



STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

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

CERTIFICATE PREFERRED PROVIDER GROUP EYE CARE INSURANCE

The Policyholder **THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH
CITY OF SAVANNAH**

Policy Number **160-754292** **Insured Person**

Plan Effective Date **January 1, 2023** **Certificate Effective Date**
Refer to Exceptions on 9070

Class Number 4

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Eye Care benefits include a Preferred Provider Option. An Insured person has the freedom of choice to receive treatment from any Provider. Reimbursement for all eye care services, including treatment for emergencies, to a Non-Preferred Provider will be equal to or greater than reimbursement to a Preferred Provider. The Insured should verify with their provider if they are a Preferred Provider. The Insured may be responsible for additional charges if services are provided by a Non-Preferred Provider.

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

Daniel J. McMillan
President and CEO

**GEORGIA
IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO INSUREDS**

We are here to serve you . . .

You have the right to receive appropriate care in a timely and convenient manner and to be an active participant in any decision making regarding treatment, care and services provided to you or one of your family members who are covered under this plan.

In order to provide you the best possible service, it is important that you provide any necessary information to your provider that will facilitate effective care and that you cooperate with your provider(s) by keeping appointments and following recommended treatment.

Please review your certificate of coverage carefully so that you fully understand the benefits provided. If you have a question about your policy or if you need assistance with a problem, you should first contact us at the address shown below.

If you have a grievance or complaint regarding:

- (a) the availability, delivery, or quality of vision plan services;
- (b) benefits or claims payment, handling, or reimbursement for vision services

You may document your concerns in writing and forward your written documentation to the following:

Name:	Quality Assurance
Address:	P.O. Box 82629 Lincoln, NE 68501-2629
Phone:	888-418-6811
Fax:	402-309-2580

Please also refer to your Explanation of Benefits and your Certificate Booklet for appeals rights related to claims.

If after a careful review of your appeal, we determine that the benefit should have been denied, we will send you a written notice of that decision. You will also receive a notice of your right to appeal the decision to the Georgia Insurance Department.

If we agree that a benefit is available, we will issue a new predetermination of benefits or pay the claim in question.

You always have the right to contact the Department of Insurance:

**Consumer Services Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
West Tower, Suite 716
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

**Telephone: 404-656-2070
Toll Free: 800-656-2298
Between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM**

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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 4	Eligible Employee Electing The Vision Plan

EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS

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

Deductible Amount:

When a Preferred Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$20
Contact Lens Fitting and Evaluation - Each Benefit Period	\$60
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$30

When a Non-Preferred Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$20
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$30

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

In accordance with Georgia law, this plan does not restrict the provision of covered benefits from a Preferred Provider to a covered person solely because the covered person obtained treatment from a Non-Preferred Provider leading to a balance bill.

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.

MEMBER refers to an employee of the eligible class(es) as defined by the Policyholder.

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.

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.

FULL-TIME STUDENT: A full-time student means that the child remains a dependent of the Insured or the Insured's spouse, has been enrolled for five calendar months or more as a full-time student at a post secondary institution of higher learning or, if not so enrolled, would have been eligible to be so enrolled and was prevented from being so enrolled due to illness or injury.

DEPENDENT refers to:

- a. an Insured's spouse.
- b. each unmarried and married child less than 26 years of age, for whom the Insured, the Insured's spouse is legally responsible, including natural born children, adopted children from the date of placement for adoption, and children covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by applicable Federal and State laws. Grandchildren, 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 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 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 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.

PREFERRED AND NON-PREFERRED PROVIDERS. A Preferred Provider is a Provider who has a contract with Us to provide services to Insureds at a discount. A Preferred 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 Preferred Provider’s contracted fees for covered services. A Non-Preferred 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 Preferred 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."

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is any eligible employee electing the vision plan 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.

Retirees are included in the Eligible Class for Insurance 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 first of the month 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, 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.

Coverage for a newborn child or a child placed for adoption 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.

The Insured must give us written notice within 31 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.

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 eligible employee electing the vision plan 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.

Retirees are included in the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance 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.

SECTION 125. This policy 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 policy.

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 policy at that time will have their insurance become effective on January 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, qualification will occur on the first of the month following the eligibility period of 30 calendar day(s) of continuous active employment.

For persons who become Members after the Plan Effective Date of the policy, qualification will occur on the first of the month following the eligibility period of 30 calendar day(s) of continuous active employment.

OPEN ENROLLMENT. If a Member does not elect to participate when initially eligible, the Member may elect to participate at the Policyholder's next enrollment period. This enrollment period will be held each year and those who elect to participate in this policy at that time will have their insurance become effective on January 1.

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 the first of the month 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. 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 Insured may terminate coverage upon written notice to the Policyholder. 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.

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.

PREFERRED PROVIDERS

A Preferred 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-PREFERRED PROVIDER

A Non-Preferred Provider is any other provider. Non-Preferred providers may be referred to as Affiliate or Open Access Providers. Non-Preferred Providers are not subject to our Quality Management Programs. Your out-of-pocket expenses may be greater when you visit a Non-Preferred 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, the Insured must advise the Preferred Provider's office that he or she has coverage under this network plan.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

We pay benefits to the Preferred Provider for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Preferred Provider performs services, we pay benefits to the Insured unless arranged differently through an Affiliate or Open Access provider.

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 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,

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>Preferred Provider</i>	<i>Non-Preferred 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 \$100.00
Frames			
Single Frame	Once every 12 months	Up to \$200.00	Up to \$ 70.00
Contact Lenses (in lieu of Complete Pair of Spectacles)			
Elective	Once every 12 months	Up to \$200.00	Up to \$145.00
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-Preferred 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 10 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 not reasonably possible to give written proof within the 90 day period, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason. 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 within 15 working days of when we receive all information necessary to pay the claim. If a claim cannot be paid within 15 working days of receipt, we will notify you within that 15-day period providing you with a list of information necessary for us to pay the claim. Upon receipt of the additional information, we will have an additional 15 working days within which to process the claim and either make payment or notify the claimant of the denial. We will pay interest at the rate of eighteen percent per year on benefits for valid claims not paid within the time periods noted above until the claim is settled.

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

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.

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. **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.

B. **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.

C. **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.

D. **Claims For Benefits**

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

E. **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.

F. 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: Claims Services
P.O. Box 385018
Birmingham, AL 35238-5018

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.



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.