Medical Child Support Order ("QMCSO")**

QMCSO Determinations. A Plan participant or beneficiary can obtain, without charge, a copy of the Plan's procedures governing Qualified Medical Child Support Order determinations from the Plan Administrator.

**E. Termination Of The Group Policy**

The Group Policy which provides benefits for this plan may be terminated by the Policyholder at any time with prior written notice to Standard Insurance Company. It will terminate automatically if the Policyholder fails to pay the required premium. Standard Insurance Company may terminate the Group Policy on any Premium Due Date if the number of persons insured is less than the required minimum, or if Standard Insurance Company believes the Policyholder has failed to perform its obligations relating to the Group Policy.

After the first policy year, Standard Insurance Company may also terminate the Group Policy on any Premium Due Date for any reason by providing a 60-day advance written notice to the Policyholder.

The Group Policy may be changed in whole or in part. No change or amendment will be valid unless it is approved in writing by a Standard Insurance Company executive officer.

**F. Claims For Benefits**

Claims procedures are furnished automatically, without charge, as a separate document.

**G. Continuation of Coverage Provisions (COBRA)**

COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) gives Qualified Beneficiaries the right to elect COBRA continuation after insurance ends because of a Qualifying Event. The law generally covers group health plans maintained by employers with 20 or more employees in the prior year. The law does not, however, apply to plans sponsored by the Federal government and certain church-related organizations.

**i. Definitions For This Section**

Qualified Beneficiary means an Insured Person who is covered by the plan on the day before a qualifying event. Any child born to or placed for adoption with a covered employee during the period of COBRA coverage is considered a qualified beneficiary.

A Qualifying Event occurs when:

1. The Member dies (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 1);
2. The Member's employment terminates for reasons other than gross misconduct as determined by the Employer (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 2);
3. The Member's work hours fall below the minimum number required to be a Member (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 3);
4. The Member becomes divorced or legally separated from a Spouse (hereinafter

referred to as Qualifying Event 4);

5. The Member becomes entitled to receive Medicare benefits under Title XVII of the Social Security Act (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 5);
6. The Child of a Member ceases to be a Dependent (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 6);
7. The Employer files a petition for reorganization under Title 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, provided the Member is retired from the Employer and is insured on the date the petition is filed (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 7).

**ii. Electing COBRA Continuation**

- A. Each Qualified Beneficiary has the right to elect to continue coverage that was in effect on the day before the Qualifying Event. The Qualified Beneficiary must apply in writing within 60 days of the later of:
  1. The date on which Insurance would otherwise end; and
  2. The date on which the Employer or Plan Administrator gave the Qualified Beneficiary notice of the right to COBRA continuation.
- B. A Qualified Beneficiary who does not elect COBRA Continuation coverage during their original election period may be entitled to a second election period if the following requirements are satisfied:
  1. The Member's Insurance ended because of a trade related termination of their employment, which resulted in being certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance;
  2. The Member is certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance (as determined by the appropriate governmental agency) within 6 months of the date Insurance ended due to the trade related termination of their employment; and
  3. The Qualified Beneficiary must apply in writing within 60 days after the first day of the month in which they are certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance.

**iii. Notice Requirements**

1. When the Member becomes insured, the Plan Administrator must inform the Member and Spouse in writing of the right to COBRA continuation.
2. The Qualified Beneficiary must notify the Plan Administrator in writing of Qualifying Event 4 or 6 above within 60 days of the later of:
  - a. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - b. The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
3. A Qualified Beneficiary, who is entitled to COBRA continuation due to the occurrence of Qualifying Event 2 or 3 and who is disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage as determined by the Social Security Administration pursuant to Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, must notify

the Plan Administrator of the disability in writing within 60 days of the later of:

- a. The date of the disability determination;
  - b. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - c. The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
4. Each Qualified Beneficiary who has become entitled to COBRA continuation with a maximum duration of 18 or 29 months must notify the Plan Administrator of the occurrence of a second Qualifying Event within 60 days of the later of:
- a. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - b. The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
5. The Employer must give the Plan Administrator written notice within 30 days of the occurrence of Qualifying Event 1, 2, 3, 5, or 7.
6. Within 14 days of receipt of the Employer's notice, the Plan Administrator must notify each Qualified Beneficiary in writing of the right to elect COBRA continuation.

In order to protect your rights, Members and Qualified Beneficiaries should inform the Plan Administrator in writing of any change of address.

**iv. COBRA Continuation Period**

1. 18-month COBRA Continuation

Each Qualified Beneficiary may continue Insurance for up to 18 months after the date of Qualifying Event 2 or 3.

2. 29-month COBRA Continuation

Each Qualified Beneficiary, who is entitled to COBRA continuation due to the occurrence of Qualifying Event 2 or 3 and who is disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage as determined by the Social Security Administration pursuant to Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, may continue coverage for up to 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event. All Insured Persons in the Qualified Beneficiary's family may also continue coverage for up to 29 months.

3. 36-Month COBRA Continuation

If you are a Dependent, you may continue Coverage for up to 36 months after the date of Qualifying Event 1, 4, 5, or 6. Each Qualified Beneficiary who is entitled to continue Insurance for 18 or 29 months may be eligible to continue coverage for up to 36 months after the date of their original Qualifying Event if a second Qualifying Event occurs while they are on continuation coverage.

Note: The total period of COBRA continuation available in 1 through 3 will not exceed

36 months.

4. **COBRA Continuation For Certain Bankruptcy Proceedings**

If the Qualifying Event is 7, the COBRA continuation period for a retiree or retiree's Spouse is the lifetime of the retiree. Upon the retiree's death, the COBRA continuation period for the surviving Dependents is 36 months from the date of the retiree's death.

v. **Premium Requirements**

Insurance continued under this provision will be retroactive to the date insurance would have ended because of a Qualifying Event. The Qualified Beneficiary must pay the initial required premium not later than 45 days after electing COBRA continuation, and monthly premium on or before the Premium Due Date thereafter. The monthly premium is a percentage of the total premium (both the portion paid by the employee and any portion paid by the employer) currently in effect on each Premium Due Date. The premium rate may change after you cease to be Actively at Work. The percentage is as follows:

18 month continuation - 102%

29 month continuation - 102% during the first 18 months, 150% during the next 11 months

36 month continuation - 102%

vi. **When COBRA Continuation Ends**

COBRA continuation ends on the earliest of:

1. The date the Group Policy terminates;
2. 31 days after the date the last period ends for which a required premium payment was made;
3. The last day of the COBRA continuation period.
4. The date the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes entitled to Medicare coverage under Title XVII of the Social Security Act;
5. The first date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is: (a) covered under another group Eye Care policy and (b) not subject to any preexisting condition limitation in that policy.

**H. Your Rights under ERISA**

As a participant in this Plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

**Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as work-sites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by

the plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

Receive a summary of the plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

### **Continue Group Health Plan Coverage**

Continue health care coverage for yourself, spouse or dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

### **Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries**

In addition to creating rights for plan participants ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate your plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to operate and administer this plan prudently and in the interest of you and other plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

### **Enforce Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. If it should happen that plan fiduciaries misuse the plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

### **Assistance with Your Rights**

If you have any questions about your plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling those publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

**CLAIMS REVIEW PROCEDURES  
AS REQUIRED UNDER  
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 (ERISA)**

The following provides information regarding the claims review process and your rights to request a review of any part of a claim that is denied. Please note that certain state laws may also require specified claims payment procedures as well as internal appeal procedures and/or independent external review processes. Therefore, in addition to the review procedures defined below, you may also have additional rights provided to you under state law. If your state has specific grievance procedures, an additional notice specific to your state will also be included within the group policy and your certificate.

**CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS**

Claims may be submitted by mailing the completed claim form along with any requested information to:

Vision Service Plan  
Attn: Out-of-Network Provider Claims  
P.O. Box 997105  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7105

**NOTICE OF DECISION OF CLAIM**

We will evaluate your claim promptly after we receive it.

We will provide you written notice regarding the payment under the claim within 30 calendar days following receipt of the claim. This period may be extended for an additional 15 days, provided that we have determined that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond our control, and notify you, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which we expect to render a decision. If the extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension shall specifically describe the required information we need to decide the claim.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision, along with your right to receive a copy of these guidelines, free of charge, upon request.
- d. A statement that you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment we relied upon to exclude expenses that are experimental or investigational, or are not necessary or accepted according to generally accepted standards of Eye Care practice.
- e. A description of any additional information needed to support your claim and why such information is necessary.
- f. Information concerning your right to a review of our decision.
- g. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA following an adverse benefit determination on review.

**APPEAL PROCEDURE**

If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review in writing within 180 days after receiving notice of the benefit denial.

You may send us written comments or other items to support your claim. You may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to your appeal. There will be no charge for such copies. You may request the names of the experts we consulted who provided advice to us about your claim.

The appeal review will be conducted by the Plan's named fiduciary and will be someone other than the person who denied the initial claim and will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. If the denial was based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a service was considered experimental, investigational, and/or not medically necessary, the person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional. This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original judgment and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items you submit to support your claim.

We will review your claim promptly after we receive your request.

If your appeal is about urgent care, you may call Toll Free at 877-897-4328, and an Expedited Review will be conducted. Verbal notification of our decision will be made within 72 hours, followed by written notice within 3 calendar days after that.

If your appeal is about benefit decisions related to clinical or medical necessity, a Standard Consultant Review will be conducted. A written decision will be provided within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the request for appeal.

If your appeal is about benefit decisions related to coverage, a Standard Administrative Review will be conducted. A written decision will be provided within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the request for appeal.

If we deny any part of your claim on review, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision along with your right to receive a copy of these guidelines, free of charge, upon request.
- d. Information concerning your right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to your claim.
- e. A statement that you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment we relied upon to exclude expenses that are experimental or investigational, or are not necessary or accepted according to generally accepted standards of Eye Care practice.
- f. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA.

Certain state laws also require specified internal appeal procedures and/or external review processes. In addition to the review procedures defined above, you may also have additional rights provided to you under state law. Please review your certificate for such information, call us, or contact your state insurance regulatory agency for assistance. In any event, you need not exhaust such state law procedures prior to bringing civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA.

Any request for appeal should be directed to:

Quality Control, P.O. Box 82657, Lincoln, NE 68501-2657.



## *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](http://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.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

## ***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 9, 2013.

