



# Individual Benefit Plan Certificate of Insurance BlueEssential 100 9450

This is a Catastrophic Health Plan.

If after review of this Benefit Plan you are not satisfied for any reason, you may return it to BCBSND within ten days of its delivery to you and the premium paid will be refunded.

**KEEP THIS DOCUMENT IN A SAFE PLACE.**



**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BLUEESSENTIAL 100 9450  
HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN**

In consideration of payment of required premium and acceptance of the application, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) enters into this legal agreement with you, the Subscriber. This legal agreement includes this Benefit Plan, your application, Identification Card and any endorsements, supplements, attachments, addenda or amendments. These documents describe the health benefits available to you and your Eligible Dependents, if any, as Members of BCBSND. The benefits described are available as long as the required premium is paid. No change in this legal agreement is valid unless approved by the President and Chief Executive Officer of BCBSND. Changes to provisions or premium amounts by BCBSND will be sent to the Subscriber's address as shown on BCBSND records by mail no less than 31 days prior to the effective date of change.

The Subscriber hereby expressly acknowledges and understands that BCBSND is an independent corporation operating under a license with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans (the "Association"), permitting BCBSND to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Marks in the state of North Dakota, and that BCBSND is not contracting as an agent of the Association. The Subscriber further acknowledges and agrees this legal agreement was not entered into based upon representations by any person or entity other than BCBSND and that no person, entity, or organization other than BCBSND shall be held accountable or liable to the Subscriber for any of BCBSND's obligations to the Subscriber created under this agreement. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of BCBSND other than those obligations created under other provisions of this agreement.

**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NORTH DAKOTA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Conrad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

Daniel Conrad  
Its President and CEO



## **MEMBER SERVICES**

### **Questions?**

Our Member Services staff is available to answer questions about your coverage –

### **Call Member Services:**

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST

1-844-363-8457

### **Office Address and Hours:**

You may visit our Home Office during normal business hours –

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota  
4510 13th Avenue South  
Fargo, North Dakota 58121

### **Mailing Address:**

You may write to us at the following address –

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota  
4510 13th Avenue South  
Fargo, North Dakota 58121

### **Internet Address:**

[www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com)

### **Offices:**

We invite you to contact the Office closest to you –

#### **Fargo Office**

4510 13th Avenue South  
(701) 277-2232

#### **Jamestown Office**

300 2nd Avenue Northeast  
Suite 132  
(701) 251-3180

#### **Bismarck Office**

1415 Mapleton Avenue  
(701) 223-6348

#### **Dickinson Office**

1674 15th Street West, Suite D  
(701) 225-8092

#### **Grand Forks Office**

3570 South 42nd Street, Suite B  
(701) 795-5340

#### **Devils Lake Office**

425 College Drive South, Suite 13  
(701) 662-8613

#### **Minot Office**

1308 20th Avenue Southwest  
(701) 858-5000

#### **Williston Office**

1500 14th Street West, Suite 270  
(701) 572-4535

### **Provider Directories:**

Members can obtain a Provider Directory or a list of Participating Pharmacies by calling the telephone number listed above or by visiting the BCBSND website.



**HEALTH BENEFITS  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Section 1</b>	SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS .....	1
	1.1 Cost Sharing Amounts .....	1
	1.2 Lifetime Maximum .....	1
	1.3 Selecting a Health Care Provider .....	2
	1.4 Continuity of Care .....	6
	1.5 Outline of Covered Services .....	8
<b>Section 2</b>	COVERED SERVICES.....	24
	2.1 Inpatient Hospital and Medical Services.....	24
	2.2 Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Services.....	25
	2.3 Transplant Services .....	26
	2.4 Temporomandibular or Craniomandibular Joint Treatment.....	26
	2.5 Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services .....	27
	2.6 Wellness Services.....	28
	2.7 Outpatient Therapy Services .....	28
	2.8 Chiropractic Services .....	29
	2.9 Maternity Services .....	29
	2.10 Contraceptive Services .....	30
	2.11 Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Services .....	30
	2.12 Ambulance Services .....	32
	2.13 Skilled Nursing Facility Services.....	32
	2.14 Home Health Care Services .....	32
	2.15 Hospice Services .....	33
	2.16 Medical Supplies and Equipment .....	33
	2.17 Breast Pumps .....	34
	2.18 Pediatric Dental Services until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19 .....	34
	2.19 Pediatric Vision Services until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19 .....	35
	2.20 Eyeglasses or Contact Lenses For Members Diagnosed With Aphakia .....	35
	2.21 Telehealth .....	35
	2.22 Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs .....	36
<b>Section 3</b>	AUTHORIZATIONS.....	37
	3.1 Precertification Process .....	37
	3.2 Concurrent Review .....	39
	3.3 Discharge Planning.....	39
	3.4 Case Management.....	39
<b>Section 4</b>	EXCLUSIONS.....	41
<b>Section 5</b>	GENERAL PROVISIONS .....	47
	5.1 Payment of Premiums.....	47
	5.2 Automatic Payment Withdrawal.....	47
	5.3 Time Limit on Certain Defenses .....	47
	5.4 Status of Member Eligibility.....	47
	5.5 Notice and Proof of Claim .....	48
	5.6 Payment of Claims.....	48
	5.7 Physical Examinations.....	48
	5.8 Limitation of Actions.....	48
	5.9 Premium Refund/Death of the Subscriber .....	48
	5.10 Notification Requirements and Special Enrollment Provisions.....	48
	5.11 Transfer to Another Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan.....	50
	5.12 Cancellation of This or Previous Benefit Plans.....	50
	5.13 Notice to Mothers and Newborns .....	51
	5.14 Member - Provider Relationship .....	51

	5.15	BCBSND's Right to Recovery of Payment .....	51
	5.16	Confidentiality and Security .....	52
	5.17	Notice of Privacy Practices .....	52
	5.18	Retrospective Discount Payment Disclosure.....	52
	5.19	Notice of Gender Affirmation Limitations Under North Dakota Law .....	53
<b>Section 6</b>		<b>CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES .....</b>	<b>54</b>
	6.1	Claims for Benefits Involving Precertification (Preservice Claims for Benefits).....	55
	6.2	All Other Claims for Benefits (Post Service Claim for Benefits) .....	56
	6.3	External Review Process of Claims for Benefits (External Appeals).....	57
	6.4	Grievances .....	61
<b>Section 7</b>		<b>OTHER PARTY LIABILITY .....</b>	<b>62</b>
	7.1	Coordination of Benefits.....	62
	7.2	Automobile No-Fault or Medical Payment Benefit Coordination .....	66
	7.3	Medical Payment Benefit Coordination.....	66
	7.4	Rights of Subrogation, Reimbursement and Assignment.....	66
	7.5	Workers' Compensation.....	67
<b>Section 8</b>		<b>DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>68</b>



## INTRODUCTION

Benefits described in this Benefit Plan are available to Members and cannot be transferred or assigned. Any attempt to transfer or assign the benefits of this Benefit Plan to ineligible persons will result in automatic termination of this Benefit Plan by BCBSND.

Please review this Benefit Plan and retain it with your other important papers. If you are not satisfied with this Benefit Plan for any reason, you may return it to BCBSND within 10 days of its delivery to you and the premium paid will be refunded.

The Subscriber will receive an Identification Card displaying the Unique Member Identifier and other information about this Benefit Plan. All Members share this Unique Member Identifier. Carry the Identification Card at all times. If the Identification Card is lost, contact BCBSND to request a replacement. The Subscriber must not let anyone other than an Eligible Dependent use the Identification Card. If another person is allowed to utilize the Identification Card, the Member's coverage will be terminated.

Present your Identification Card to your Health Care Provider to identify yourself as a Member of BCBSND. Participating Health Care Providers will submit claims on your behalf. You will be notified in writing by BCBSND of benefit payments made for Covered Services. Please review your Explanation of Benefits and advise BCBSND if you were billed for services you did not receive.

If you receive services from a Health Care Provider that will not submit claims on your behalf, you are responsible for the submission of a written notice of a claim for the services you received within 12 months after the date the services were provided. The written notice must include information necessary for BCBSND to determine benefits.



## **MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a Member you have the right to:

- Receive impartial access to treatment and/or accommodations that are available or medically indicated, regardless of race, color, religious creed, handicap, ancestry, national origin, age or sex.
- Be treated with respect, dignity and privacy.
- Privacy of your personal health information that BCBSND maintains in accordance with federal and state laws.
- Be informed about your health condition and to receive information regarding treatment options and their risk in order to make an informed choice regardless of cost or benefit coverage.
- Participate with your Health Care Providers about decisions regarding your treatment, including the right to refuse treatment.
- Make recommendations regarding this Member's rights and responsibilities statement.
- File a complaint or an appeal about your health plan or the services it delivers. You may do so by contacting BCBSND Member Services at the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card.
- Receive information about BCBSND, its products and services, its Participating Providers, and your rights and responsibilities.

As a Member you have the responsibility to:

- Know your health plan benefits and requirements.
- Timely advise the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) of any changes that affect you or your family, such as a birth, marriage/divorce or change of address.
- Provide the necessary information to your Health Care Providers needed to determine appropriate care.
- Follow the treatment plan prescribed by your Health Care Provider.
- Timely provide BCBSND the necessary information to process your claims and provide you with the benefits available to you under your plan.



**SECTION 1  
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

This section outlines the payment provisions for Covered Services described in Section 2, subject to the definitions, exclusions, conditions and limitations of this Benefit Plan.

**1.1 COST SHARING AMOUNTS**

Cost Sharing Amounts include Coinsurance, Copayment, Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amounts. A Member is responsible for the Cost Sharing Amounts. Please see Section 1.5, Outline of Covered Services for the specific Cost Sharing Amounts that apply to this Benefit Plan. All Members contribute to the Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amounts. However, a Member's contribution cannot be more than the Individual Coverage amount. Health Care Providers may bill you directly or request payment of Coinsurance, Copayment and Deductible Amounts at the time services are provided.

If BCBSND pays amounts to the Health Care Provider that are the Member's responsibility, such as Deductibles, Copayments or Coinsurance Amounts, BCBSND may collect such amounts directly from the Member. The Member agrees that BCBSND has the right to collect such amounts from the Member.

	<b>In-Network Provider</b>	<b>Out-of-Network Provider</b>
<b>Under this Benefit Plan the Deductible Amounts are:</b>		
Individual Coverage	\$9,450 per Benefit Period	\$18,900 per Benefit Period
Parent and Child Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$37,800 per Benefit Period
Parent and Children Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$37,800 per Benefit Period
Two Person Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$37,800 per Benefit Period
Family Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$37,800 per Benefit Period
<b>Under this Benefit Plan the Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amounts are:</b>		
Individual Coverage	\$9,450 per Benefit Period	\$28,350 per Benefit Period
Parent and Child Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$56,700 per Benefit Period
Parent and Children Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$56,700 per Benefit Period
Two Person Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$56,700 per Benefit Period
Family Coverage	\$18,900 per Benefit Period	\$56,700 per Benefit Period

**1.2 LIFETIME MAXIMUM**

The Lifetime Maximum for this Benefit Plan is unlimited, except for specific Covered Services as listed in the Outline of Covered Services.

### 1.3 **SELECTING A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER**

This Benefit Plan recognizes the following categories of Health Care Providers:

#### **A. Network Health Care Provider (BlueCard PPO Health Care Providers)**

When Covered Services are received In-Network, the Member will receive benefit payment at a higher level under this Benefit Plan. Reimbursement for Covered Services will be made directly to the Network Health Care Provider according to the terms of this Benefit Plan.

#### **B. Out-of-Network Health Care Providers**

If a Member seeks services from an Out-of-Network Health Care Provider, benefit payment will be at the Out-of-Network level.

#### **C. Participating Health Care Providers**

When Covered Services are received from a Participating Health Care Provider, a provider discount provision is in effect. This means the Allowance paid by the local Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan will be considered by the Participating Health Care Provider as payment in full, except for Cost Sharing Amounts, Maximum Benefit Allowances or Lifetime Maximums.

When Covered Services are received from a Participating Health Care Provider, the Participating Health Care Provider agrees to submit claims to BCBSND on behalf of the Member. Reimbursement for Covered Services will be made directly to the Participating Health Care Provider according to the terms of this Benefit Plan and the participation agreement between the Health Care Provider and the local Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan.

If a Member receives Covered Services from a Participating Health Care Provider that is not a Network Health Care Provider, benefit payment will be at the Out-of-Network level. See Section 1.5, Outline of Covered Services and the Network definition.

Health Care Providers participating with BCBSND have also agreed to perform authorization requirements on behalf of the Member.

To view the provider directory, visit [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com).

#### **D. Nonparticipating Health Care Providers – Protections From Certain Excess Charges**

If a Member receives Covered Services from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider, the Member will be responsible for notifying BCBSND of the receipt of services by submitting a claim within 12 months after the date of the services. The written notice must include information necessary for BCBSND to determine benefits. Benefit payment will be made directly to the Subscriber for Covered Services received from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider. If BCBSND needs copies of medical records to process the Member's claim, the Member is responsible for obtaining such records from the Nonparticipating Health Care Provider. In addition, the Member will be responsible for compliance with all required authorization provisions. See Section 3, Authorizations.

Covered Services affected by the provider discount provision when care would have been received from a Participating Health Care Provider, including charges exceeding BCBSND's Allowance, will be considered noncovered services when received from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider.

If a Member receives Covered Services from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider outside the state of North Dakota, the Allowance for Covered Services will be an amount within a general range of payments made and judged to be reasonable by BCBSND.

In certain situations, a Member will receive the higher level of benefits under this Benefit Plan even though the Member receives Covered Services from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider. These situations include:

- Emergency Services.
- Covered Services including anesthesia, radiology, pathology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider in an In-Network setting.
- Air transportation.

Precertification requirements do not apply to Emergency Services.

Reimbursement for Covered Services will be made directly to the Nonparticipating Health Care Provider. The Allowance paid by BCBSND will be considered by the Nonparticipating Health Care Provider as payment in full, except for Cost Sharing Amounts, Maximum Benefit Allowances or Lifetime Maximums.

A Member will be responsible for Cost Sharing Amounts at the higher level of benefits as if the Covered Services had been received from a Participating Health Care Provider. A Member's Cost Sharing Amounts will be applied to the applicable Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amount.

#### **E. Nonpayable Health Care Providers**

If BCBSND designates a Health Care Provider as Nonpayable, no benefits will be available for Covered Services prescribed by, performed by or under the direct supervision of the Nonpayable Health Care Provider. Notice of designation as a Nonpayable Health Care Provider will be provided to Members at least 30 days prior to the effective date of designation as a Nonpayable Health Care Provider. As of the date of termination, all charges incurred by a Member for services received from the Nonpayable Health Care Provider will be the Subscriber's responsibility.

#### **F. Inter-Plan Arrangements**

BCBSND has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees referred to generally as "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements work based on rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever a Member obtains health care services outside of the geographic area BCBSND serves, the claims for these services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described below.

When a Member receives care outside of the BCBSND service area, the Member will receive care from one of two kinds of health care providers. Most health care providers ("participating health care providers") contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan in that geographic area ("Host Blue"). Some health care providers ("nonparticipating health care providers") do not contract with the Host Blue. Below BCBSND explains how BCBSND pays both kinds of health care providers.

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all dental care benefits and vision care benefits (except when paid as medical claims/benefits), and those prescription drug benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by BCBSND to provide the specific service or services.

##### **1. BlueCard® Program**

Under the BlueCard Program, when a Member accesses health care services within the geographic area serviced by a Host Blue, BCBSND will remain responsible for fulfilling BCBSND's contractual obligations. However, the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its participating health care providers.

When a Member obtains health care services outside the geographic area BCBSND serves and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount the Member pays for Covered Services is calculated on the **lower** of:

- The Host Blue's participating health care provider's billed charges, or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to BCBSND.

Often, this "negotiated price" will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price paid by the Host Blue. Sometimes it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with a health care provider or with a specified group of health care providers that may include types of settlements, incentive payments, and/or other credits or charges. Occasionally, it may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for similar types of health care providers after taking into account the same types of transactions as with an estimated price.

Estimated pricing and average pricing also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price BCBSND uses for the Member's claim because they will not be applied after a claim is already paid.

## **2. Value-Based Programs**

If a Member receives Covered Services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue's service area, the Member will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to BCBSND through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments.

For the purpose of this provision, the following definitions apply:

- a. Care Coordination: Organized, information-driven patient care activities intended to facilitate the appropriate responses to a Member's health care needs across the continuum of care.
- b. Care Coordinator Fees: A fixed amount paid by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to health care providers periodically for Care Coordination under a Value-Based Program.
- c. Provider Incentive: An additional amount of compensation paid to a health care provider by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan, based on the health care provider's compliance with agreed-upon procedural and/or outcome measures for a particular group of covered persons.
- d. Value-Based Program: An outcomes-based payment arrangement and/or a coordinated care model facilitated with one or more local health care providers that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in provider payment.

## **3. Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees**

Federal or state laws or regulations may require a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to insured accounts. If applicable, BCBSND will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee as part of the claim charge passed on to the Member.



#### **4. Nonparticipating Health Care Providers Outside the BCBSND Service Area**

When Covered Services are provided outside of BCBSND's service area by nonparticipating health care providers, the amount the Member pays for such services will generally be based on either the Host Blue's nonparticipating health care provider local payment or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state law. In these situations, the Member may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating health care provider bills and the payment BCBSND will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for out-of-network Emergency Services, certain out-of-network services furnished by a nonparticipating health care provider in an in-network setting and out-of-network air transportation.

In certain situations, BCBSND may use other payment bases, such as the payment BCBSND would make if the Covered Services had been obtained within the BCBSND service area, or a special negotiated payment to determine the amount BCBSND will pay for Covered Services provided by nonparticipating health care providers. In these situations, a Member may be liable for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating health care provider bills and the payment BCBSND will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

For further information on Nonparticipating Health Care Providers within the BCBSND service area, see the Nonparticipating Health Care Providers - Protections From Certain Excess Charges Section under Selecting a Health Care Provider in Section 1 of the Benefit Plan.

#### **5. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global® Core**

If Members are outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (hereinafter: "BlueCard service area"), they may be able to take advantage of Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core when accessing Covered Services. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core is not served by a Host Blue.

If a Member needs medical assistance services (including locating a doctor or hospital) outside the BlueCard service area, the Member should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 1-800-810-BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1-804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, can arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

##### **a. Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if a Member contacts the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require the Member to pay for covered inpatient services, except for Cost Sharing Amounts. In such cases, the hospital will submit the Member's claims to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center to initiate claims processing. However, if the Member paid in full at the time of service, the Member must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

##### **b. Outpatient Services**

Physicians, urgent care centers and other outpatient health care providers located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require a Member to pay in full at the time of service. The Member must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

**c. Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim**

When a Member pays for Covered Services outside the BlueCard service area, the Member must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, the Member should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core International claim form and send the claim form with the health care provider's itemized bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center address on the form to initiate claims processing. The claim form is available from BCBSND, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If a Member needs assistance with claim submissions, the Member should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center.

**G. Health Care Providers Outside the United States**

When Members are traveling or living outside of the United States, benefits are only available for Emergency Services under this Benefit Plan. The Precertification requirements will apply. See the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core section above for further information on services received outside the United States.

BCBSND will reimburse Prescription Medications or Drugs purchased outside the United States by Members who live outside the United States where no suitable alternative exists. Reimbursement will also be made in instances where Members are traveling and new drug therapy is initiated for acute conditions or where emergency replacement of drugs originally prescribed and purchased in the United States is necessary. The reimbursable supply of drugs in travel situations will be limited to an amount necessary to assure continuation of therapy during the travel period and for a reasonable period thereafter.

**H. Medicare Private Contracts**

A Health Care Provider may ask a Member who is eligible for Medicare to enter into a Medicare private contract where the Member and the Health Care Provider agree that the Member is to be provided with services outside of the Medicare program. This Medicare private contract must be entered into between the Member and the Health Care Provider prior to the receipt of any services and indicate that neither the Member nor the Health Care Provider is permitted to file a request for reimbursement with Medicare for any of the services provided by the Health Care Provider and that the Health Care Provider can charge any amount agreed to by the Member for services instead of the Medicare limiting charge. Under a Medicare private contract, the Health Care Provider can set any price for services but Medicare will not pay anything. If the Member enters into a Medicare private contract, Medicare will not pay any portion of the services and BCBSND will limit its payment to the amount BCBSND would have paid as though Medicare was paying for such Covered Services. If a Member enters into a Medicare private contract, the Member is responsible for paying the difference between the amount billed by the Health Care Provider for Covered Services and the amount paid by BCBSND.

**1.4 CONTINUITY OF CARE**

If a Member is receiving an active course of treatment care from a Participating Health Care Provider who becomes a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider during the active course of treatment, BCBSND will authorize continuity of care at the Participating Health Care Provider level for the following conditions or situations:

**A. Continuation for up to 90 days:**

1. Active institutional or Inpatient care;
2. Active treatment (radiation, chemotherapy, surgery) for cancer;
3. Active treatment for severe or end stage kidney disease or dialysis;
4. Active treatment for mental health or substance abuse services;
5. A serious acute condition, serious complex condition or other life threatening condition;
6. Non-elective surgeries; or
7. Terminal illness.

- B. Continuation through the first postpartum visit:
  - 1. A pregnancy beyond the first trimester; or
  - 2. A high risk pregnancy.
- C. Continuation for up to 1 year:
  - 1. A transplant or on a waiting list to receive a transplant.
- D. Continuation as long as the individual is a Member under this Benefit Plan:
  - 1. Receiving active treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Symptomatic Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The Member or the Member's Authorized Representative must submit a written request for continuity of care to BCBSND within 180 days of the first day the Health Care Provider is deemed a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider.

Benefit payment will be made directly to the Subscriber for Covered Services received from the Nonparticipating Health Care Provider.

For further information, please contact Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card.

1.5 **OUTLINE OF COVERED SERVICES**

The benefit amounts specified in this outline apply only to Covered Services received from Participating Health Care Providers. Benefit amounts for Covered Services received from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider differ as described in Section 1.3, Selecting a Health Care Provider.

Covered Services	<b>Provider of Service:</b>	
	<b>In-Network After Deductible Amount</b>	<b>Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount</b>
<b>Inpatient Hospital and Medical Services</b>		
• Inpatient Hospital Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Transitional Care Unit Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 days per Member per Benefit Period.	
• Inpatient Medical Care Visits	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Ancillary Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Inpatient Consultations	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Concurrent Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Initial Newborn Care	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<b>Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Services</b>		
• Professional Health Care Provider Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Assistant Surgeon Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Ambulatory Surgical Facility Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Hospital Ancillary Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Anesthesia Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Bariatric Surgery	100% of Allowed Charge.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	Benefits are subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 1 operative procedure per Member when Precertification is received from BCBSND.	
	Covered Services must be received from a surgical facility approved by BCBSND.	

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outpatient Tubal Ligation Procedure</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
<b>Transplant Services</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge when Precertification is received from BCBSND.  Covered Services must be received from a transplant facility approved by BCBSND.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
<b>Temporomandibular (TMJ) or Craniomandibular (CMJ) Joint Treatment</b>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.  Benefits are subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 2 surgical procedures per Member and a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 splint per Member per Benefit Period.
<b>Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First 3 Office Visits per Benefit Period</li> </ul>	\$50 Copayment Amount per Office Visit, then 100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional Office Visits</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge subject to the Deductible Amount.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnostic Services</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Services (See Section 8, Definitions)</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge.	100% of Allowed Charge subject to the In-Network Deductible Amount.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgent Care Services at Urgent Care Center or Facility</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental Services</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental Services including frenotomy, frenectomy, oral biopsy, oral lesion removal, oral abscess treatment, tooth extractions in preparation for radiation treatment</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accidental Injury</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental Anesthesia and Hospitalization</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required for all Members age 9 and older.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required for all Members age 9 and older.

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
• Preadmission Testing Services		
Diagnostic Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Related Office Visit	Office Visit Cost Sharing Amounts will apply.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Second Surgical Opinions		
Diagnostic Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Related Office Visit	Office Visit Cost Sharing Amounts will apply.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Radiation Therapy and Chemotherapy	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Dialysis Treatment	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Home Infusion Therapy Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Allergy Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Phenylketonuria (PKU) - Foods and food products for the dietary treatment of Members born after 12/31/62 with phenylketonuria	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Amino Acid-Based Elemental Oral Formulas	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.

**Wellness Services**

• Pediatric Preventive Visits for Members through age 6	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	Benefits are available for pediatric preventive visits according to guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Including:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 visits for Members from birth through 35 months;</li> <li>• 1 visit per Benefit Period for Members age 3 through age 6.</li> </ul>	

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
Topical fluoride varnish applications by a medical Health Care Provider	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.  Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 2 applications per Member per Benefit Period.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immunizations</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.  Covered immunizations are those that have been published as policy by the Centers for Disease Control, Including DPT (Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus), MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella), Hemophilus Influenza B, Hepatitis, Polio, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Pneumococcal Disease, Influenza Virus, Tetanus, Meningococcal Disease and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Certain age restrictions may apply.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventive Screening Services for Members age 7 and older</li> </ul>	Benefits are available for preventive screening services according to A or B Recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and issued by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Including:	
Routine Physical Examination (Office Visit)	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
<p>Routine Diagnostic Screenings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adult Aortic Aneurysm Screening for male Members age 65 and older</li> <li>➤ Lipid Disorders Screening once every 5 years</li> <li>➤ Osteoporosis Screening for female Members once every 2 years</li> <li>➤ Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Screening</li> <li>➤ Diabetes Screening</li> <li>➤ Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening</li> <li>➤ Lung Cancer Screening for Members age 50 through 80 with a 20 pack per year smoking history</li> <li>➤ Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Screening for Members at high risk</li> <li>➤ Tuberculosis Screening</li> </ul> <p>Breast Cancer Screening</p> <p>Mammography with or without Digital Breast Tomosynthesis Screening (3D Mammography)</p>	<p>100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.</p>	<p><b>No Coverage.</b></p>
<p>Cervical Cancer Screening</p>	<p>100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.</p> <p>Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 Pap smear per Benefit Period.</p>	<p><b>No Coverage.</b></p>
<p>Related Office Visit</p>	<p>100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.</p>	<p><b>No Coverage.</b></p>



Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
Colorectal Cancer Screening for Members age 45 through 75:		
➤ <u>Fecal Occult Blood Testing (FOBT), Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT)</u> – subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 test per Benefit Period; and	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
➤ <u>FIT DNA</u> – subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 test every 3 years; or	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
➤ <u>Colonoscopy</u> – subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 test every 10 years; or	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
➤ <u>CT Colonography</u> – subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 test every 5 years; or	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
➤ <u>Sigmoidoscopy</u> – subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 test every 5 years.	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
Prostate Cancer Screening for Members age 40 and older	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
Related Office Visit	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
Physical Therapy for community dwelling Members age 65 and older at risk for falls	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	A community dwelling Member is an individual who does not live in an assisted-living facility or nursing home.	
Intensive Behavioral Interventions for Obesity	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	Benefits are subject to Maximum Benefit Allowances of 26 visits per Member per Benefit Period.	
Nutritional Counseling	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount

- Hyperlipidemia – Maximum Benefit Allowance of 4 visits per Member per Benefit Period.
- Gestational Diabetes – Maximum Benefit Allowance of 4 visits per Member per Benefit Period.
- Diabetes Mellitus – Maximum Benefit Allowance of 4 visits per Member per Benefit Period.
- Hypertension – Maximum Benefit Allowance of 2 visits per Member per Benefit Period.

Please refer to BCBSND's Preventive Health Guidelines (available online at [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com) or upon request by contacting Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of your Identification Card) for further preventive services information.

Benefits other than those recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and issued by the Health Resources and Services Administration will be subject to Cost Sharing Amounts. See Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services. No benefits are available Out-of-Network.

A Health Care Provider will counsel Members as to how often preventive services are needed based on the age, gender and medical status of the Member.

- |   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outpatient Nutritional Care Services (Including Feeding and Eating Disorders)</li> </ul> | <p>100% of Allowed Charge.</p> <p>Benefits are available to the Maximum Benefit Allowance for the following diagnosed medical condition:</p> <p>PKU – Maximum Benefit Allowance of 4 Office Visits per Member per Benefit Period.</p> | <p>80% of Allowed Charge.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes Education Services</li> </ul>   | <p>100% of Allowed Charge.</p>  | <p><b>No Coverage.</b></p>    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Eye Examination with Dilation</li> </ul>                                   | <p>Office Visit Cost Sharing Amounts will apply.</p> <p>Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 examination per Member per Benefit Period.</p>   | <p>80% of Allowed Charge.</p> |

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount

- Tobacco Cessation Services

Prescription Non-Nicotine Replacement Therapy

Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Nicotine Replacement Therapy (nicotine lozenges, patches, gum)

Prescription Nicotine Replacement Therapy (nicotine nasal spray, inhaler, patches)

Related Office Visit

Tobacco cessation services obtainable with a Prescription Order are paid at 100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.

Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 2 quit attempt cycles per Member per Benefit Period. A quit attempt cycle includes 4 counseling visits and/or a 3-month supply of nicotine or non-nicotine replacement therapy.

**No Coverage.**

100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.

**No Coverage.**

**Outpatient Therapy Services**

- Rehabilitative Therapy

Physical Therapy

100% of Allowed Charge.

80% of Allowed Charge.

Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

Occupational Therapy

100% of Allowed Charge.

80% of Allowed Charge.

Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

Speech Therapy

100% of Allowed Charge.

80% of Allowed Charge.

Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

- Habilitative Therapy

Physical Therapy

100% of Allowed Charge.

80% of Allowed Charge.

Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
Occupational Therapy	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.	
Speech Therapy	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are excluded from the Maximum Benefit Allowance.	
• Other Therapy Services		
Respiratory Therapy Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Cardiac Rehabilitation Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Vision Therapy	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 visits per Member per Benefit Period.	
<b>Chiropractic Services</b>	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 20 visits per Member per Benefit Period.	
• Home and Office Visits	Office Visit Cost Sharing Amounts will apply.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Therapy and Manipulations	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Diagnostic Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<b>Maternity Services</b>		
• Inpatient Hospital and Medical Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Prenatal and Postnatal Care Services	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Related Prenatal or Postnatal Office Visit	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	80% of Allowed Charge.
• Lactation Counseling	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
<b>Contraceptive Services</b>	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Related Office Visit</li> </ul>	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	Prescription contraceptive services obtainable with a Prescription Order are paid under the Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs benefit.	
<b>Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Services</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychiatric Services</li> </ul>		
Inpatient	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.
Residential Treatment	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.
Partial Hospitalization	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Intensive Outpatient Program	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Outpatient		
Home and Office Visits Including assessment, counseling, case management services, Behavioral Modification Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder (Including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)), treatment planning, coordination of care, psychotherapy and group therapy	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.
Outpatient Services Including diagnostic testing, diagnostic procedures and treatment procedures	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
• Substance Abuse Services		
Inpatient	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.
Residential Treatment	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.
Partial Hospitalization	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Intensive Outpatient Program	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Outpatient		
Home and Office Visits Including assessment, counseling, case management services, treatment planning, coordination of care, psychotherapy and group therapy, Opioid Treatment Program and Peer Support	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.
Outpatient Services Including diagnostic testing, diagnostic procedures and treatment procedures	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	80% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.
<b>Ambulance Services</b>		
• Ground Ambulance	100% of Allowed Charge.	100% of Allowed Charge subject to the In-Network Deductible Amount.
• Air Ambulance	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification may be required.	100% of Allowed Charge subject to the In-Network Deductible Amount. Precertification may be required.
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility Services</b>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 30 days per Member per Benefit Period.	
<b>Home Health Care Services</b>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
	Benefits are subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 40 visits per Member per Benefit Period.	
<b>Hospice Services</b>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
<b>Medical Supplies and Equipment</b>	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Medical Equipment</li> <li>• Orthotic Devices</li> <li>• Supplies for Administration of Prescription Medications other than the diabetes supplies specified in Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs</li> <li>• Oxygen Equipment and Supplies</li> <li>• Ostomy Supplies</li> <li>• Prosthetic Appliances and Limbs</li> </ul>	Precertification is required.	Precertification is required.
<b>Breast Pumps</b>	100% of Allowed Charge. Deductible Amount is waived.	<b>No Coverage.</b>
	Benefits are available for the rental or purchase of 1 breast pump per pregnancy.	
<b>Pediatric Dental Services until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19</b>	Pediatric dental services must be received from the BCBSND preferred dental network. To view a list of Pediatric Participating Dentists, visit <a href="http://www.BCBSND.com">www.BCBSND.com</a> or contact Member Services at the toll-free number on the Identification Card.	
Category 1 – Diagnostic		
A. Routine oral evaluations allowed twice during a Benefit Period	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
B. Bitewing X-rays allowed once during a Benefit Period, except when part of a full mouth survey	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
C. Full mouth survey allowed once every 3 years	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
D. Panoramic film allowed once every 3 years	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
E. Intraoral periapical X-rays	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 2 – Preventive		
A. Prophylaxis allowed 4 times during a Benefit Period	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
B. Topical Fluoride applications allowed twice during a Benefit Period	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
C. Sealants on unfilled, undecayed permanent molars and bicuspid. Benefits are limited to a Lifetime Maximum of 2 sealants per tooth.	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
D. Space maintainers	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
Category 3 – Restorative		
A. Fillings (pin-retention - limit 2)	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
B. Inlays, onlays and Crowns (not part of a fixed partial Denture). Replacement of lost or defective inlays, onlays or Crowns is allowed once every 5 years.	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
C. Veneers other than cosmetic are allowed once every 5 years	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 4 – Endodontics		
A. Pulpotomy, pulp capping, root canal therapy, apicoectomy, root amputation, hemisection, bleaching of endodontically treated anterior permanent teeth	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 5 – Periodontics		
A. Surgical Periodontic evaluation once for each course of treatment	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
B. Gingivectomy, Gingival Curettage, mucogingival surgery, osseous surgery	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
C. Periodontal scaling and root planing	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 6 – Prosthodontics (removable)		
A. Dentures (complete and partial). Replacement of lost or defective Dentures is allowed once every 5 years.	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
B. Tissue conditioning twice per treatment sequence for relining or for new or duplicate Dentures	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
C. Relining of immediate Dentures once during the year after insertion	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.



Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
D. Relining of complete and partial Dentures other than in item above, allowed once every 3 years	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 7 – Maxillofacial Prosthetics	<b>No Coverage.</b>	<b>No Coverage.</b>
Category 8 – Implant Services	<b>No Coverage.</b>	<b>No Coverage.</b>
Category 9 – Prosthodontics (fixed)		
A. Fixed partial Denture. Replacement of lost or defective fixed partial Dentures is allowed once every 5 years.	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 10 – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery		
A. Simple Extractions	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
B. Surgical Extractions	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
C. Oral Maxillofacial Surgery including fracture and dislocation treatment, frenulectomy and cyst and abscess diagnosis and treatment	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
Category 11 – Orthodontics		
A. The treatment of improper alignment of biting or chewing surfaces of upper and lower teeth through the installation of orthodontic appliances. Benefits are limited to a Lifetime Maximum of 1 orthodontic placement per Member.	100% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.	50% of Allowed Charge. Precertification is required.
Category 12 – Adjunctive General Services		
A. Palliative (emergency) treatment of dental pain	100% of Allowed Charge.	80% of Allowed Charge.
B. Anesthesia services	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
C. Occlusal guard for treatment of Bruxism allowed once every 3 years	100% of Allowed Charge.	50% of Allowed Charge.
<b>Pediatric Vision Services until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19</b>		

Covered Services	Provider of Service:	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
Vision Examinations	100% of Allowed Charge.  Benefits Include refraction and glaucoma screening (tonometry test), subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 1 examination per Member per Benefit Period.	No Coverage.
Prescribed Lenses and Frames	100% of Allowed Charge.  Prescribed lenses are allowed once per Benefit Period.  Frames are allowed once every other Benefit Period.  Benefits are available for contact lenses in lieu of the prescribed frames and/or lenses benefit.	No Coverage.
<b>Eyeglasses or Contact Lenses</b> for Members diagnosed with aphakia	100% of Allowed Charge.  Benefits are subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 1 pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses for Members diagnosed with aphakia.	80% of Allowed Charge.
<b>Telehealth</b>	Covered Services delivered by means of Telehealth are subject to the Cost Sharing Amounts listed throughout the Outline of Covered Services.	
<b>Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs and Diabetes Supplies</b>		
<b>Retail Pharmacy – Formulary Drugs</b>		
• Generic		
Preferred Drug (Tier 1)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
Nonpreferred Drug (Tier 2)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
• Brand Name		
Preferred Drug (Tier 3)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
Nonpreferred Drug (Tier 4)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
<b>Preferred Mail Order Pharmacy – Formulary Drugs</b>		
• Generic		

Covered Services	<u>Provider of Service:</u>	
	In-Network After Deductible Amount	Out-of-Network After Deductible Amount
Preferred Drug (Tier 1)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
Nonpreferred Drug (Tier 2)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
• Brand Name		
Preferred Drug (Tier 3)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.
Nonpreferred Drug (Tier 4)	100% of Allowed Charge.	No Coverage.

Note: A Member may choose to utilize a preferred mail order pharmacy. The preferred mail order pharmacy offers a discounted pricing program for a Member who chooses not to use the mail order prescription coverage under this Benefit Plan. The preferred mail order pharmacy will provide both the Member's Cost Sharing Amount for mail order prescription coverage under this Benefit Plan and the full purchase prices of the mail order prescription under the discounted pricing program. The discounted pricing program is not insurance. If a Member chooses to purchase the mail order prescription through the discounted pricing program, the Member is responsible for the payment in full at the time of the purchase. When a Member purchases a mail order prescription through the discounted pricing program, a portion of the Member's purchase price may be applied to the Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amount depending on the discounted pricing program guidelines in effect at the time of the purchase.

#### **Specialty Pharmacy – Formulary Drugs**

- |                              |                         |              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Preferred Drug (Tier 5)    | 100% of Allowed Charge. | No Coverage. |
| • Nonpreferred Drug (Tier 6) | 100% of Allowed Charge. | No Coverage. |

Note: Specialty Drugs must be received from the preferred specialty pharmacy network.

#### **Copayment Amount Application:**

Formulary contraceptive drugs obtainable with a Prescription Order are paid at 100% of Allowed Charge. Cost Sharing Amounts are waived. Nonformulary contraceptive drugs obtainable with a Prescription Order are paid at 100% of Allowed Charge and Cost Sharing Amounts are waived when the Member follows the exceptions process for clinically appropriate drugs not listed on the formulary listing. See Section 2.22, Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs.

#### **Dispensing Limits:**

Prescription Medications or Drugs and diabetic supplies are subject to a dispensing limit of a 90-day supply. Specialty Drugs are subject to a dispensing limit of a 30-day supply.

If a Generic Prescription Medication or Drug is the therapeutic equivalent for a Brand Name Prescription Medication or Drug, and is authorized by a Member's Professional Health Care Provider, benefits will be based on the Allowance for the Generic equivalent. If the Member does not accept the Generic equivalent the Member is responsible for the cost difference between the Generic and the Brand Name Prescription Medication or Drug and applicable Cost Sharing Amounts.

To view a list of Participating Pharmacies, visit [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com).

## **SECTION 2 COVERED SERVICES**

This section describes the services for which benefits are available for Medically Appropriate and Necessary services under this Benefit Plan, subject to the definitions, exclusions, conditions and limitations of this Benefit Plan, Cost Sharing Amounts, Maximum Benefit Allowances and Lifetime Maximums described in the Schedule of Benefits.

### **2.1 INPATIENT HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES**

Precertification may be required for Inpatient Hospital Admissions. See Section 3, Authorizations.

#### **A. Inpatient Hospital Services include:**

1. Bed, board and general nursing services.
2. Special Care Units when Medically Appropriate and Necessary.
3. Long Term Acute Care Facility or Rehabilitation Facility when Medically Appropriate and Necessary.
4. Transitional Care Unit when Medically Appropriate and Necessary. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. Precertification is required.
5. Ancillary Services when Medically Appropriate and Necessary, Including:
  - a. use of operating, delivery and treatment rooms;
  - b. prescribed drugs;
  - c. blood, blood substitutes and the administration of blood and blood processing;
  - d. anesthesia and related supplies and services provided by an employee of or a person under contractual agreement with a Hospital;
  - e. medical and surgical dressings, supplies, casts and splints;
  - f. Diagnostic Services; and
  - g. Therapy Services.
6. Dental anesthesia and hospitalization for dental care to Members under age 9, Members who are severely disabled or Members who have a medical condition that requires hospitalization or general anesthesia. Precertification is required for all Members age 9 and older.

#### **B. Inpatient Medical Services include:**

1. Inpatient medical care visits by a Professional Health Care Provider, including those delivered by means of Telehealth, except inpatient stays related to surgery or maternity care. See Section 2.2, Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Services and Section 2.9, Maternity Services.
2. Consultation services by another Professional Health Care Provider, including those delivered by means of Telehealth, at the request of the attending Professional Health Care Provider for the purpose of advice, diagnosis or instigation of treatment requiring special skill or knowledge. Benefits are available only if a written report from a consultant is a part of the Member's medical records. Consultation benefits do not include staff consultations required by hospital rules and regulations.
3. Concurrent services Including medical, surgical, maternity, Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy provided during one inpatient stay by one Professional Health Care Provider. Benefits for concurrent services will be based on the Covered Service with the highest Allowance.

When two or more Professional Health Care Providers have attended the Member during one inpatient stay because the nature or severity of the Member's condition requires the skills of separate Professional Health Care Providers, benefits will be available for the Covered Service that carries the highest Allowance for the type of service provided by each Professional Health Care Provider, provided the service is Medically Appropriate and Necessary and would otherwise be a Covered Service under this Benefit Plan.

4. Routine nursery care and the initial inpatient examination of the newborn child by a Professional Health Care Provider, if the newborn child is a Member. The newborn child is also entitled to benefits from the moment of birth for any illness, accident, deformity or congenital conditions.

## 2.2 INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT SURGICAL SERVICES

### A. Inpatient Surgical Services include:

1. Surgical Services provided by a Professional Health Care Provider. Separate benefit payments will not be made for preoperative and postoperative services. Payment for these services is included in the surgical fee.
2. Assistant surgeon services by a Professional Health Care Provider who actively assists the operating surgeon in the performance of covered surgery if the type of surgery performed requires an assistant, as determined by BCBSND, and no Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility staff is available to provide such assistance.
3. Administration of Medically Appropriate and Necessary anesthesia for a covered surgical procedure when ordered by the attending Professional Health Care Provider and provided by or under the direct supervision of an Anesthesiologist or Professional Health Care Provider other than the operating surgeon or the assistant surgeon.

### B. The benefits described above are also available for Outpatient Surgical Services in addition to:

1. Supplies used for a covered surgical procedure when performed in a Professional Health Care Provider's office, clinic or Ambulatory Surgical Facility.
2. Facility charges for covered outpatient Surgical Services performed in an Ambulatory Surgical Facility.
3. Hospital Ancillary Services and supplies used for a covered outpatient surgery, including removal of sutures, anesthesia and related supplies and services when provided by an employee of or under contractual agreement with the Hospital, other than the surgeon or assistant at surgery.

### C. Benefits are available for the following special surgeries:

1. Reconstructive surgery to restore bodily function or correct deformity resulting from disease, trauma, congenital or developmental anomalies or previous therapeutic processes.

Benefits include reconstructive breast surgery performed as a result of a partial or total mastectomy subject to Benefit Plan Cost Sharing Amounts. Benefits also include reconstructive breast surgery on the nondiseased breast to establish symmetry with the reconstructed diseased breast. Benefits for prostheses and treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas, are allowed under Section 2.16, Medical Supplies and Equipment. Benefits will be allowed in a manner determined in consultation with the attending Professional Health Care Provider and the Member.

Cosmetic surgery will not qualify as reconstructive surgery when performed for the treatment of a psychological or psychiatric condition.

2. Sterilization procedures. Procedures to evaluate and reverse sterilization are not covered under this Benefit Plan.

3. Bariatric surgery when Precertification is received from BCBSND. Covered Services must be received from a surgical facility approved by BCBSND. Benefits are subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 1 bariatric surgery per Member. Guidelines and criteria are available upon request.

Benefits for all proposed surgical procedures for the treatment of complications resulting from any or all types of bariatric surgery are available only when Precertification is received from BCBSND.

### 2.3 TRANSPLANT SERVICES

- A. Subject to the exclusions of this Benefit Plan, benefits are available for the following transplant procedures based on medical criteria if the recipient is a Member under this Benefit Plan. Benefits are not available under this Benefit Plan if the Member is the donor for transplant services. Covered Services must be received from a transplant facility approved by BCBSND. Precertification is required.

1. Heart
2. Heart-lung
3. Lung (single or double)
4. Liver
5. Pancreas
6. Small bowel
7. Kidney
8. Cornea
9. Bone marrow/stem cell transplants with related services and supplies are covered subject to medical policy or medical guidelines.

Please contact BCBSND to ensure benefits are available for specific transplant procedures. In administering this Benefit Plan, as technology changes medical policy or medical guidelines for these services may be modified as appropriate.

**If a Member chooses to receive Covered Services from a program not approved by BCBSND, the Member will be responsible for all charges.**

- B. Covered Services include:
  1. One evaluation is allowed per transplant procedure. Services must be performed at a qualified transplant center.
  2. Inpatient and outpatient Hospital and Medical Services for the recipient and the donor.
  3. Surgical Services Including the evaluation and removal of the donor organ as well as transplantation of the organ or tissue into the recipient. Separate payment will not be made for the removal of an organ for transplantation at a later date.
  4. Compatibility testing services provided to the donor.
  5. Supportive medical procedures and clinical management services, Including postoperative procedures to control rejection and infection.
- C. Benefits are not available for artificial organs, donor search services or organ procurement if the organ or tissue is not donated.

### 2.4 TEMPOROMANDIBULAR OR CRANIOMANDIBULAR JOINT TREATMENT

Temporomandibular (TMJ) or craniomandibular (CMJ) joint treatment, Including surgical and nonsurgical services, when such care and treatment is Medically Appropriate and Necessary as determined by BCBSND. Benefits are subject to the Lifetime Maximum and the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

## 2.5 OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services include:

- A. Home and Office Visits and consultations, including those delivered by means of Telehealth, for the examination, diagnosis and treatment of an illness or injury, Including administered Prescription Medications or Drugs.
- B. Diagnostic Services when ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider.
- C. Emergency Services.
- D. Dental services provided by a Physician, Qualified Healthcare Practitioner (QHP), Oral Surgeon or Dentist (D.D.S.) in an office setting, including extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for neoplastic diseases involving the jaw, frenotomy, frenectomy, oral biopsy, oral lesion removal, oral abscess treatment or as a result of an accidental injury to the jaw, sound natural teeth, dentures, mouth or face. Covered Services for the jaw, sound natural teeth, dentures, mouth or face as a result of an accidental injury must be initiated within 6 months of the date of injury and completed within 24 months of the start of treatment or longer if a dental treatment plan approved by BCBSND is in place. An accidental injury is defined as an injury that is the result of an external force causing a specific impairment to the jaw, sound natural teeth, dentures, mouth or face. Injury as a result of chewing or biting is not considered an accidental injury.
- E. Surgical preadmission testing for Medically Appropriate and Necessary preoperative tests and studies provided on an outpatient basis prior to a Member's scheduled Admission to the Hospital as an Inpatient for surgery.

Benefits are available only under the following conditions:

- 1. The tests or studies would have been provided on an inpatient basis for the same condition; and
  - 2. The tests or studies are not repeated upon the Member's Admission to the Hospital.
- F. Second surgical opinion consultations on covered elective surgery recommended by a Health Care Provider and those directly related Diagnostic Services required for a valid second surgical opinion. A second surgical opinion must be provided by a Professional Health Care Provider qualified to perform the suggested surgery and whose practice is unrelated to the Member's original Health Care Provider.
  - G. Radiation and Chemotherapy Services, except as limited by this Benefit Plan.
  - H. Dialysis Treatment.
  - I. Home Infusion Therapy services. Covered Services include the provision of nutrients, antibiotics, and other drugs and fluids intravenously, through a feeding tube, or by inhalation; all Medically Appropriate and Necessary supplies; and therapeutic drugs or other substances. Covered Services also include Medically Appropriate and Necessary enteral feedings when such feedings are the primary source of nutrition for a Member age 1 and older.
  - J. Allergy Services, Including serum, direct skin testing and patch testing when ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider and performed in accordance with medical guidelines and criteria established by BCBSND. Guidelines and criteria for Medically Appropriate and Necessary services are available from a Participating Health Care Provider or BCBSND.
  - K. Phenylketonuria. Testing, diagnosis and treatment of Phenylketonuria, including dietary management and formulas.
  - L. Amino acid-based elemental oral formulas. Coverage for medical foods and low-protein modified food products determined by a Physician to be Medically Appropriate and Necessary for the therapeutic treatment of an inherited metabolic disease of amino acid or organic acid.

- M. Dental anesthesia and hospitalization for dental care to Members under age 9, Members who are severely disabled or Members who have a medical condition that requires hospitalization or general anesthesia. Precertification is required for all Members age 9 and older.

## 2.6 WELLNESS SERVICES

- A. Pediatric preventive visits for Members through age 6 according to the guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration and in accordance with the schedule listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.
- B. Immunizations that have been published as policy by the Centers for Disease Control as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.
- C. Preventive screening services for Members age 7 and older according to A or B Recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and issued by the Health Resources and Services Administration, including those services listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. A Health Care Provider will counsel Members as to how often preventive services are needed based on the age, gender and medical status of the Member.
- D. Outpatient nutritional care services provided by a Licensed Registered Dietitian when ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider. Covered Services include assessment of food practices and dietary/nutritional status and diet counseling for preventive and therapeutic needs for the diagnosed medical conditions listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.
- E. Diabetes care services include Outpatient Home and Office Visits, Diagnostic Services, Outpatient Nutritional Care Services, Diabetes Education Services, Dilated Eye Examinations, custom diabetic shoes and inserts and Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs and Diabetes Supplies. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowances as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.
- F. Tobacco cessation services subject to the guidelines listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. Benefits include the related Office Visit.

## 2.7 OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES

### A. Rehabilitative Therapy

Rehabilitative Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy Services that are designed to restore function following a surgery or medical procedure, injury or illness. Benefits are available as listed in Section 1, Schedule of Benefits, when performed by or under the direct supervision of the respective licensed Physical Therapist, licensed Occupational Therapist or licensed Speech Therapist. Services must be provided in accordance with a prescribed plan of treatment ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider. Benefits are not available for Maintenance Care.

### B. Habilitative Therapy

Habilitative Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech Therapy is care provided for conditions which have limited the normal age appropriate motor, sensory or communication development. To be considered habilitative, therapy must help maintain or prevent deterioration of functional skills within a predictable period of time toward a Member's maximum potential.

Functional skills are defined as essential activities of daily life common to all Members including dressing, feeding, swallowing, mobility, transfers, fine motor skills, age appropriate activities and communication. Problems including hearing impairment, deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities may warrant Habilitative Therapies.

Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1, for each type of therapy under an individual medical plan (IMP) developed for each Member.



### C. Other Therapy Services

1. Respiratory Therapy services performed by or under the direct supervision of a registered respiratory care practitioner for the treatment, management, control and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiorespiratory system. Services must be provided in accordance with an order from a Professional Health Care Provider.
2. Cardiac rehabilitation services.
3. Pulmonary rehabilitation services.
4. Vision Therapy: Including orthoptics and pleoptic training. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

## 2.8 CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

Chiropractic services provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis when Medically Appropriate and Necessary as determined by BCBSND and within the scope of licensure and practice of a Chiropractor, to the extent services would be covered if provided by a Physician. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. Benefits are not available for maintenance care.

## 2.9 MATERNITY SERVICES

Benefits are available for Covered Services for pregnancy and complications of pregnancy. Benefits are limited to 2 ultrasounds per pregnancy unless, based on the Member's condition and history, additional services are determined to be Medically Appropriate and Necessary.

Benefits for inpatient maternity services allow a minimum stay of 48 hours for a vaginal delivery and 96 hours for a cesarean delivery. The Health Care Provider, after consulting with the mother, may discharge the mother and newborn earlier than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section.

Benefits for Outpatient Nutrition Care Services for Gestational Diabetes are available. See Outpatient Nutrition Care Services in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

Benefits for lactation counseling are available.

If the newborn child is a Member, benefits are available from the moment of birth for routine nursery care and the treatment of any illness, accident, deformity or congenital condition.

### Prenatal Plus Program

The prenatal plus program is designed to identify women at higher risk for premature birth and to prevent the incidence of preterm birth through assessment, intervention and education. Participation in the prenatal plus program is voluntary.

To participate, the Member must notify a Member Services representative after the first prenatal visit; preferably before the 12th week. The number to call regarding prenatal plus is on the back of the Identification Card. A Member Services representative will obtain the Member's name, Unique Member Identifier and telephone number and request a medical management representative contact the Member.

A medical management representative will review the preterm labor risk assessment questionnaire with the Member. The questionnaire will take approximately ten minutes to complete. The information needed to complete this form is the Member's Unique Member Identifier, Professional Health Care Provider's name, address and telephone number and the Member's expected due date.

As a program participant, the Member will receive a packet containing information concerning pregnancy and prenatal care.

## 2.10 **CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES**

Contraceptive services include Prescription Medications or Drugs and Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs, birth control devices prescribed and dispensed by a Health Care Provider and related Office Visits provided by a Health Care Provider. Benefits Include:

- A. Injections for birth control purposes.
- B. Diaphragm or cervical cap.
- C. Surgical implantation and removal of a contraceptive device.
- D. Insertion and removal of an Intrauterine Device (IUD).
- E. Outpatient surgical sterilization and related services. See Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Services.
- F. Contraceptive Prescription Medications and Drugs and Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs, Including birth control pills, patches and vaginal rings. See the Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs benefit.

In administering this Benefit Plan, as technology changes medical policy or medical guidelines for these services may be modified as appropriate.

## 2.11 **PSYCHIATRIC AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

Guidelines and criteria for Medically Appropriate and Necessary services are available from BCBSND.

### A. Psychiatric Services

#### 1. Inpatient

Benefits are available for the inpatient treatment of psychiatric illness, including management of medical problems related to an eating disorder diagnosis, when provided by an appropriately licensed and credentialed Hospital or Psychiatric Care Facility. Precertification may be required for Inpatient Hospital Admissions. See Section 3, Authorizations.

#### 2. Residential Treatment

Benefits are available for the Residential Treatment of psychiatric illness when provided at an appropriately licensed and credentialed residential treatment center. Precertification is required.

#### 3. Partial Hospitalization

Benefits are available for the Partial Hospitalization of psychiatric illness when provided at an appropriately licensed and credentialed facility.

#### 4. Intensive Outpatient Program

Benefits are available in an Intensive Outpatient Program for psychiatric illness when provided by an appropriately licensed and credentialed Intensive Outpatient Program.

#### 5. Outpatient

- a. Home and Office Visits: Benefits Including assessment, counseling, case management services, Behavioral Modification Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder (Including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)), treatment planning, coordination of care, psychotherapy and group therapy provided by a licensed and/or credentialed independent provider in accordance with the Health Care Provider's scope of licensure as provided by law. Precertification may be required.

- b. Outpatient Services: Benefits Including diagnostic testing, diagnostic procedures and treatment procedures provided by a licensed and credentialed independent provider in accordance with the Health Care Provider's scope of licensure as provided by law. Precertification may be required.

**B. Substance Abuse Services**

**1. Inpatient**

Benefits are available for the inpatient treatment of substance abuse, including medically managed inpatient detoxification, medically monitored inpatient detoxification, medically managed intensive inpatient treatment or medically monitored intensive inpatient treatment, when provided at an appropriately licensed and credentialed Substance Abuse Facility.

No benefits are available for social detoxification.

Precertification may be required for Inpatient Hospital Admissions. See Section 3, Authorizations.

**2. Residential Treatment**

Benefits are available for the Residential Treatment of substance abuse when provided at an appropriately licensed and credentialed residential treatment center. Precertification is required.

**3. Partial Hospitalization**

Benefits are available for the Partial Hospitalization of substance abuse when provided at an appropriately licensed and credentialed facility.

**4. Intensive Outpatient Program**

Benefits are available in an Intensive Outpatient Program for substance abuse when provided by an appropriately licensed and credentialed Intensive Outpatient Program.

**5. Outpatient**

- a. Home and Office Visits: Benefits Including assessment, counseling, case management services, treatment planning, coordination of care, psychotherapy, group therapy and Opioid Treatment Program provided by a licensed and/or credentialed independent provider in accordance with the Health Care Provider's scope of licensure as provided by law. Precertification may be required.

Benefits are available in an Opioid Treatment Program for opioid use disorder when provided by an appropriately licensed and credentialed Opioid Treatment Program.

- b. Outpatient Services: Benefits Including diagnostic testing, diagnostic procedures and treatment provided by a licensed and credentialed independent provider in accordance with the Health Care Provider's scope of licensure as provided by law. Precertification may be required.

**C. BCBSND may designate an out-of-state Health Care Provider as Nonpayable.**

- D. Quantitative treatment limits (QTL) do not apply to services for psychiatric and substance abuse conditions regardless of whether the service also may be considered a service for a medical or surgical condition.

## 2.12 **AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Medically Appropriate and Necessary Ambulance Services to the nearest facility equipped to provide the required level of care, including transportation:

- from the home or site of an Emergency Medical Condition.
- between Hospitals.
- between a Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility.

### **Air Ambulance**

Benefits for air transportation are available only when ground transportation is not Medically Appropriate and Necessary as determined by BCBSND.

If a Member receives air transportation from an Out-of-Network Health Care Provider, benefits will be at the In-Network level, and the Member will not be responsible for any payments to the Out-of-Network Health Care Provider, except for Cost Sharing Amounts.

## 2.13 **SKILLED NURSING FACILITY SERVICES**

The benefits available under this Benefit Plan for Inpatient Hospital and Medical Services are also available for Skilled Nursing Services and supplies customarily provided to an Inpatient of a Skilled Nursing Facility when the condition requires daily Skilled Nursing Services that are Medically Appropriate and Necessary and such services can only be provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. Precertification is required. Benefits are not available for Maintenance Care or Custodial Care.

## 2.14 **HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Home Health Care when provided to a Member in the Member's place of residence. The services must be provided on a part-time visiting basis according to a Professional Health Care Provider's prescribed plan of treatment approved by BCBSND prior to Admission to Home Health Care. Benefits are subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. Precertification is required.

### A. Covered Services include:

1. The professional services of an R.N., Licensed Vocational Nurse or L.P.N.;
2. Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapy;
3. Medical and surgical supplies;
4. Administration of prescribed drugs;
5. Oxygen and the administration of oxygen; and
6. Health aide services for a Member who is receiving covered Skilled Nursing Services or Therapy Services.

### B. No Home Health Care benefits will be provided for:

1. Dietitian services;
2. Homemaker services;
3. Social worker services;
4. Maintenance Care;
5. Custodial Care;
6. Food or home delivered meals; or
7. Respite care.

## 2.15 HOSPICE SERVICES

The benefits available under this Benefit Plan for Inpatient Hospital and Medical Services, Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services, Therapy Services, Skilled Nursing Facility Services and Home Health Care Services are also available when coordinated or provided through an organized and approved hospice program. Hospice benefits are provided only for the treatment of Members diagnosed with a condition where there is a life expectancy of 6 months or less.

## 2.16 MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Benefits are available for Medically Appropriate and Necessary medical supplies and equipment.

### A. Home Medical Equipment

The rental or purchase, at the option of BCBSND of new, used or refurbished Home Medical Equipment, including wheelchairs, hospital-type beds, infusion pumps and related supplies, crutches and canes when prescribed by a Professional Health Care Provider and Medically Appropriate and Necessary. The rental cost shall not exceed the Allowance of such equipment. No benefits are available for motorized equipment, except wheelchairs when Precertification is received from BCBSND. No benefits are available for batteries required for Home Medical Equipment, except for wheelchair batteries. Covered Services include replacement and repairs when Medically Appropriate and Necessary. Precertification may be required, see Section 3, Authorizations.

Benefits will not be provided for any Home Medical Equipment required for leisure or recreational activity or to allow a Member to participate in a sport activity.

### B. Prosthetic Appliances and Limbs

The purchase, fitting and necessary adjustments of Prosthetic Appliances or Limbs and supplies that replace all or part of an absent body part. Benefits are available for standard Prosthetic Appliances and Limbs. Covered Services include repairs when Medically Appropriate and Necessary. Precertification is required.

Benefits are available for externally worn breast prostheses and surgical bras, including necessary replacements following mastectomy, subject to a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 2 external prostheses and 2 bras per Member per Benefit Period. For a double mastectomy, allow a Maximum Benefit Allowance of 4 external prostheses and 2 bras per Member per Benefit Period.

Benefits are not available for dental appliances (except as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1), artificial organs or Prosthetic Appliances and Limbs intended only for cosmetic purposes.

### C. Orthotic Devices

Medically Appropriate and Necessary Orthotic Devices when ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider.

Benefits will not be provided for any Orthotic Devices available over the counter or those required for leisure or recreational activity or to allow a Member to participate in a sport activity. Benefits are not available for custom molded foot orthotics, except those used in custom diabetic shoes.

### D. Supplies for Administration of Prescription Medications or Drugs

Therapeutic devices or appliances related to the administration of Prescription Medications or Drugs in the home, such as hypodermic needles and syringes. See Outpatient Prescription Medications or Drugs for diabetes supplies.

E. Oxygen

Administration of oxygen, Including the rental of equipment.

F. Ostomy Supplies

G. Habilitative Therapy Devices

Benefits are available for devices when provided as part of Habilitative Therapy. Precertification may be required. See Authorizations, Section 3.

2.17 **BREAST PUMPS**

Benefits are available for the rental or purchase of a breast pump when provided by a participating Home Medical Equipment Supplier. The rental cost shall not exceed the Allowance of such equipment. Covered Services include supplies and replacement and repairs when Medically Appropriate and Necessary.

2.18 **PEDIATRIC DENTAL SERVICES UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE MEMBER TURNS 19**

Benefits are available for pediatric dental services until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19, when received from a Pediatric Participating Dentist, as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1. To find a Pediatric Participating Dentist, the Member can visit [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com) or contact Member Services at the toll-free number on the Identification Card.

Benefits are subject to the Lifetime Maximum and the Maximum Benefit Allowances listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

When benefits for pediatric dental services are received from a Pediatric Participating Dentist, a provider discount provision is in effect. This means the Allowance will be considered by the Pediatric Participating Dentist as payment in full, except for Cost Sharing Amounts, Maximum Benefit Allowances or Lifetime Maximums. The Pediatric Participating Dentist also agrees to submit claims on behalf of the Member. Reimbursement for Covered Services will be made directly to the Pediatric Participating Dentist according to the terms of this Benefit Plan and the participation agreement between the Pediatric Participating Dentist and the BCBSND preferred dental network.

Covered Services are identified in accordance with categorizations established by The American Dental Association.

A Treatment Plan is recommended for services exceeding \$1,500. All Orthodontic Services require a Treatment Plan. Precertification is required.

If, during the course of treatment, a Member transfers from the care of one Pediatric Participating Dentist to another, or if more than one Pediatric Participating Dentist provides services for the same dental procedure, BCBSND will only be liable for the amount it would have paid if only one Pediatric Participating Dentist had provided the service.

If there are alternative courses of treatment, BCBSND will provide benefits for the most cost-effective treatment.

2.19 **PEDIATRIC VISION SERVICES UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE MEMBER TURNS 19**

Benefits are available for pediatric vision services, until the end of the month in which the Member turns 19, as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

A. Vision Examination

Benefits are available for routine vision examinations, including refraction and glaucoma screening (tonometry test), as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

B. Prescribed Lenses and Frames

Benefits are available for prescribed single vision, bifocal or trifocal lenses and standard frames, including directly related professional services, as listed in the Schedule of Benefits, Section 1.

If other types of lenses and frames are received, reimbursement will be allowed up to the cost of a standard cost of lenses and frames. The Member will be responsible for charges over the lens and frame allowances. The tinting of lenses and ultraviolet lenses for eyeglasses or contact lenses is not covered.

No additional allowance is provided for no-line bifocal lenses.

Benefits are available for contact lenses in lieu of the prescribed frames and/or lenses benefit. The benefit for contact lenses is subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance for frames and/or prescribed single vision or bifocal lenses as determined Medically Appropriate and Necessary, not to exceed billed charges. If the Member purchases contact lenses in an amount below the Maximum Benefit Allowance for frames and/or prescribed lenses, no further benefits are available within the Benefit Period.

C. Post-Operative Refractive Examination(s)

Benefits are available for a post-operative refractive examination(s) when used instead of the benefits listed above. The full Allowance for the vision examination, refraction, single vision lenses and frames must be available in order for a post-operative refractive examination(s) benefit to be available. If the Member uses the vision benefit Allowance for a post-operative refractive examination(s), additional benefits for vision examinations and refractions, lenses and frames, or contact lenses will not be allowed until the next Benefit Period.

2.20 **EYEGASSES OR CONTACT LENSES FOR MEMBERS DIAGNOSED WITH APHAKIA**

Benefits are available for 1 pair of prescribed lenses (bifocal or trifocal) and standard frames or contact lenses for Members diagnosed with aphakia (the absence of the lens of the eye, due to surgical removal, a perforated wound or ulcer, or a congenital condition resulting in complications that include the detachment of the vitreous or retina, and glaucoma).

If other types of lenses and frames are received, reimbursement will be allowed up to the cost of a standard cost of lenses and frames. The Member will be responsible for charges over the lens and frame allowances. The tinting of lenses and ultraviolet lenses for eyeglasses or contact lenses is not covered.

No additional allowance is provided for no-line bifocal lenses.

2.21 **TELEHEALTH**

Coverage for Covered Services provided by means of Telehealth is the same as coverage for Covered Services delivered by in-person means.

The standards for Medically Appropriate and Necessary delivery of health care services must be met whether health care services are delivered in-person or via Telehealth.

## 2.22 OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS OR DRUGS

Benefits are available for Prescription Medications or Drugs approved by BCBSND and that are Medically Appropriate and Necessary for the treatment of a Member and dispensed on or after the effective date of coverage. Benefits include diabetes supplies prescribed by a Health Care Provider.

Prescription Medications or Drugs and diabetes supplies will be categorized by BCBSND as a Formulary Drug, Nonformulary Drug, Nonpayable Drug, Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug, Restricted Use Drug or Specialty Drug. Restricted Use Drugs require Precertification and/or are subject to a limited dispensing amount or a Step Therapy requirement. Benefits may vary based on the various categories. A list of the various categories of Prescription Medications or Drugs may be obtained by visiting our website at [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com) or by calling Member Services. See the telephone number on the back of the Identification Card.

BCBSND utilizes a formulary listing. This listing contains both Brand Name and Generic Prescription Medications or Drugs. Benefits for a Nonformulary Drug may be permitted under an exceptions process for clinically appropriate drugs not identified on the formulary listing. To access the exceptions process please complete and submit the Coverage Exception Form available at [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com) or contact Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card. If a Member is experiencing an exigent circumstance, BCBSND will provide a determination under the exceptions process within 24 hours after BCBSND receives the exception request. Otherwise, BCBSND will provide a determination within 72 hours after BCBSND receives the exception request. An exigent circumstance exists when a Member is suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize a Member's life, health, or ability to regain maximum function or when a Member is undergoing a current course of treatment using a Nonformulary Drug. If BCBSND approves an exception request, benefits will be provided beginning on the date of BCBSND's approval. Cost Sharing Amounts will be applied at the Tier 4 level and will not apply to contraceptive drugs obtained with a Prescription Order.

If BCBSND denies an exception request, an independent external review is available by completing and submitting the Member Pharmacy Coverage Exception Form - External Review available at [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com) or contacting Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card. If a Member is requesting an external review of an original exception request based on an exigent circumstance, BCBSND will provide the independent external review organization's determination within 24 hours after receiving the external review request. Otherwise, BCBSND will provide the external review organization's determination within 72 hours after receiving the external review request. If the external review organization approves the exception request, benefits will be provided beginning on the date of the external review organization's approval. Cost Sharing Amounts will be applied at the Tier 4 level and will not apply to contraceptive drugs obtained with a Prescription Order.

A Member may be responsible for payment of the Cost Sharing Amounts at the time the Prescription Medication or Drug is dispensed. A Participating Pharmacy agrees not to charge or collect any amount from the Member that exceeds the Cost Sharing Amounts. All claims must be submitted by the Participating Pharmacy. If the Member submits a claim for services received at a Participating Pharmacy, charges in excess of the Allowed Charge are the Subscriber's responsibility.

Note: Specialty Drugs must be received from the preferred specialty pharmacy network.

A Member may call the toll-free number on the Identification Card to obtain information on Pharmacies participating in the BCBSND preferred pharmacy network, preferred mail order pharmacy network and preferred specialty pharmacy network.



## SECTION 3 AUTHORIZATIONS

This section describes BCBSND's authorization requirements for specific Covered Services and the Member's responsibilities for these authorizations. The Member's medical care is between the Member and the Member's Health Care Provider. **The ultimate decision on the Member's medical care must be made by the Member and the Member's Health Care Provider. BCBSND only has the authority to determine the extent of benefits available for Covered Services under this Benefit Plan.**

In an effort to control rising health care costs, BCBSND reserves the option to implement cost management and/or disease management programs. If a cost management and/or disease management program is implemented, BCBSND will establish policies and procedures governing the program.

A Member seeking Covered Services from a Health Care Provider requiring Precertification grants to that Health Care Provider authority to act on behalf of the Member as the Member's Authorized Representative. As an Authorized Representative, the Health Care Provider assumes responsibility to act on behalf of the Member in pursuing a Claim for Benefits or appeal of an adverse benefit determination from a Claim for Benefits. See Section 6, Claims for Benefits, Appeals and Grievances.

The designation of a Health Care Provider as an Authorized Representative is limited in scope and not an assignment of benefits, nor does it grant the Health Care Provider any of the Member's rights and privileges under the terms of this Benefit Plan.

### 3.1 PRECERTIFICATION PROCESS

This Benefit Plan requires Members to obtain Precertification before benefits are available for specified services, including:

- air ambulance (non-emergent)
- artificial intervertebral disc
- autologous chondrocyte implantation
- bariatric surgery
- bone growth stimulator (electrical or ultrasound)
- chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) t-cell therapy
- cochlear implant
- deep brain stimulator
- dental anesthesia and hospitalization for all Members age 9 and older
- electric wheelchairs
- electrical nerve stimulation (Phrenic Nerve Stimulator, implantable peripheral nerve stimulator, Occipital Nerve Stimulation)
- gastric electrical stimulation
- gender reassignment/affirmation surgery
- gene therapy
- hearing aids when provided as part of Habilitative Therapy
- Home Health Care
- hospital bed
- hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Inpatient Admission to a Rehabilitation Facility
- Inpatient Admissions to a Health Care Provider not participating with BCBSND
- insulin infusion pump, patient owned continuous glucose monitoring systems and artificial pancreas device systems
- intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT)
- limb lengthening
- Long Term Acute Care Facility
- manual wheelchair with accessories
- molecular and genomic testing

- oral appliance for obstructive sleep apnea
- Orthodontic services for Members under age 19
- oscillatory devices for respiratory conditions
- osseointegrated dental implants
- percutaneous balloon kyphoplasty, radiofrequency kyphoplasty and mechanical vertebral augmentation
- positron emission tomography (PET) scan
- programmable lymphedema pumps
- Prosthetic Limbs and any Prosthetic Limb replacement
- proton beam therapy
- repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS)
- Residential Treatment
- Restricted Use Drugs
- sacral nerve stimulator (trial placement and permanent placement)
- services or procedures which could be considered Cosmetic Services
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- speech generating device
- spinal cord stimulator (trial placement and permanent placement)
- surgical treatment of obstructive sleep apnea
- Targeted Case Management
- Transitional Care Unit
- transplants
- tumor treatment field
- unilateral or bilateral fully or partially implantable bone anchored hearing devices
- vagus nerve stimulator
- wearable cardioverter defibrillators

To request Precertification, the Member or the Member's Health Care Provider, on the Member's behalf, must notify BCBSND of the Member's intent to receive services requiring Precertification. The Member's Health Care Provider must provide the necessary information to establish the requested services are Medically Appropriate and Necessary.

A Member seeking Covered Services requiring Precertification designates the Authorized Representative to act and receive notices and information related to a Claim for Benefits on behalf of the Member pursuing a Claim for Benefits or appeal of an adverse benefit determination from a Claim for Benefits. The Member agrees that all information and notifications related to the Claim for Benefits requiring Precertification is to be directed solely to the Authorized Representative unless the Member specifically requests that any notices or information also be delivered to the Member.

**Receipt of Precertification does not guarantee payment of benefits. All services provided are subject to further review by BCBSND to ensure the services are Medically Appropriate and Necessary. Benefits will be denied if the Member is not eligible for coverage under this Benefit Plan on the date services are provided or if services received are not Medically Appropriate and Necessary as determined by BCBSND. Benefits for authorized services are subject to the definitions, conditions, limitations and exclusions of this Benefit Plan.**

**Precertification is required prior to obtaining services.**

If the Member's medical condition does not allow the Member to obtain Precertification due to an emergency Admission, the Member or the Member's representative is requested to notify BCBSND of the Admission during the next BCBSND business day or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible to obtain authorization.

To inquire on the Precertification process, please contact Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card.

**Notification Responsibility**

If a Member seeks Covered Services from a Participating BCBSND Health Care Provider that participates with BCBSND, the Participating BCBSND Health Care Provider assumes responsibility for all Precertification requirements.

If a Member seeks Covered Services from a Health Care Provider that does not participate with BCBSND or is a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider, compliance with Precertification requirements is the Member's responsibility.

BCBSND will issue a notice of approval or denial following review of the Precertification request.

### 3.2 **CONCURRENT REVIEW**

Concurrent review is the ongoing review of the Medical Appropriateness and Necessity of the required Admissions outlined in Section 3.1 to an Institutional Health Care Provider. BCBSND will monitor the inpatient Admission to determine whether benefits will be available for continued inpatient care.

If BCBSND determines benefits are not available because the continued stay is not Medically Appropriate and Necessary, BCBSND will provide notice to the Member, the Member's attending Professional Health Care Provider or the Institutional Health Care Provider. No benefits will be available for services received after the date provided in BCBSND's notice of the termination of benefits.

### 3.3 **DISCHARGE PLANNING**

Discharge planning is the process of assessing the availability of benefits after a hospitalization. BCBSND supports discharge planning by providing information on benefits available for those services determined to be Medically Appropriate and Necessary for the Member's continued care and treatment.

### 3.4 **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Case management is a collaborative process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors and evaluates the options and services required to meet an individual's health needs, using communication and available resources to promote quality, cost effective outcomes.

Cases are identified for possible case management involvement based on a request for review or the presence of a number of parameters, such as:

- admissions that exceed the recommended or approved length of stay;
- utilization of health care services that generates ongoing and/or excessively high costs;
- conditions that are known to require extensive and/or long term follow up care and/or treatment.

BCBSND's case management process may include a flexible benefits option. This option allows professional case managers to assist Members with certain complex and/or chronic health issues by coordinating complicated treatment plans and other types of complex patient care plans. Through the flexible benefits option, case managers may identify a less costly alternative treatment plan for the Member. Members who are eligible to receive services through the flexible benefits option are asked to provide verbal consent for the alternative plan. If the Member and the Member's Health Care Provider agree with the plan, alternative benefits will begin immediately and the Member will be asked to sign an alternative benefits agreement that includes the terms listed below, in addition to any other terms specified in the agreement.

Alternative benefits will be made available for a limited period of time and are subject to BCBSND's ongoing review. The Member must cooperate with the review process.

If BCBSND approves alternative benefits, BCBSND does not guarantee that these will be extended beyond the limited time period and/or scope of treatment initially approved or that these will be approved in the future.

The decision to offer alternative benefits is solely BCBSND's and any extension of alternative benefits beyond the specified approved service and/or dates is not subject to the appeals process.

All decisions made by case management are based on the individual circumstances of that Member's case. Each case is reviewed on its own merits and any benefits provided are under individual consideration.

## **SECTION 4 EXCLUSIONS**

No benefits are available for services listed in this section. The following list is not a complete list. In addition to these general exclusions, limitations and conditions there may be others that apply to specific Covered Services that can be found in the Covered Services section and elsewhere in this Benefit Plan. If a benefit or service is not covered, then all services, treatments, devices or supplies provided in conjunction with that benefit or service are not covered. Please read this section carefully before seeking services and submitting a Claim for Benefits. Please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on the back of the Identification Card if you have any questions.

### **4.1 EXCLUSIONS**

No benefits are available for:

1. Services not prescribed or performed by or under the direct supervision of a Professional Health Care Provider consistent with the Professional Health Care Provider's licensure and scope of practice.
2. Services provided and billed by a registered nurse (other than an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse), intern (professionals in training), licensed athletic trainer or other paramedical personnel.
3. Inpatient Admission services received prior to the effective date of the Member's eligibility under this Benefit Plan.
4. Dental services provided to a Member prior to the effective date of the Member's eligibility under this Benefit Plan. This includes dental services in progress before and concluded after the effective date of coverage, if received as part of an original Treatment Plan.
5. Vision services provided to a Member prior to the effective date of the Member's eligibility under this Benefit Plan. This includes services in process before and concluded after the effective date of coverage.
6. Special education, for learning disorders or intellectual disability.
7. Education programs or tutoring services (not specifically defined elsewhere), Including education on self-care, home management or for Medication Therapy Management Services (MTMS) provided outside the pharmacy program.
8. Developmental delay care, Including services or supplies, regardless of where or by whom they are provided, that:
  - Are less than two standard deviations from the norm as defined by standardized, validated developmental screening tests, such as the Denver Developmental Screening Test; or
  - Are educational in nature; vocational and job rehabilitation, recreational therapy; orSpecial education, Including lessons in sign language to instruct a Member whose ability to speak has been lost or impaired to function without that ability, is not covered.
9. Counseling or therapy services, Including bereavement, codependency, marital dysfunction, family dysfunction, sex or interpersonal relationships.
10. Pharmacological detoxification management, except as specified in Section 2.11.
11. Clinically managed Residential Treatment detoxification, Including social detoxification.

12. Services or treatments for conditions that, according to generally accepted professional standards, are not amenable to favorable modification, except initial evaluation to establish a diagnosis, crisis intervention services and treatment to prevent or halt deterioration or injury or slow the rate of functional loss.
13. Any drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure that is Experimental or Investigative.
14. Services, treatments or supplies that BCBSND determines are not Medically Appropriate and Necessary.
15. Transplants, except as specified in this Benefit Plan. Benefits are not available for transportation services for the Member. Benefits are not available for donor organs or tissue other than human donor organs or tissue.
16. Services that are related to annual, periodic or routine examinations, except as specifically allowed in the Covered Services Section of this Benefit Plan.
17. Immunizations, testing or other services required for foreign travel.
18. Inpatient services performed primarily for diagnostic examinations, Physical Therapy, rest cure, convalescent care, Custodial Care, Maintenance Care or sanitarium care.
19. Room and board at a vocational residential rehabilitation center, a community reentry program, Halfway House or Group Home.

For the purpose of this exclusion, the following definitions apply:

Halfway House - a facility for the housing or rehabilitation of persons on probation, parole, or early release from correctional institutions, or other persons found guilty of criminal offenses.

Group Home - a facility for the housing or rehabilitation of developmentally, mentally or severely disabled persons that does not provide skilled or intermediate nursing care.

20. The surgical or nonsurgical treatment of temporomandibular (TMJ) or craniomandibular (CMJ) joint disorder(s), except as specifically allowed in the Schedule of Benefits and Covered Services Sections of this Benefit Plan. No benefits will be provided for Orthodontic services (except as determined Medically Appropriate and Necessary) or osseointegrated dental implant surgery, for Members up to the end of the month in which the Member turns 19 or related services performed for the treatment of temporomandibular or craniomandibular joint disorder(s).
21. Contraceptive products that do not require a Prescription Order or dispensing by a Health Care Provider.
22. Evaluations and related procedures to evaluate sterilization reversal procedures and the sterilization reversal procedure.
23. Abortions, except for those necessary to prevent the death of the woman. No benefits are available for removal of all or part of a multiple gestation.
24. Services related to infertility, including Assisted Conception, donor eggs including any donor treatment and retrieval costs, donor sperm, cryopreservation or storage of sperm, embryos or unfertilized eggs, Surrogate pregnancy and delivery, Gestational Carrier pregnancy and delivery, and preimplantation genetic diagnosis testing.

For the purpose of this exclusion, the following definitions apply:

Assisted Conception - a pregnancy resulting from insemination of an egg of a woman with sperm of a man by means other than sexual intercourse or by removal and implantation of a fertilized egg, gamete, zygote or embryo after sexual intercourse.

Gestational Carrier - an adult woman who enters into an agreement to have a fertilized egg, gamete, zygote or embryo implanted in her and bear the resulting child for intended parents, where the embryo is conceived by using the egg and sperm of the intended parents.

Surrogate - an adult woman who enters into an agreement to bear a child conceived through Assisted Conception for intended parents.

25. Genetic testing when performed in the absence of symptoms or high risk factors for a heritable disease; genetic testing when knowledge of genetic status will not affect treatment decisions, frequency of screening for the disease, or reproductive choices; genetic testing that has been performed in response to direct-to-consumer marketing and not under the direction of the Member's Physician.
26. Medications obtained without a Prescription Order or for any charges for the administration of legend drugs or insulin that may be self-administered unless such administration is Medically Appropriate and Necessary. No benefits are available for Nonformulary Drugs.
27. Prescription Medications or Drugs prescribed for sexual dysfunction.
28. Medical treatment and dietary management programs for obesity, except as specifically allowed in the Covered Services Section of this Benefit Plan. Benefits for bariatric surgery are available only when Precertification is obtained from BCBSND. Benefits are subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 1 operative procedure for bariatric surgery per Member.
29. Cosmetic Services. For the purpose of this exclusion the following definition applies:  
  
Services or procedures with the primary purpose to improve appearance and not primary to restore bodily function or correct deformity resulting from disease, trauma, congenital or developmental anomalies or previous therapeutic processes, or which primarily improve or alter body features which are variations of normal development.
30. Standby services provided or billed by a Health Care Provider.
31. Alternative treatment therapies, including acupuncture, acupressure, aquatic whirlpool therapy, biofeedback, chelation therapy, massage therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy, holistic or integrative medicine, hypnotism, hypnotherapy, hypnotic anesthesia, music therapy, equine therapy or therapeutic touch.
32. Private duty nursing services.
33. All forms of thermography for all uses and indications.
34. Testicular prostheses regardless of the cause of the absence of the testicle.
35. Wigs, cranial prosthesis or hair transplants.
36. Orthotic Devices available over the counter, including orthopedic shoes and Home Medical Equipment required for leisure or recreational activities or to allow a Member to participate in sport activities unless Medically Appropriate and Necessary and approved by BCBSND. Benefits are not available for custom molded foot orthotics, except for those used in custom diabetic shoes.
37. Palliative or cosmetic foot care, foot support devices (including custom made foot support devices) or subluxations of the foot, care of corns, bunions (except for capsular or bone surgery), calluses, toenails, fallen arches, weak feet, chronic foot strain and symptomatic complaints of the feet. Benefits are available for the care of corns, calluses and toenails when Medically Appropriate and Necessary for Members with conditions such as circulatory disorders of the legs or feet.

38. Dentistry or dental processes and related charges, Including extraction of teeth, dental appliances Including orthodontia placed in relation to a covered oral surgical procedure, replacement of prosthetic appliances, replacement and/or repair of Orthodontic appliances, removal of impacted teeth, root canal therapy or procedures relating to the structures supporting the teeth, gingival tissues or alveolar processes, except as specifically allowed in the Schedule of Benefits and Covered Services Sections of this Benefit Plan.
39. Caries susceptibility tests.
40. Nutritional counseling for the control of dental disease, oral hygiene instruction and personal hygiene and convenience items.
41. Sealants on Deciduous teeth.
42. Surgical procedures for isolation of a tooth with a rubber dam.
43. Cosmetic bleaching of discolored teeth.
44. Ridge augmentation.
45. Application of desensitizing Medicaments.
46. Occlusal adjustment (limited/complete).
47. Enamel microabrasion.
48. Localized delivery of chemotherapeutic agents via a controlled release vehicle into diseased crevicular tissue.
49. Appliances or restorations necessary to increase vertical dimensions or to restore an occlusion.
50. Maxillofacial prosthetics.
51. Dental implants.
52. Eyeglasses or contact lenses and the vision examination for prescribing or fitting eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically allowed in the Schedule of Benefits and Covered Services Sections of this Benefit Plan. No benefits are available for routine vision examinations for Members age 19 and older. No benefits are available for refractive eye surgery when used in otherwise healthy eyes to replace eyeglasses or contact lenses or complications resulting from refractive surgery. No benefits are available for eyeglasses or contact lenses following cataract surgery.
53. The replacement of lost or broken lenses or frames unless at the time of replacement the Member is eligible for prescribed lenses or frames.
54. Costs incurred above the Allowance for cosmetic attachments to lenses or frames such as:
  - a. monograms or facets;
  - b. roll or polish edges for rimless lenses;
  - c. tinting of lenses; i.e., photogray for glass lenses and transition for plastic lenses;
  - d. slimlite or hi-index lenses;
  - e. polythin or polycarbonate lenses;
  - f. oversized lenses; i.e., large or oversize goggle blanks;
  - g. highpower;
  - h. specialty lenses; i.e., Smart Seq., executive, bifocal or trifocal extra wide.
55. Visual field exams.



56. Sunglasses.
57. Safety lenses.
58. Protective or scratch coating for plastic lenses.
59. Slab-off lenses.
60. Contact lens cleaning supplies and contact lens fitting fee.
61. Hearing aids or examinations for the prescription or fitting of hearing aids, except when provided as part of Habilitative Therapy. No benefits are available for routine hearing examinations, except as specifically allowed under this Benefit Plan. No benefits are available for a tinnitus masker.
62. Services when benefits are provided by any governmental unit or social agency, except for Medicaid or when payment has been made under Medicare Part A or Part B. Medicare Part A and Part B will be considered the primary payor with respect to benefit payments unless otherwise required by federal law.
63. Illness or injury caused directly or indirectly by war or an act of war or sustained while performing military services, if benefits for such illness or injury are available under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof.
64. Illness or bodily injury that arises out of and in the course of a Member's employment if benefits or compensation for such illness or injury are available under the provisions of a state workers' compensation act, the laws of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof.
65. Loss caused or contributed by a Member's commission or attempted commission of a felony (except losses caused or contributed by an act of domestic violence or any health condition) or a Member's involvement in an illegal occupation following the Member's enrollment in this Benefit Plan.
66. Any services when benefits are provided by a medical department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, mutual benefit association, labor union, trust, similar person or group.
67. Services provided by a Health Care Provider who is a member of the Member's Immediate Family.
68. The following allergy testing modalities: nasal challenge testing, provocative/neutralization testing for food and food additive allergies, leukocyte histamine release, Rebeck skin window test, passive transfer or Prausnitz-Kustner test, cytotoxic food testing, metabisulfite testing, candidiasis hypersensitivity syndrome testing, IgG level testing for food allergies, general volatile organic screening test and mauve urine test.  
  
The following methods of desensitization treatment: provocation/neutralization therapy for food/chemical or inhalant allergies by sublingual, intradermal and subcutaneous routes, Urine Autoinjections, Repository Emulsion Therapy, Candidiasis Hypersensitivity Syndrome Treatment or IV Vitamin C Therapy.  
  
This exclusion also includes clinical ecology, orthomolecular therapy, vitamins or dietary nutritional supplements, or related testing provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis.
69. Telephone consultations or charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of any forms required by BCBSND.
70. Items or services provided primarily for the comfort and convenience of the Member, including personal hygiene or convenience items, air conditioners, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment or modifications to home or automobile.

71. Repair, replacement or upgrade of Home Medical Equipment if items are damaged, destroyed, lost or stolen due to Member misuse, abuse or carelessness. No benefits are available for replacement or upgrade of Home Medical Equipment when requested for Member convenience or to upgrade to a newer technology when the current components remain functional.
72. Health screening assessment programs or health education services, including all forms of communication media whether audio, visual or written.
73. Health and athletic club membership or facility use, and all services provided by the facility, including Physical Therapy, sports medicine therapy and physical exercise.
74. Artificial organs, donor search services or organ procurement if the organ or tissue is not donated.
75. Prosthetic Limbs or components intended only for cosmetic purposes or customized coverings for terminal devices. Benefits are not available for Prosthetic Limbs or components required for work-related tasks, leisure or recreational activities or to allow a Member to participate in sport activities.
76. Rehabilitative Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy Maintenance Care; work hardening programs; prevocational evaluation; functional capacity evaluations or group speech therapy services.
77. Chiropractic maintenance care that is typically long-term, by definition not therapeutically necessary but is provided at preferably regular intervals to prevent disease, prolong life, promote health and enhance the quality of life. This includes care provided after maximum therapeutic improvement, without a trial of withdrawal of treatment, to prevent symptomatic deterioration or it may be initiated with patients without symptoms in order to promote health and to prevent further problems.
78. Complications resulting from noncovered services received by the Member.
79. Services prescribed by, performed by or under the direct supervision of a Nonpayable Health Care Provider.
80. Services that a Member has no legal obligation to pay in the absence of this or any similar coverage.
81. Cost Sharing Amounts.
82. Services when Precertification was required but not obtained.
83. Brand Name prescription tobacco deterrents if Generic equivalent is available.
84. Low protein modified food products or medical food for amino acid-based disease or phenylketonuria (PKU), to the extent those benefits are available under a department of health program or other state agency.
85. Food items for medical nutrition therapy, except as specifically allowed in the Covered Services Section of this Benefit Plan.
86. Collection and storage of umbilical cord blood.
87. Services, treatments or supplies not specified as a Covered Service under this Benefit Plan.

## **SECTION 5 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **5.1 PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS**

- A. This Benefit Plan continues and renews each month, subject to the payment of premium and Benefit Plan provisions in effect on the date of renewal.
- B. All premiums are due and payable before the first of the month. If premiums are not received before the date due, a grace period of 31 days is allowed. This Benefit Plan will automatically terminate if premiums are not paid within the grace period. A Subscriber receiving an advanced payment of the federal premium tax credit is allowed a three-month grace period instead of the 31-day grace period. If the Subscriber exhausts the three-month grace period without paying all outstanding premiums, this Benefit Plan will automatically terminate retroactively to the first day of the second month of the grace period. The Subscriber remains responsible for payment of any premium due during the grace period.
- C. If a Member is enrolled under a Benefit Plan for which premium amounts are determined according to age or tobacco use status and it is determined the age or tobacco use status has been misstated or miscalculated, premium adjustments will be made as follows:
  - 1. If premium amounts were paid in excess of the amount due, the excess premium will be refunded.
  - 2. If the premium amount billed was less than required for the age, premium will be increased on the next billing date.

### **5.2 AUTOMATIC PAYMENT WITHDRAWAL**

By initiating an automatic payment withdrawal from a checking or savings account, the Subscriber authorizes their financial institution to periodically deduct the current premium and to remit the premium payment to BCBSND. An automatic payment withdrawal authorization will continue in effect until revoked in writing by the Subscriber. BCBSND is not responsible for overdrafts and fees due to insufficient funds in the Subscriber's checking or savings account.

### **5.3 TIME LIMIT ON CERTAIN DEFENSES**

The validity of this Benefit Plan may not be contested, except for nonpayment of premiums, after it has been in force for 2 years, beginning on the individual Member's effective date. Further, the validity of this Benefit Plan may not be contested on the basis of a statement made relating to insurability by any Member after continuous coverage has been in force for 2 years during the Member's lifetime, unless the statement is written and signed by such Member. This time limit does not apply to fraudulent misstatements.

### **5.4 STATUS OF MEMBER ELIGIBILITY**

Each Member agrees to furnish the FFM with any information required by the FFM for the purpose of enrollment. Any changes affecting a Member's eligibility for coverage must be provided to the FFM by the Member immediately.

A Member remains eligible for this Benefit Plan as long as the Member has not attained the age of 30 before the first day of a policy year; or if the Member is age 30 or older, the Member has obtained a certificate of exemption from the FFM based on a lack of affordable minimum essential coverage or hardship. BCBSND may request annual verification of the Member's age or certificate of exemption.

A Member making a statement (including the omission of information) on the application or in relation to any of the terms of this Benefit Plan constituting fraud or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact will result in the rescission of this Benefit Plan by BCBSND. A rescission is a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage, including any benefits paid, that has a retroactive effect of voiding this Benefit Plan or any benefits paid under the terms of this Benefit Plan.

#### **5.5 NOTICE AND PROOF OF CLAIM**

The Member is responsible for providing BCBSND with written notice and proof of a claim within 12 months after the occurrence or commencement of a loss for which benefits are available under this Benefit Plan. The written notice and proof of a claim must include the information necessary for BCBSND to determine benefits.

#### **5.6 PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Payment of claims will be made upon receipt of written notice and proof of a Claim for Benefits as provided in Section 5.5.

#### **5.7 PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

BCBSND at its own expense may require a physical examination of the Member as often as necessary during the pendency of a claim and may require an autopsy in case of death if the autopsy is not prohibited by law.

#### **5.8 LIMITATION OF ACTIONS**

No legal action may be brought for payment of benefits under this Benefit Plan prior to the expiration of 60 days following BCBSND's receipt of a claim or later than 3 years after the expiration of the time within which notice of a claim is required by this Benefit Plan.

#### **5.9 PREMIUM REFUND/DEATH OF THE SUBSCRIBER**

In the event of the Subscriber's death, BCBSND will refund pro-rated premium for the month of the Subscriber's death based on the exact date of death and all premiums paid beyond the month of the Subscriber's death, within 31 days after receiving notice of the death.

#### **5.10 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS**

- A. The Subscriber is responsible for immediately notifying the FFM of any mailing address change.
- B. The Subscriber is responsible for notifying the FFM of any change in marital status within 30 days of the change.

- 1. If the Subscriber marries, Eligible Dependents may be added as Members if an application is submitted to the FFM within 60 days of the date of marriage. If the application is not submitted within the designated time period, the Eligible Dependent may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.

If the application is submitted within 60 days of the date of marriage, the date of coverage for the Eligible Dependent will be the first day of the month following enrollment.

- 2. If, because of legal separation, divorce, annulment or death, the Subscriber's spouse is no longer eligible for coverage under this Benefit Plan, the Subscriber's spouse may apply for coverage under a separate benefit plan, subject to premium and benefit plan provisions in effect.

Coverage for the Subscriber's spouse under Two Person or Family Coverage will cease effective the first day of the month immediately following timely notice of legal separation, divorce or annulment.

The Subscriber's spouse may apply within 60 days of legal separation, divorce, annulment or death to be eligible for coverage under a separate benefit plan. If the Subscriber's spouse does not submit an application within 60 days, the Subscriber's spouse may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.

- C. The Subscriber is responsible for notifying the FFM of any change in family status within 30 days of the change.

Dependents may be added to this Benefit Plan if an application is submitted to the FFM within the designated time period. If an application is not submitted within the designated time period, the dependent may apply for coverage under this Benefit Plan during the Annual Enrollment Period. The following provisions will apply:

1. At the time of birth, natural children will automatically be covered under the Benefit Plan for Covered Services received within the first 31 days after birth. Newborn children may be added to this Benefit Plan by submitting an application to the FFM within 60 days of the date of birth. Coverage will be effective on the date of birth or the first of the month after plan selection. If an application is not submitted to the FFM within the designated time period, the child may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.
2. Adopted children may be added to this Benefit Plan by submitting an application to the FFM within 60 days of physical placement of the child. Coverage will be effective on the date of physical placement or the first of the month after plan selection. If an application is not submitted to the FFM within the designated time period, the child may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.
3. Children for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse have been appointed legal guardian may be added to this Benefit Plan by submitting an application to the FFM within 60 days of the date legal guardianship is established by court order. Coverage will be effective on the date of the court order or the first of the month after plan selection. If an application is not submitted to the FFM within the designated time period, the child may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.
4. Children for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse are required by court order to provide health benefits may be added to this Benefit Plan by submitting an application to the FFM within 60 days of the date established by court order. Coverage will be effective on the date of the court order or the first of the month after plan selection. If an application is not submitted to the FFM within the designated time period, the child may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.
5. If any of the Subscriber's children beyond the age of 26 are medically certified as intellectually disabled or physically disabled, the Subscriber may continue their coverage under Parent and Child, Parent and Children or Family Coverage. Coverage will remain in effect as long as the child remains disabled, unmarried and financially dependent on the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse. The FFM and/or BCBSND may request annual verification of a child's disability after coverage for a disabled child has been in effect for 2 years.

The Subscriber must provide proof of incapacity and dependency of a child's disability within 31 days after the end of the year in which a child turns 26 or, if a child is beyond age 26, at the time of initial enrollment. If proof of incapacity and dependency for the dependent's disability is not made within 31 days, the child will be required to apply for coverage under a separate benefit plan.

6. If a child is no longer eligible for coverage under this Benefit Plan, the child may apply for coverage under a separate benefit plan, subject to premium and benefit plan provisions in effect.

Coverage for the child under Family Coverage will cease effective the first day of the month immediately following notice of ineligibility.

The child may apply within 60 days of ineligibility to be eligible for coverage under a separate benefit plan. If the child does not submit an application within 60 days, the child may apply for coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period.

- D. Individuals and/or their dependents will have a special enrollment opportunity in this Benefit Plan upon the occurrence of any of the events identified below, provided the FFM receives notification of the qualifying event within 30 days of the change. The individual and/or their dependents must submit an application to the FFM within 60 days of the event. If an application is not submitted within the designated time period, the individual and/or their dependents may apply for coverage under this Benefit Plan through the FFM during the Annual Enrollment Period.
1. Individuals and/or their dependents who lose "minimum essential coverage," as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. Loss of minimum essential coverage does not include the failure to pay premiums on a timely basis or situations where coverage is rescinded.
  2. Individuals and/or their dependents, who were not previously a citizen, national, or lawfully present in the U.S., gain such status.
  3. Individuals and/or their dependents whose previous enrollment or non-enrollment in a qualified health plan through the FFM was unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous and was the result of the error, misrepresentation, or inaction of the FFM, as evaluated and determined by the FFM.
  4. Individuals and/or their dependents who are determined newly eligible or newly ineligible for advanced payment of the federal premium tax credit or have a change in eligibility for cost sharing reductions.
  5. Individuals and/or their dependents who adequately demonstrate to the FFM that the qualified health plan substantially violated a material provision of its contract in relation to the individual and/or their dependents.
  6. Individuals and/or their dependents who gain access to new qualified health plans as the result of a permanent move.
  7. Individuals and/or their dependents who are verified by the FFM as American Indians or Alaska Natives, in accordance with applicable federal law, will have a special enrollment opportunity in this Benefit Plan once per month.
  8. Individuals and/or their dependents who have encountered other exceptional circumstances as determined by the FFM.
  9. Individuals and/or their dependents who have been subject to misconduct on the part of a non-FFM entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities, as determined by the FFM.

#### **5.11 TRANSFER TO ANOTHER BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD PLAN**

If a Member moves to the service area of another Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan and BCBSND premiums are billed to the new address, membership must be transferred to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan serving that new address. The premium rate and benefits available through the Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan may vary significantly from those offered by BCBSND.

#### **5.12 CANCELLATION OF THIS OR PREVIOUS BENEFIT PLANS**

- A. The Subscriber may cancel this Benefit Plan at any time by giving written notice to the FFM at least 31 days prior to the requested cancellation date. Premiums paid for coverage beyond the end of the month of termination will be refunded.

B. BCBSND may decide to discontinue offering this Benefit Plan, or all of its individual health insurance products including this Benefit Plan, at any time. If this Benefit Plan is discontinued, BCBSND will provide the Subscriber with at least 90 days prior written notice of the decision to cancel coverage under this Benefit Plan and offer the Subscriber the option to purchase any other individual health insurance product currently being offered by BCBSND in the market. If all individual health insurance products are discontinued including this Benefit Plan, BCBSND will provide the Subscriber with at least 180 days prior written notice of the decision to cancel coverage.

C. This Benefit Plan supersedes all Benefit Plans previously issued by BCBSND.

#### 5.13 NOTICE TO MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS

BCBSND generally may not, under state law (Section 26.1-36-09.8, N.D.C.C.), restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, state law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Health Care Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, BCBSND may not, under state law, require that a Health Care Provider obtain authorization from BCBSND for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

#### 5.14 MEMBER - PROVIDER RELATIONSHIP

Benefits are available only for Medically Appropriate and Necessary services while under the care and treatment of a Health Care Provider. Nothing herein contained shall interfere with the professional relationship between the Member and his or her Health Care Provider.

If the Member remains in an institution after advice is received from the attending Physician that further hospitalization is unnecessary, the Subscriber shall be solely responsible to the institution for all charges incurred after he or she has been so advised. Further, BCBSND may at any time request the attending Physician to certify the necessity of further confinement. If the attending Physician does not certify that further confinement is necessary, the Member is not entitled to further benefits during the confinement.

Each Member is free to select a Health Care Provider and discharge such Health Care Provider. Health Care Providers are free to provide medical care according to his or her own judgment. Nothing contained in this Benefit Plan will interfere with the ordinary relationship that exists between a Health Care Provider and patient or obligate BCBSND in any circumstances to supply a Health Care Provider for any Member. The provision of medical care and/or the decision not to provide medical care may have a financial impact on the Health Care Provider. The Member should consult with his/her Health Care Provider regarding the nature and extent of such a financial impact, if any, as well as how it might affect medical care decisions.

A Member's medical care is between the Member and the Member's Health Care Provider, and this Benefit Plan only explains what is or is not covered, not what medical care the Member should seek.

Costs relating to any services subject to the authorization provisions that are not approved by BCBSND will not be covered. **The ultimate decision on the Member's medical care must be made by the Member and the Member's Health Care Provider. BCBSND only has the authority to determine the extent of benefits available for Covered Services under this Benefit Plan.**

The Member agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the Hospital in which he or she is a patient, including those rules governing Admissions and types and scope of services furnished by said Hospital.

#### 5.15 BCBSND'S RIGHT TO RECOVERY OF PAYMENT

All Members expressly consent and agree to reimburse BCBSND for benefits provided or paid for which a Member was not eligible under the terms of this Benefit Plan. Such reimbursement shall be due and payable immediately upon notification and demand by BCBSND. Further, at the option of BCBSND, benefits or the Allowance therefore may be diminished or reduced as an off set toward such reimbursement. Acceptance of membership fees, or providing or paying benefits by BCBSND, shall not constitute a waiver of their rights to enforce these provisions in the future.

## 5.16 CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

All Protected Health Information (PHI) maintained by BCBSND under this Benefit Plan is confidential. Unless otherwise provided by law, any PHI about a Member under this Benefit Plan obtained by BCBSND from that Member or from a Health Care Provider may not be disclosed to any person except:

- A. Upon a written, dated, and signed authorization by the Member or prospective Member or by a person authorized to provide consent for a minor or an incapacitated person;
- B. If PHI identifies the Health Care Provider, upon a written, dated, and signed approval by the Health Care Provider. However, BCBSND may disclose PHI to the Health Care Data Committee for the enhancement of price competition in the health care market. BCBSND may also disclose to a Health Care Provider, as part of a contract or agreement in which the Health Care Provider is a party, data or information that identifies a Health Care Provider as part of mutually agreed upon terms and conditions of the contract or agreement;
- C. If the data or information does not identify either the Member or prospective Member or the Health Care Provider, the data or information may be disclosed upon request for use for statistical purposes or research;
- D. Pursuant to statute or court order for the production or discovery of evidence; or
- E. In the event of a claim or litigation between the Member or prospective Member and BCBSND in which the PHI is pertinent.

This section may not be construed to prevent disclosure necessary for BCBSND to conduct health care operations, including utilization review or management consistent with state law, to facilitate payment of a claim, to analyze health plan claims or health care records data, to conduct disease management programs with Health Care Providers, or to reconcile or verify claims under a shared risk or capitation arrangement. This section does not apply to PHI disclosed by BCBSND as part of a research project approved by an institutional review board established under federal law. This section does not apply to PHI disclosed by BCBSND to the insurance commissioner for access to records of BCBSND for purposes of enforcement or other activities related to compliance with state or federal laws.

BCBSND has implemented administrative, physical and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Member's PHI that BCBSND creates, receives, maintains, or transmits.

## 5.17 NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

BCBSND maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices. This Notice of Privacy Practices outlines BCBSND's uses and disclosures of PHI, sets forth BCBSND's legal duties with respect to PHI and describes a Member's rights with respect to PHI. Members can obtain a Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card or by visiting the BCBSND website.

## 5.18 RETROSPECTIVE DISCOUNT PAYMENT DISCLOSURE

A Member may be required to pay Cost Sharing Amounts for each Prescription Medication or Drug provided under the terms of this Benefit Plan. A Member will pay these Cost Sharing Amounts directly to the Health Care Provider at the time the Prescription Medication or Drug is dispensed or administered.



In some cases, drug manufacturers may offer retrospective discount payments on certain specific Prescription Medications and Drugs dispensed or administered to Members under the terms of this Benefit Plan. Such retrospective discount payments from the manufacturer are not determined or paid by the manufacturer until at least one year following the date a Prescription Medication or Drug was provided to a Member under the terms of this Benefit Plan. A portion of these retrospective discount payments, if offered, is retained by an entity that performs pharmaceutical manufacturer discount program services through a contract with BCBSND on behalf of this Benefit Plan. Another portion of these retrospective discount payments, if offered, is paid to BCBSND.

Pharmaceutical manufacturer discount program services Include the following: processing and handling of pharmaceutical manufacturer retrospective discounts for applicable claims; billing and collecting appropriate retrospective discounts on those claims from manufacturers; distributing payments in accordance with the terms of manufacturer discount program service agreements; formulary development, use and communication; benefit design analysis and consultation; annual analysis of claims data and recommendations; monthly utilization reporting; formulary appeals; and clinical services including physician and disease-state education programs.

#### 5.19 **NOTICE OF GENDER AFFIRMATION LIMITATIONS UNDER NORTH DAKOTA LAW**

Although gender affirmation benefits and services are available as Covered Services to Members under this Benefit Plan, North Dakota law prohibits Health Care Providers from providing certain gender affirmation services, including transgender surgeries and hormone therapies, to Members under the age of 18 in the state of North Dakota.

**SECTION 6  
CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES**

A Member may submit a Claim for Benefits by contacting BCBSND at the telephone number or address listed on the back of the Identification Card. The Member is responsible for providing BCBSND with a Claim for Benefits within 18 months after the date the benefits or services offered under this Benefit Plan were incurred. A Claim for Benefits must include the information necessary for BCBSND to determine benefits or services.

The Member may designate an Authorized Representative to pursue a Claim for Benefits or appeal an adverse determination from a Claim for Benefits. The designation of an Authorized Representative is limited in scope and not an assignment of benefits. It does not grant the Authorized Representative any of the Member's rights and privileges under the terms of this Benefit Plan. See Section 3, Authorizations.

Upon receipt of a Claim for Benefits under this Benefit Plan from a Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, the following claims review and appeals process applies:

**Maximum Time Limits for Claim for Benefits Processing**

<b>Type of Notice</b>	<b>Emergency Claim for Benefits</b>	<b>Pre-Service Claim for Benefits</b>	<b>Post-Service Claim for Benefits</b>	<b>Ongoing Course of Treatment Claim for Benefits</b>
Initial Determinations (Plan) Extensions	72 Hours NONE	15 Days 15 Days	30 Days 15 Days	Notification "sufficiently in advance" of reduction or termination of benefits.*
Improperly Filed Claims (Plan)	24 Hours	5 Days	NONE	N/A
Additional Information Request (Plan)	24 Hours	15 Days	30 Days	N/A
Response to Request For Additional Information (Claimant)	48 Hours	45 Days	45 Days	N/A
Request for Appeal (Claimant)	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days	N/A
Appeal Determinations (Plan) Extensions	72 Hours NONE	30 Days NONE	60 Days NONE	As appropriate to the type of Claim for Benefits.

\*If Claim for Benefits is made at least 24 hours before expiration of treatment and the Claim for Benefits involves an urgent care Claim for Benefits, BCBSND's decision must be made within 24 hours of receipt of the Claim for Benefits.

## 6.1 CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS INVOLVING PRECERTIFICATION (PRESERVICE CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS)

### A. Claims for Benefits Requiring Precertification.

1. Claims for Benefits Requiring Precertification. Upon receipt of a Claim for Benefits under the Benefit Plan from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative that is conditioned on a Member obtaining approval in advance of obtaining the benefit or service, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 15 days from receiving the Claim for Benefits. BCBSND may extend this initial time period an additional 15 days if BCBSND is unable to make a determination due to circumstances beyond its control after giving the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative notice of the need for additional time prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day time period.

If the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative improperly submits a Claim for Benefits, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative as soon as possible but no later than 5 days after receipt of the Claim for Benefits and provide the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative with the proper procedures to be followed when filing a Claim for Benefits. BCBSND may also request additional or specified information after receiving a Claim for Benefits, but any such request will be made prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day time period after receiving the Claim for Benefits. Upon receiving notice of an improperly filed Claim for Benefits or a request for additional or specified information, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has 45 days in which to properly file the Claim for Benefits and submit the requested information. After receiving the properly filed Claim for Benefits or additional or specified information, BCBSND shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 15 days after receipt of the properly filed Claim for Benefits and additional information.

2. Claims for Benefits Involving an Ongoing Course of Treatment or Number of Treatments. For services or benefits involving an ongoing course of treatment taking place over a period of time or number of treatments, BCBSND will provide the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative with notice that the services or benefits are being reduced or terminated at a time sufficiently in advance to permit the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative to request extending the course of treatment or number of treatments. Upon receiving a Claim for Benefits from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative to extend such treatment, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination as soon as possible prior to terminating or reducing the benefits or services.
3. Appeals of Claims for Benefits Requiring Precertification. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative have up to 180 days to appeal BCBSND's benefit determination of a Claim for Benefits requiring Precertification of benefits or services. Upon receipt of an appeal from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 30 days after receiving the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for review.

### B. Claims for Benefits Involving Emergency Care or Treatment

1. Claims for Benefits for Emergency Services. Upon receipt of a Claim for Benefits for Emergency Services from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after receiving the Claim for Benefits.

If the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative improperly submits a Claim for Benefits or the Claim for Benefits is incomplete and BCBSND requests additional or specified information, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after receipt of the Claim for Benefits. Upon receiving notice of an improperly filed Claim for Benefits or the request from BCBSND for additional or specified information, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has 48 hours to properly file the Claim for Benefits or to provide the requested information. After receiving the properly filed Claim for Benefits or requested information, BCBSND shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours after receipt of the additional or specified information requested by BCBSND or within 48 hours after expiration of the Member's time period to respond.

2. Appeals of Claims for Benefits for Emergency Services. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative have up to 180 days to appeal BCBSND's benefit determination of a Claim for Benefits for Emergency Services. Upon receipt of an appeal from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination, whether adverse or not, as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after receiving the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for review. A Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative may request an appeal from a determination involving a Claim for Benefits for Emergency Services orally or in writing, and BCBSND will accept needed materials by telephone or facsimile.

## 6.2 ALL OTHER CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS (POST SERVICE CLAIM FOR BENEFITS)

- A. Claims for Benefits for All Other Services or Benefits. Upon receipt of a Claim for Benefits under the Benefit Plan from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 30 days from receiving the Claim for Benefits and only if the determination is adverse to the Member. BCBSND may extend this initial time period in reviewing a Claim for Benefits an additional 15 days if BCBSND is unable to make a determination due to circumstances beyond its control after giving the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative notice of the need for additional time prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day time period.

BCBSND may request additional or specified information after receiving a Claim for Benefits, but any such request will be made prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day time period after receiving the Claim for Benefits. Upon receiving a request for additional or specified information, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has 45 days in which to submit the requested information. After receiving the additional or specified information, BCBSND shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 30 days after receipt of the additional information.

- B. Claims for Benefits Involving an Ongoing Course of Treatment or Number of Treatments. For a Claim for Benefits involving services or benefits involving an ongoing course of treatment taking place over a period of time or number of treatments, BCBSND will provide the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative with notice that the services or benefits are being reduced or terminated at a time sufficiently in advance to permit the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative to request extending the course of treatment or number of treatments. Upon receiving a Claim for Benefits from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative to extend such treatment, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination as soon as possible prior to terminating or reducing the benefits or services.
- C. Appeals from Initial Claims for Benefits Determinations for All Other Claims for Services or Benefits. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative have up to 180 days to appeal BCBSND's benefit determination of a Claim for Benefits. Upon receipt of an appeal from a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative, BCBSND will notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination within a reasonable period of time but no later than 60 days after receiving the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for review.

**Maximum Time Limits for Processing External Review  
(External Appeals)**

Type of Notice	External Review (Standard)	External Review (Expedited)
Request for Review (Claimant)	The first business day of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month following receipt of an adverse determination from Plan.	The first business day of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month following receipt of an adverse determination from Plan.
Preliminary Review (DOI)	6 Business Days	Immediately
Incomplete Submission (DOI)	1 Business Day	Immediately
Response to Incomplete Submission (Claimant)	The first business day of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month following receipt of an adverse determination from Plan or 48 hours, whichever is later.	The first business day of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month following receipt of an adverse determination from Plan or 48 hours, whichever is later.
Ineligible Submission (DOI)	1 Business Day	Immediately
Referral of Review to Independent Review Organization (IRO) by DOI	Immediately	Immediately
Notice of Final Review Determination (IRO)	Within 45 days following receipt of request for external review.	Expediently but no more than 72 hours following written request and if notice is not in writing, written confirmation within 48 hours after the date of notice.

**6.3 EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS OF CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS (EXTERNAL APPEALS)**

**A. External Review of Claims for Benefits (Standard)**

1. Request for External Review. Under certain circumstances following completion of BCBSND's internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2); a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative may request an external review by submitting a request to the North Dakota Department of Insurance (DOI) at 1-701-328-2440 or 1-800-247-0560 or [www.nd.gov/ndins/contact](http://www.nd.gov/ndins/contact). A request for external review is available only for determinations by BCBSND that are adverse to the Member and based on medical necessity and appropriateness (including a determination that a treatment or service is investigative and/or experimental), health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a Covered Service, a rescission or BCBSND's administration of the excess charge protections as outlined in Section 1.3, Selecting a Health Care Provider. This request for external review must be submitted to the DOI by the first business day of the 5th month following BCBSND's final determination pursuant to the internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2).

A Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative must adhere to the BCBSND internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2) before requesting an external review under this provision unless BCBSND waives this requirement, BCBSND fails to comply with its internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2) and this noncompliance causes, or is likely to cause, prejudice or harm to the Member, or the Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative requests an expedited internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals review and an external Claims for Benefits and Appeals review at the same time.

In pursuing any external review under this provision, no additional costs will be incurred by the Member, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative shall have the opportunity to submit additional information, and as appropriate under the terms of this Benefit Plan, the Member's coverage will remain in effect pending the outcome of the external review process.

2. Preliminary Review by BCBSND. Within 6 business days following receipt of a Member's and/or a Member's Authorized Representative's request for external review, BCBSND must complete a preliminary review of the request. This preliminary review is used to determine whether the claimant is or was eligible for coverage under this Benefit Plan at the time the service or procedure was requested; the Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative has completed the applicable internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals requirements set forth in Section 6.1 and/or 6.2 of this Benefit Plan, and the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has submitted all information necessary to process the external review. If the request for external review is incomplete, within 1 business day the DOI must provide notice to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative describing the information and other materials needed to complete the request. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative must submit the information described in the notice provided by the DOI by the first business day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month following BCBSND's final determination pursuant to the internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process or within 48 hours following receipt of this notice from the DOI, whichever is later.
  - a. If the request for external review submitted by the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative is complete but the Member is not eligible for the external review process, within 1 business day of making the determination that the Member is not eligible for the external review process, the DOI shall provide notification of this fact to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, including the reasons for the Member's ineligibility. If the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has any questions in regard to this determination, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative may contact the DOI.
  - b. If the request for external review submitted by the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative is complete and meets the eligibility requirements for external review, within 1 business day the DOI shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of this fact and thereafter, shall immediately refer the eligible request for external review from the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative to an Independent Review Organization (IRO) under contract with the DOI on a random, rotating basis and in a manner that eliminates any conflicts of interest with the IRO that may influence the determination by the IRO.
3. Referral of External Review to Independent Review Organization (IRO). Upon referral of the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for external review to the IRO, the following process shall be implemented.
  - a. The DOI shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative in a timely manner and in writing of the assignment of the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for external review to the IRO. The DOI shall notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative that the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has up to 5 business days following this written notice to submit any additional information the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative wants the IRO to consider when completing the external review.
  - b. Within 5 business days after the date that the DOI assigns the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for external review to an IRO, BCBSND shall provide the assigned IRO the documents and any information considered by BCBSND in the Claims for Benefits determination completed by BCBSND.
  - c. Should the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative submit additional information to the IRO, the IRO must forward this information to BCBSND within 1 business day. Upon receipt of this information, in its discretion, BCBSND may reconsider its initial Claims for Benefits determination that is the subject of the request for external review and determine to reverse its initial determination. Upon any review completed under these circumstances, BCBSND must notify the DOI, the IRO and the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of its determination and the IRO must terminate the external review assigned by the DOI.

- d. The IRO shall review all of the information and documents submitted to it in a timely manner in completing its external review. The assigned IRO shall complete its review and provide notice of its final determination to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, the DOI and BCBSND within 45 days after the IRO receives its assignment of the request for external review from the DOI. The determination of the IRO is final and binding on the Member and BCBSND, subject to any other remedies available under state or federal law.

B. External Review of Claims for Benefits (Expedited)

1. Request for Expedited External Review. Under certain circumstances a Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative may request an expedited external review by submitting a request to the North Dakota Department of Insurance (DOI) at 1-701-328-2440 or 1-800-247-0560 or [www.nd.gov/ndins/contact](http://www.nd.gov/ndins/contact). At the time the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative makes a request for expedited external review, the internal Claims for Benefits determination completed by BCBSND must involve a medical condition of the Member where the timeframe for completing a standard internal appeal would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Member or would jeopardize the Member's ability to regain maximum function and the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative submitted a request for an expedited internal appeal with BCBSND; or the internal Claims for Benefits determination completed upon appeal by BCBSND involves a Member's medical condition where the timeframe for completing a standard external review would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Member, would jeopardize the Member's ability to regain maximum function, or if the internal Claims for Benefits determination completed upon appeal by BCBSND involves an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or health care item or service for which the Member received Emergency Services but has not been discharged from a health care facility. This request for expedited external review must be submitted to the DOI by the first business day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month following BCBSND's final determination pursuant to the internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2).

A Member and/or a Member's Authorized Representative must adhere to the BCBSND internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2) before requesting an external review under this provision unless BCBSND waives this requirement, BCBSND fails to comply with its internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process (Section 6.1 and/or 6.2) and this noncompliance causes, or is likely to cause, prejudice or harm to the Member, or the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative requests an expedited internal appeal and an external review at the same time.

In pursuing any external review under this provision, no additional costs will be incurred by the Member, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative shall have the opportunity to submit additional information, and as appropriate under the terms of this Benefit Plan, the Member's coverage will remain in effect pending the outcome of the external review process.

2. Preliminary Review by BCBSND. Immediately following receipt of a Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for expedited external review, BCBSND must complete a preliminary review of the request. This preliminary review is used to determine whether the claimant is or was eligible for coverage under this Benefit Plan at the time the service or procedure was requested; the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has completed the applicable internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals as requested, and the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative has submitted all information necessary to process the expedited external review. If the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for expedited external review is incomplete, the DOI must immediately provide notice to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative describing the information and other materials needed to complete the request. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative must submit the information described in the notice provided by the DOI by the first business day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month following BCBSND's final determination pursuant to the internal Claims for Benefits and Appeals process or within 48 hours following receipt of this notice from the DOI, whichever is later.

- a. If the request for expedited external review submitted by the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative is complete but the Member is not eligible for the expedited external review process, immediately after making its determination that the Member is not eligible for the expedited external review process, the DOI shall provide notification of this fact to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, including the reasons for the Member's ineligibility. If the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative have any questions in regard to this determination by the DOI, the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative may contact the North Dakota Department of Insurance at 1-701-328-2440 or 1-800-247-0560 or [www.nd.gov/ndins/contact](http://www.nd.gov/ndins/contact).
  - b. If the request for expedited external review submitted by the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative is complete and meets the eligibility requirements for expedited external review, the DOI shall immediately notify the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative of this fact and thereafter, shall immediately refer the eligible request for external review from the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative to an IRO under contract with the DOI on a random, rotating basis and in a manner that eliminates any conflicts of interest with the IRO that may influence the determination by the IRO.
3. Referral of Expedited External Review to Independent Review Organization (IRO). Upon referral of the Member's and/or the Member's Authorized Representative's request for expedited external review to the IRO, the following process shall be implemented.
- a. The DOI shall immediately provide BCBSND with the contact information regarding the assigned IRO, and BCBSND shall provide or transmit to the assigned IRO electronically, by telephone, facsimile or any other expeditious method available, all necessary documents and any information considered in the internal Claims for Benefits determination completed by BCBSND.
  - b. The IRO shall review all of the information and documents submitted to it in a timely manner in completing its expedited external review. The assigned IRO shall complete its review and provide notice of its final determination to the Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, the DOI and BCBSND as expeditiously as the Member's medical condition or circumstance require, but in no event more than 72 hours after the IRO receives the request for expedited external review from the DOI. If this notice is not in writing, written confirmation of the determination must be provided within 48 hours. The determination of the IRO is final and binding on the Member and BCBSND, subject to any other remedies available under state or federal law.

Information regarding the external review process is also available at [www.BCBSND.com](http://www.BCBSND.com).

To inquire on the Claims for Benefits and Appeals process, please contact Member Services at the telephone number and address on the back of the Identification Card.



## 6.4 GRIEVANCES

In certain situations, a Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative may file a grievance with BCBSND. A "grievance" is a written or oral complaint, if the complaint is submitted by or on behalf of a Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative, that involves one of the following:

- A. Quality of Care Grievance - a complaint related to the quality of health care services provided by a Health Care Provider;
- B. Quality of Service Grievance - a complaint related to the non-clinical services received by a Member that may include but are not limited to complaints regarding access to care, waiting times, claims payment or reimbursement for health care services; or
- C. Administrative Grievance - any complaint involving the terms of coverage and plan services administered by BCBSND.

The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative can file a grievance or receive assistance with filing and/or completing a grievance by contacting Member Services at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, PO Box 1570, Fargo, North Dakota 58107-1570 or telephone 1-844-363-8457.

Grievances may be filed orally or in writing no later than 180 days after the incident. The Member and/or the Member's Authorized Representative will receive a response within 30 days.

## SECTION 7 OTHER PARTY LIABILITY

This section describes BCBSND's Other Party Liability programs and coordinating benefits and services when a Member has other health care coverage available, and outlines the Member's responsibilities under these programs. BCBSND shall determine the interpretation and application of the following Other Party Liability provisions in each and every situation.

### 7.1 COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

This provision applies when a Member is enrolled under another plan (defined below), whether insured or self-funded, with a similar coordination of benefits provision. If the sum of benefits payable under this Benefit Plan and the other plan exceed the total allowable expense for Covered Services, the benefits payable under this Benefit Plan will be reduced so the sum of benefits payable under all plans does not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense for Covered Services.

For the purposes of this coordination of benefits provision, the following definitions apply:

"Allowable expense" means a health care expense, including deductibles, coinsurance and copayments (if required as part of a plan), that is covered at least in part by any plan covering a Member. 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 not covered by any plan covering a Member is not an allowable expense. In addition, any expense that a health care provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a Member is not an allowable expense. The following are examples of expenses that are not allowable expenses:

- (1) The difference between the cost of a semiprivate 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 Member 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 methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an allowable expense.
- (3) If a Member 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.
- (4) If a Member 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 from 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.
- (5) The amount of any benefit reduction by the primary plan because a Member 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.

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

"Custodial parent" means the parent awarded physical custody by a court order or, in the absence of a court order, the parent with whom the child resides more than one-half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

"Plan" includes any of the following that provides benefits or services for medical or dental care or treatment: group and nongroup insurance contracts, health maintenance organization contracts, closed panel plans or other forms of group or group-type coverage; 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 government plan, as permitted by law. A "plan" does not include any of the following: hospital indemnity coverage or other fixed indemnity 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; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid policies; or coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

- A. Order of Benefits Determination Rules. The order of benefits determination rules govern the order in which this Benefit Plan and another plan will pay 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 secondary plan may reduce the benefits it pays so that the benefits payable under all plans do not total more than 100% of the total allowable expense for Covered Services.

A plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this Benefit Plan's provision is always primary unless the rules of both plans state that this Benefit Plan is primary. An exception exists for coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement part of a basic package of benefits and provides that the supplementary coverage shall be excess to any other parts of the plan provided by the policyholder. 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.

If a Claim for Benefits or any other request for reimbursement is submitted under this Benefit Plan the order of payment will be 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, subscriber, policyholder 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 the provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, Medicare is:

- a. Secondary to the plan covering the person as a dependent; and
- b. Primary to the plan covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g., a retired employee).

Then the order of benefits is reversed so that the plan covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber, policyholder or retiree is the secondary plan and the other plan covering the person as a dependent is the primary plan.

2. Dependent child covered under more than one plan. Unless there is a court order stating otherwise, plans covering a dependent child shall determine the order of benefits as follows:
  - a. For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
    - (1) The plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the primary plan; or
    - (2) If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that has covered the parent longest is the primary plan.
  - b. For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or are not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
    - (1) If a court order 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. If the parent with responsibility has no health care coverage for the dependent child's health care expenses, but that parent's spouse does, that parent's spouse's plan is the primary plan. This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any plan year during which Covered Services are paid or provided before the entity has actual knowledge of the court order provision. A copy of the court order must be provided to BCBSND upon request;
    - (2) If a court order states that both parents are responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the provisions of Section 7.1(A.)(2.)(a.) shall determine the order of benefits;
    - (3) If a court order 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 Section 7.1(A.)(2.)(a.) shall determine the order of benefits; or
    - (4) If there is no court order allocating responsibility for the child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:
      - a. The plan covering the custodial parent;
      - b. The plan covering the custodial parent's spouse;
      - c. The plan covering the non-custodial parent; and then
      - d. The plan covering the non-custodial parent's spouse.
  - c. For a dependent child covered under more than one plan of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the order of benefits shall be determined, as applicable, under Section 7.1(A.)(2.)(a.) or Section 7.1(A.)(2.)(b.) as if those individuals were 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, or as a dependent of an active employee is the primary plan. The plan covering that same person as a retired or laid-off employee or as a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee 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. Also, this rule does not apply if the rule in Section 7.1(A.)(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 pursuant to state or other federal law is covered under another plan, the plan covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber, policyholder or retiree or covering the person as a dependent of an employee, member, subscriber, policyholder or retiree is the primary plan and the plan covering that same person pursuant to COBRA or under a right of continuation pursuant to state or other federal law is the secondary plan.

If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. Also, this rule does not apply if the rule in Section 7.1(A).(1.) can determine the order of benefits.

5. Longer or shorter length of coverage. If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the plan that covered the person for the longer period of time is the primary plan and the plan that covered the person for the shorter period of time is the secondary plan.

To determine the length of time a person has been covered under a plan, two successive plans shall be treated as one if the covered person was eligible under the second plan within 24 hours after coverage under the first plan ended.

The start of a new plan does not include:

- a. A change in the amount or scope of a plan's benefits;
- b. A change in the entity that pays, provides or administers the plan's benefits; or
- c. A change from one type of plan to another, such as from a single employer plan to a multiple employer plan.

The person's length of time covered under a plan is measured from the person's first date of coverage under that plan. If that date is not readily available for a group plan, the date the person first became a member of the group must be used as the date from which to determine the length of time the person's coverage under the present plan has been in force.

6. If none of the preceding rules determines the order of benefits, the allowable expenses shall be shared equally between the plans.
- B. If it is determined this Benefit Plan is secondary, the benefits of this Benefit Plan will be reduced so that the total benefits paid or provided by all plans during a Benefit Period are not more than the total allowable expenses. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, this Benefit Plan will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of coverage under another plan and apply that calculated amount to the allowable expense under this Benefit Plan that is unpaid by the primary plan. The benefits of this Benefit Plan will then be reduced so that they and the benefits payable under the other plans for the claim do not total more than 100% of the total allowable expense for that claim. When the benefits of this Benefit Plan are reduced as described in this subsection, each benefit is reduced in proportion. It is then charged against any applicable benefit limit of this Benefit Plan. In addition, if this Benefit Plan has a deductible and/or coinsurance, the deductible and/or coinsurance will be credited with any amounts that would have been credited in the absence of the other plan.

The ultimate responsibility of BCBSND for payment of Covered Services will never exceed the amount payable in the absence of other coverage.

## RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to administer this coordination of benefits provision and to determine benefits payable under this Benefit Plan and other plans. BCBSND may obtain the facts it needs from or give them to other organizations or persons for the purpose of administering this provision. BCBSND need not tell, or obtain the consent of, any person to do this. Each Member claiming benefits under this Benefit Plan must provide BCBSND with any facts it needs to administer this provision and determine benefits payable.

## FACILITY OF PAYMENT

A payment made under another plan may include an amount that should have been paid under this Benefit Plan. If it does, BCBSND may pay that amount to the organization that made the payment. The amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under this Benefit Plan. BCBSND will not have to pay that amount again.

## RIGHT OF RECOVERY

If payments have been made by BCBSND for Covered Services in excess of the amount payable under this Benefit Plan, BCBSND may recover the excess from any persons to or for whom such payments were made, including any Member, provider or other organization. The Member agrees to execute and deliver any documentation requested by BCBSND to recover excess payments.

This provision is administered in accordance with the Coordination of Benefits Regulation adopted by the North Dakota Insurance Commissioner.

### 7.2 **AUTOMOBILE NO-FAULT OR MEDICAL PAYMENT BENEFIT COORDINATION**

If a Member is eligible for basic automobile no-fault benefits or other automobile medical payment benefits as the result of accidental bodily injury arising out of the operation, maintenance or use of a motor vehicle, the benefits available under this Benefit Plan will be reduced by and coordinated with the basic automobile no-fault benefits or other automobile medical payment benefits.

### 7.3 **MEDICAL PAYMENT BENEFIT COORDINATION**

If a Member is eligible for medical payment benefits provided by any other collectible insurance as a result of an injury, the benefits available under this Benefit Plan will be reduced by and coordinated with the medical payment benefits provided by any other collectible insurance not prohibited from coordination of benefits.

### 7.4 **RIGHTS OF SUBROGATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND ASSIGNMENT**

If BCBSND pays benefits for Covered Services to or for a Member for any injury or condition caused or contributed to by the act or omission of any third party, BCBSND shall have certain rights of assignment, subrogation and/or reimbursement as set forth below. BCBSND has full discretionary authority to determine whether to exercise any or all of said rights.

**A Member must notify BCBSND of the circumstances of the injury or condition, cooperate with BCBSND in doing whatever is necessary to enable BCBSND to assert these rights, and do nothing to prejudice them. The rights stated herein apply automatically in any applicable situation. BCBSND has no obligation to notify a Member of BCBSND's intent to exercise one or more of these rights and BCBSND's failure to provide such a notice shall not constitute a waiver of these rights.**

If a Member does not comply with these provisions or otherwise prejudices the rights of BCBSND to assignment, subrogation or reimbursement, BCBSND shall have full discretion to withhold payment of any future benefits to or for the Member and to off set the benefits already paid to or for the Member against the payment of any future benefits to or for the Member regardless of whether or not said future benefits are related to the injury or condition.

- A. Right of Assignment and/or Subrogation: If a Member fails to bring a claim against a third party (including any person, firm or corporation which may be liable for or on behalf of the third party), BCBSND has the right to bring said claim as the assignee and/or subrogee of the Member and to recover any benefits paid under this Benefit Plan.
- B. Right of Reimbursement: If a Member makes any recovery from a third party (including any person, firm or corporation which may be liable for or on behalf of the third party), whether by judgment, settlement or otherwise, the Member must notify BCBSND of said recovery and must reimburse BCBSND to the full extent of any benefits paid by BCBSND, not to exceed the amount of the recovery. This right of reimbursement shall apply to any such recovery to the extent of any benefits paid under this Benefit Plan even if the Member has not received full compensation for the injury or condition. Any recovery the Member may obtain is conclusively presumed to be for the reimbursement of benefits paid by BCBSND until BCBSND has been fully reimbursed.

The Member agrees to not transfer any right to any recovery to a third party or otherwise attempt to avoid BCBSND's rights under this Benefit Plan. The Member agrees that any recovery shall be held in trust for BCBSND until BCBSND has been fully reimbursed and/or that BCBSND shall have a lien on any recovery to the full extent of any benefits paid under this Benefit Plan. The Member agrees that to enforce its rights under this section, BCBSND may pursue any and all remedies, legal or equitable, available under state or federal law, including subrogation, breach of contract, constructive trust, equitable lien, injunction, restitution and any other remedies.

## 7.5 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

If benefits or compensation are available, in whole or in part, under provisions of a state workers' compensation act, laws of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof, the benefits under this Benefit Plan will be reduced by and coordinated with such other benefits or compensation available to a Member.

If a Member is injured or suffers any condition caused or contributed to by the Member's employment, the Member must notify BCBSND of the circumstances of the injury and condition, cooperate with BCBSND and the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof in doing whatever is necessary to determine the availability of such benefits or compensation, and do nothing to prejudice them.

In the event of the failure of a Member to comply with this provision or if a Member prejudices that Member's right or entitlement to benefits or compensation available under such a program, BCBSND shall have full discretion to withhold payment of any future benefits to or for the Member and to off set the benefits already paid to or for the Member against the payment of any future benefits to or for the Member regardless of whether or not said future benefits are related to the injury or condition.

## **SECTION 8 DEFINITIONS**

This section defines the terms used in this Benefit Plan. These terms will be capitalized throughout this Benefit Plan when referred to in the context defined.

**ADMISSION** - entry into a facility as an Inpatient or Outpatient for treatment and care when ordered by a Health Care Provider with admitting privileges. An Admission ends when a Member is discharged or released from the facility and is no longer registered as a patient.

**ALLOWANCE OR ALLOWED CHARGE** - the maximum dollar amount that payment for a procedure or service is based on as determined by BCBSND.

**AMBULATORY (OUTPATIENT) SURGERY** - surgery performed in the outpatient department of a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Facility or Professional Health Care Provider's office.

**ANCILLARY SERVICES** - services required for the treatment of a Member in a Hospital, other than room, board and professional services.

**ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD** - the period of time each year set by the federal government during which an eligible individual or Eligible Dependent may apply for coverage under this Benefit Plan.

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE** - a Health Care Provider or other individual authorized by the Member to inquire or request information on a Member.

**BCBSND** - Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota.

**BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION INTERVENTION FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (INCLUDING APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA))** - the principles and techniques by a Licensed Behavior Analyst or Licensed Assisted Behavior Analyst to design, supervise, implement, modify and evaluate environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis.

**BENEFIT PERIOD** - a specified period of time when benefits are available for Covered Services under this Benefit Plan. A claim will be considered for payment only if the date of service or supply was within the Benefit Period. All benefits are determined on a calendar year (January 1 through December 31) Benefit Period.

**BENEFIT PLAN** - the agreement with BCBSND, including the Subscriber's application, Identification Card, this Benefit Plan and any supplements, endorsements, attachments, addenda or amendments.

**BITEWING** - dental X-rays showing the area around the teeth.

**BLUECARD PPO HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - a Health Care Provider, referred to as a Preferred Blue PPO Provider in North Dakota, who has signed a BlueCard PPO agreement with a Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan.

**BLUECARD PROGRAM** - The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, of which BCBSND is an independent licensee, has implemented the BlueCard Program. This allows Members seeking medical services outside BCBSND's (Home Plan) service area, access to the Health Care Provider discounts of the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield entity (Host Plan) participating in the BlueCard Program.

**BRUXISM** - the grinding of the teeth.

**CLAIM FOR BENEFITS** - a request for a benefit or benefits under the terms of this Benefit Plan made by a Member in accordance with BCBSND's reasonable procedures for filing a Claim for Benefits as outlined in Section 6, Claims for Benefits, Appeals and Grievances. A Claim for Benefits includes Claims for Benefits requiring Precertification (Preservice Claim for Benefits) and all other Claims for Benefits (Post Service Claim for Benefits). A Claim for Benefits involving payment of a claim shall be made promptly and in accordance with state law.



**CONTRACT TYPE** - the type of coverage the Subscriber is enrolled under, identifying who is eligible to receive benefits for Covered Services under this Benefit Plan. Contract Types are as follows:

- A. **Individual Coverage** - Subscriber only.
- B. **Parent and Child Coverage** - Subscriber and one eligible child.
- C. **Parent and Children Coverage** - Subscriber and eligible children.
- D. **Two Person Coverage** - Subscriber and spouse.
- E. **Family Coverage** - Subscriber and Eligible Dependents.

**COST SHARING AMOUNTS** - the dollar amount a Member is responsible for paying when Covered Services are received from a Health Care Provider. Cost Sharing Amounts include Coinsurance, Copayment and Deductible Amounts. Health Care Providers may bill you directly or request payment of Coinsurance, Copayment and Deductible Amounts at the time services are provided.

- A. **Coinsurance Amount** - a percentage of the Allowed Charge for Covered Services that is a Member's responsibility.

BCBSND shall calculate Coinsurance Amounts on behalf of Members obtaining Covered Services within the BCBSND service area on the lesser of (1) billed charges or (2) provider negotiated payment rates (Allowed Charge).

When a Member receives Covered Services from a Nonparticipating Health Care Provider for which the Member must be protected from excess charges, BCBSND shall calculate Coinsurance Amounts on behalf of Members obtaining Covered Services on the lesser of (1) billed charges or (2) the payment amount required by federal law. See Section 1.3, Selecting a Health Care Provider.

If Covered Services are obtained by a Member out of the BCBSND service area, the local Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan's (Host Plan) provider contract may require coinsurance calculation that is not based on the discounted price the Health Care Provider has agreed to accept from the Host Plan. Rather, it may be based on the Health Care Provider's billed charges. This may result in a significantly higher Coinsurance Amount for certain services a Member incurs out of the BCBSND service area. It is not possible to provide specific information for each out-of-area Health Care Provider because of the many different arrangements between Host Plans and Health Care Providers. However, if a Member contacts BCBSND prior to incurring out-of-area services, BCBSND may be able to provide information regarding specific Health Care Providers.

- B. **Copayment Amount** - a specified dollar amount payable by the Member for certain Covered Services. Health Care Providers may request payment of the Copayment Amount at the time of service.
- C. **Deductible Amount** - a specified dollar amount payable by the Member for certain Covered Services received during the Benefit Period. The Deductible Amount renews on January 1 of each consecutive Benefit Period. Copayment Amounts do not apply toward the Deductible Amount.
- D. **Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amount** - the total Deductible, Coinsurance and Copayment Amounts for certain Covered Services that are a Member's responsibility during a Benefit Period. When the Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amount is met, this Benefit Plan will pay 100% of the Allowed Charge for Covered Services. The Out-of-Pocket Maximum Amount renews on January 1 of each consecutive Benefit Period.

**COVERED SERVICE** - Medically Appropriate and Necessary services and supplies for which benefits are available when provided by a Health Care Provider.

**CROWN** - the restoration covering or replacing the major part of a tooth.

**CUSTODIAL CARE** - care that BCBSND determines is designed essentially to assist the patient in meeting the activities of daily living and not primarily provided for its therapeutic value in the treatment of an illness, disease, injury or condition.

**DECIDUOUS** - the primary teeth.

**DENTURE** - an artificial substitute for natural teeth and adjacent tissues.

- A. **Immediate Denture** - the prosthesis constructed for placement immediately after the removal of remaining natural teeth.
- B. **Rebase of Denture** - the process of refitting a Denture by replacing the base material.
- C. **Reline of Denture** - the process of resurfacing the tissue side of a Denture with new base material.

**DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE** - a test or procedure provided because of specific symptoms and directed toward the determination of a definite condition. A Diagnostic Service must be ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider. Diagnostic Services include, but are not limited to X-ray and other imaging services, laboratory and pathology services, cardiographic, encephalographic and radioisotope tests.

**ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT** - a dependent of the Subscriber, or a dependent's dependent (grandchild), who qualifies for membership under this Benefit Plan in accordance with the requirements specified below:

- A. The Subscriber's spouse under a legally existing marriage.
- B. The Subscriber's or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse's children under the age of 26 years. Children are considered under age 26 until the end of the year in which the child becomes 26 years of age. The term child or children includes:
  - 1. Children physically placed with the Subscriber for adoption or whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse has legally adopted.
  - 2. Children living with the Subscriber for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse has been appointed legal guardian by court order.
  - 3. The Subscriber's grandchildren or those of the Subscriber's living, covered spouse if: (a) the parent of the grandchild is unmarried, (b) the parent of the grandchild is covered under this Benefit Plan and (c) the parent is primarily dependent on the Subscriber for support. If a lapse in coverage occurs due to ineligibility of the parent under this Benefit Plan, the grandchild cannot be reenrolled unless the Subscriber has been appointed legal guardian.
  - 4. Children for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's living, covered spouse are required by court order to provide health benefits.
  - 5. Children beyond the age of 26 who are incapable of self support because of intellectual disability or physical handicap that began before the child attained age 26 and who are primarily dependent on the Subscriber or the Subscriber's spouse for support. Coverage for such a disabled child will continue for as long as the child remains unmarried, disabled and the Subscriber's dependent for federal income tax purposes. The Subscriber may be asked periodically to provide evidence satisfactory to BCBSND of these disabilities.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION** - a medical condition, including a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder, manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity that would lead a prudent layperson acting reasonably and possessing an average knowledge of health and medicine to believe that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious impairment to bodily function, serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part or would place the person's health, or with respect to a pregnant woman the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES** - include:

- A. an appropriate medical screening examination that is within the capability of the emergency department of a Hospital or of an independent freestanding emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to evaluate whether an Emergency Medical Condition exists; and
- B. such further medical examination and treatment as may be required to stabilize a Member (regardless of the department of the Hospital in which further medical examination and treatment is furnished) within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the Hospital or the independent freestanding emergency department.

**ENDODONTICS** - the treatment of disease and injuries of the inner tooth (pulp) and surrounding area.

**EXPERIMENTAL OR INVESTIGATIVE** - a drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure is Experimental or Investigative if:

- A. the drug or device cannot be lawfully marketed without the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time the drug or device is furnished; or
- B. the drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure, or the patient informed consent document utilized with the drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure was reviewed and approved by the treating facility's institutional review board as required by federal law; or
- C. BCBSND determines that there exists reliable evidence that the drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure
  - 1. is the subject of ongoing phase 1 or phase 2 clinical trials,
  - 2. is the research, experimental, study or investigational arm of an ongoing phase 3 clinical trial, or
  - 3. is otherwise under study to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis; or
- D. BCBSND determines that there exists reliable evidence with respect to the drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure and that further studies or clinical trials are necessary to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of reliable treatment or diagnosis; or
- E. BCBSND determines that based on prevailing medical evidence the drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure is Experimental or Investigative.

Reliable evidence shall mean only published reports and articles in the authoritative medical and scientific literature; the written protocol or protocols used by the treating facility or the protocol(s) of another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure; or the written informed consent used by the treating facility or by another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical service, treatment or procedure.

**EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS** - a document sent to the Member by BCBSND after a claim for reimbursement has been processed. It includes the patient's name, claim number, type of service, Health Care Provider, date of service, charges submitted for the services, amounts covered by this Benefit Plan, noncovered services, Cost Sharing Amounts and the amount of the charges that are the Subscriber's responsibility. This form should be carefully reviewed and kept with other important records.

**FEDERALLY FACILITATED MARKETPLACE (FFM)** - a health insurance marketplace, operated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, through which North Dakota consumers and small businesses may purchase and enroll in health insurance coverage.

**FILLING** - a term used for the restoration of lost tooth structure by using materials such as metal, alloy, plastic or cement.

A. **Amalgam** - the alloy used in direct dental restorations.

B. **Composite** - a dental restorative material made up of disparate or separate parts.

**FLUORIDE** - a solution that is topically applied to the teeth for the purpose of preventing dental decay.

**GINGIVAL CURETTAGE** - a scraping or cleaning of the walls of a cavity or gingival pocket.

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - Institutional or Professional Health Care Providers providing Covered Services to Members as listed below. The Health Care Provider must be licensed, registered or certified by the appropriate state agency where the Covered Services are performed and provided in accordance with the Health Care Provider's scope of licensure as provided by law. Where there is no appropriate state agency, the Health Care Provider must be registered or certified by the appropriate professional body. A Health Care Provider includes but is not limited to:

- A. **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse** - Including a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwife or Nurse Practitioner.
- B. **Ambulance** - a specially designed or equipped vehicle used only for transporting the critically ill or injured to a health care facility. The ambulance service must meet state and local requirements for providing transportation for the sick or injured and must be operated by qualified personnel who are trained in the application of basic life support.
- C. **Ambulatory Surgical Facility** - a facility with an organized staff of Professional Health Care Providers that:
  - 1. has permanent facilities and equipment for the primary purpose of performing surgical procedures on an outpatient basis;
  - 2. provides treatment by or under the direct supervision of a Professional Health Care Provider;
  - 3. does not provide inpatient accommodations; and
  - 4. is not, other than incidentally, a facility used as an office or clinic for the private practice of a Professional Health Care Provider.
- D. **Audiologist**.
- E. **Certified Diabetes Educator (C.D.E.)**.
- F. **Certified Peer Support Specialist I**.
- G. **Certified Peer Support Specialist II**.
- H. **Chiropractor** - a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.).
- I. **Dentist** - a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.).
- J. **Home Health Agency** - an agency providing, under the direction of a Professional Health Care Provider, skilled nursing and related services to persons in their place of residence.
- K. **Home Infusion Therapy Provider**.
- L. **Home Medical Equipment Supplier**.
- M. **Hospice** - an organization that provides medical, social and psychological services in the home or inpatient facility as palliative treatment for patients with a terminal illness and life expectancy of less than 6 months.

- N. **Hospital** - an institution that is engaged in providing inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and therapeutic services for the diagnosis, treatment and care of sick and injured persons by or under the direct supervision of Professional Health Care Providers.
- O. **Independent Clinical Laboratory** - a medical laboratory providing Diagnostic Services that is approved for reimbursement by BCBSND and is not affiliated or associated with a Hospital or Professional Health Care Provider otherwise providing patient services.
- P. **Licensed Addiction Counselor.**
- Q. **Licensed Assisted Behavior Analyst.**
- R. **Licensed Behavior Analyst.**
- S. **Licensed Clinical Psychologist** - a licensed psychologist with a doctorate degree in psychology who is eligible for listing in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.
- T. **Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).**
- U. **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT).**
- V. **Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW).**
- W. **Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.**
- X. **Licensed Professional Counselor.**
- Y. **Licensed Registered Dietitian.**
- Z. **Long Term Acute Care Facility** - a facility that provides long-term acute hospital care for medically complex conditions or specialized treatment programs.
- AA. **Mobile Radiology Supplier.**
- BB. **Occupational Therapist.**
- CC. **Ophthalmologist.**
- DD. **Optician/Optical Supplier.**
- EE. **Optometrist** - a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.).
- FF. **Oral Pathologist** - a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) meeting all formal requirements for certification by the American Board of Oral Pathologists.
- GG. **Oral Surgeon** - a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) meeting all formal requirements for certification by the American Board of Oral Surgery.
- HH. **Pain Treatment Facility** - a facility that has satisfied the CARF accreditation requirements of a chronic pain management program.
- II. **Pharmacist.**
- JJ. **Pharmacy** - an establishment where the profession of pharmacy is practiced by a Pharmacist.
- KK. **Physical Therapist.**
- LL. **Physician** - a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) or a Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.).

MM. **Physician Assistant.**

NN. **Podiatrist** - a Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.), a Doctor of Surgical Chiropody (D.S.C.), a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) or a Doctor of Surgical Podiatry (D.S.P.).

OO. **Psychiatric Care Facility** - an institution or a distinct part of an institution providing diagnostic and therapeutic services for the inpatient treatment of mental illness under the direct supervision of a Professional Health Care Provider.

PP. **Rehabilitation Facility** - an institution or a distinct part of an institution providing Rehabilitative Therapy.

QQ. **Respiratory Therapist.**

RR. **Skilled Nursing Facility** - an institution or a distinct part of an institution providing skilled nursing and related services to persons on an inpatient basis under the direct supervision of a Professional Health Care Provider.

SS. **Sleep Lab.**

TT. **Speech Therapist.**

UU. **Substance Abuse Facility** - an institution or a distinct part of an institution providing diagnostic and therapeutic services for the Inpatient treatment of substance use disorder under the direct supervision of a professional Health Care Provider.

VV. **Transitional Care Unit** - a sub-acute unit of a Hospital that provides skilled services necessary for the transition between Hospital and home or to a lower level of care.

**HOME HEALTH CARE** - Skilled Nursing Services, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy provided under active Physician and nursing management through a central administrative unit coordinated by a registered nurse to a Member in the Member's place of residence.

**HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT** - items that can withstand repeated use and are primarily used to serve a medical purpose outside of a health care facility. Such items would not be of use to a person in the absence of illness, injury or disease.

**IDENTIFICATION CARD** - a card issued in the Subscriber's name identifying the Unique Member Identifier of the Member. If a Member is also enrolled in a primary Medicare Part D Plan, a card for this Benefit Plan may be issued in the Member's name.

**IMMEDIATE FAMILY** - a person who ordinarily resides in a Member's household or is related to the Member, including a Member's parent, sibling, child or spouse, whether the relationship is by blood or exists in law.

**INCLUDING** - means including, but not limited to.

**IN-NETWORK** - Participating BlueCard PPO Health Care Providers. Covered Services must be received from the Network to receive benefit payment at the higher level.

**INPATIENT** - a person confined as a registered patient in a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Substance Abuse Facility, Psychiatric Care Facility or other Institutional Health Care Provider.

**INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - an Ambulance, Home Health Agency, Home Medical Equipment Supplier, Hospital, Long Term Acute Care Facility, Mobile Radiology Supplier, Pain Treatment Facility, Pharmacy, Psychiatric Care Facility, Rehabilitation Facility, residential treatment center, Skilled Nursing Facility, Sleep Lab, Substance Abuse Facility or Transitional Care Unit.

**INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAM** - a structured, short-term multidisciplinary treatment for psychiatric illness and/or substance abuse provided by a Health Care Provider. The treatment is more intensive than Outpatient treatment but less intensive than Partial Hospitalization.

**LIFETIME MAXIMUM** - the maximum amount of benefits, including procedures, days, visits or dollars for certain Covered Services an eligible Member may receive during a lifetime while enrolled under a Benefit Plan administered by BCBSND. The benefit amounts received under all previous BCBSND Benefit Plans will be applied toward the Lifetime Maximum for such Covered Services under this Benefit Plan.

**MAINTENANCE CARE** - treatment provided to a Member whose condition/progress has ceased improvement or could reasonably be expected to be managed without the skills of a Health Care Provider. Exception: periodic reassessments are not considered Maintenance Care.

**MALOCCLUSION** - the improper alignment of biting and chewing surfaces of upper and lower teeth.

**MAXIMUM BENEFIT ALLOWANCE** - the maximum amount of benefits, including procedures, days, visits or dollars available under this Benefit Plan for a specified Covered Service.

**MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY** - services, supplies or treatments provided by a Health Care Provider to treat an illness or injury that satisfy all the following criteria as determined by BCBSND:

- A. The services, supplies or treatments are medically required and appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of the Member's illness or injury;
- B. The services, supplies or treatments are consistent with professionally recognized standards of health care; and
- C. The services, supplies or treatments do not involve costs that are excessive in comparison with alternative services that would be effective for diagnosis and treatment of the Member's illness or injury.

**MEDICAMENTS** - Includes oral antibiotics, oral sedatives and topical fluorides dispensed in the Dentist's office for home use. Prescription Medications or Drugs are not considered Medicaments.

**MEMBER** - the Subscriber and, if another Contract Type is in force, the Subscriber's Eligible Dependents.

**NETWORK** - all BlueCard PPO Health Care Providers.

**NONPARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - a Health Care Provider that does not have a participation agreement with a Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan. Nonparticipating Health Care Providers (including Psychiatric Care Facility, Substance Abuse Facility, Inpatient, Institutional Health Care Provider, Intensive Outpatient Program, Partial Hospitalization, or Residential Treatment) must meet the same programmatic, staffing and intensity of services treatment components as defined by BCBSND for participating providers, and payment for these services will be specific to that level of care.

**NONPAYABLE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - a Health Care Provider that is not reimbursable by BCBSND. No benefits will be available for Covered Services prescribed by, performed by or under the direct supervision of a Nonpayable Health Care Provider.

**OFFICE VISIT** - a professional service, including an examination for the purpose of diagnosing or treating an illness or injury or the determination, initiation or monitoring of a treatment plan provided in an outpatient setting by a Professional Health Care Provider.

**OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM** - a federally certified program using medication assisted treatment for treatment of opioid use disorder.

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY** - the dental surgical services that are limited to the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries, deformities, defects and aesthetic aspects of the oral and maxillofacial area.

**ORTHODONTIC** - the interception and treatment of Malocclusion of the teeth and their surrounding structures.

**ORTHOTIC DEVICES** - any rigid or semi-rigid supportive device that restricts or eliminates the motion of a weak or diseased body part.

**OUT-OF-NETWORK** - Health Care Providers who are not BlueCard PPO Health Care Providers. When Covered Services are received Out-of-Network benefit payment will be at the lower level.

**OUTPATIENT** - a person treated as a registered Outpatient at a Hospital, clinic or in a Professional Health Care Provider's office, who is not, at the time of treatment, a registered patient in a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Substance Abuse Facility, Psychiatric Care Facility or other Institutional Health Care Provider.

**PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION** - continuous structured multidisciplinary treatment of mental illness or substance abuse by a Health Care Provider, usually held during the daytime hours and generally providing 20 or more hours per week to treat multidimensional instability not requiring 24-hour care.

**PARTICIPATING BCBSND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - a Health Care Provider that has entered into an agreement with BCBSND to provide Covered Services to a Member for an agreed upon payment.

**PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - a Health Care Provider that has entered into a participation agreement with a Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan to provide Covered Services to a Member for an agreed upon payment.

**PARTICIPATING PHARMACY** - a Pharmacy, preferred mail order pharmacy or preferred specialty drug provider that has entered into an agreement with the BCBSND preferred pharmacy network, preferred mail order pharmacy network or preferred specialty pharmacy network.

**PEDIATRIC PARTICIPATING DENTIST** - a Dentist that has entered into an agreement with the BCBSND preferred dental network to provide pediatric dental services.

**PERIODONTIC** - the practice limited to the treatment of diseases of the supporting or surrounding tissues of the teeth.

**PERMANENT TEETH** - the natural teeth that replace the deciduous or primary teeth.

**PRECERTIFICATION** - the process of the Member or the Member's representative notifying BCBSND of the Member's intent to receive services requiring Precertification. The Member's Health Care Provider must provide the necessary information to establish the requested services are Medically Appropriate and Necessary in order to receive benefits for such services. Eligibility for benefits for services requiring Precertification is contingent upon compliance with the provisions of Section 3. Precertification does not guarantee payment of benefits.

**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION OR DRUG** - any legend drug, Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug, biologic or insulin that is lawfully dispensed according to federal laws upon receipt of a Prescription Order and is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of the disease or illness for which the Member is receiving care.

- A. **Brand Name** - the registered trademark name of a Prescription Medication or Drug by its manufacturer, labeler or distributor.
- B. **Formulary Drug** - a Brand Name or Generic Prescription Medication, Drug, or diabetes supply that is safe, therapeutically effective, high quality and cost effective as determined by a committee of Physicians and Pharmacists.
- C. **Generic** - the established name or official chemical name of the drug, drug product or medicine. A Prescription Medication or Drug at a Tier 1 level on the Formulary Drug list.
- D. **Nonformulary Drug** - a Prescription Medication, Drug, or diabetes supply that is not a Formulary Drug.



- E. **Nonpayable Drug** - a Prescription Medication or Drug that is not reimbursed by BCBSND or is included in Section 4, Exclusions.
- F. **Nonpreferred Drug** - a Generic (Tier 2), Brand Name (Tier 4) or Specialty (Tier 6) Prescription Medication, Drug or diabetes supply that is not a Preferred Drug on the Formulary Drug list.
- G. **Payable Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug** - a medication or drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for marketing without a Prescription Order and approved by BCBSND when dispensed by a Pharmacist upon the receipt of a Prescription Order.
- H. **Preferred Drug** - a Generic (Tier 1), Brand Name (Tier 3) or Specialty (Tier 5) Prescription Medication, Drug or diabetes supply that is a safe therapeutically effective, high quality and cost effective drug as determined by a committee of Physicians and Pharmacists on the Formulary Drug list.
- I. **Restricted Use Drug** - a Prescription Medication or Drug that may require Precertification and/or be subject to a limited dispensing amount or a Step Therapy requirement.
- J. **Specialty Drug** - an Outpatient Prescription Medication or Drug listed on the Formulary Drug list.
- K. **Step Therapy** - the process of trying another proven, cost-effective medication before coverage may be available for the drug included in the Step Therapy program. Many Brand Name drugs have a less-expensive Generic or Brand Name alternative that might be an option. There must be documented evidence that another eligible medication in the same or different drug class has been tried before the Step Therapy medication will be paid under the Outpatient Prescription Medication or Drug benefit.

**PRESCRIPTION ORDER** - the order for a Prescription Medication or Drug issued by a Professional Health Care Provider licensed to make such order in the ordinary course of professional practice.

**PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER** - an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Audiologist, Certified Diabetes Educator, Certified Peer Support Specialist I, Certified Peer Support Specialist II, Chiropractor, Dentist, Home Infusion Therapy Provider, Licensed Addiction Counselor, Licensed Assisted Behavior Analyst, Licensed Behavior Analyst, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Master Social Worker, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Registered Dietitian, Occupational Therapist, Ophthalmologist, Optician/Optical Supplier, Optometrist, Oral Pathologist, Oral Surgeon, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Physician, Physician Assistant, Podiatrist, Respiratory Therapist or Speech Therapist as defined.

**PROPHYLAXIS** - the scaling and polishing procedure performed to remove coronal plaque, calculus and stains.

**PROSTHETIC APPLIANCE OR LIMB** - a fixed or removable artificial body part that replaces an absent natural part.

**PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)** - individually identifiable health information, including summary and statistical information, collected from or on behalf of a Member that is transmitted by or maintained in electronic media, or transmitted or maintained in any other form or medium and that:

- A. is created by or received from a Health Care Provider, health care employer, or health care clearinghouse;
- B. relates to a Member's past, present or future physical or mental health or condition;
- C. relates to the provision of health care to a Member;
- D. relates to the past, present, or future payment for health care to or on behalf of a Member; or
- E. identifies a Member or could reasonably be used to identify a Member.

Educational records and employment records are not considered PHI under federal law.

**RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT** - 24-hour care under the clinical supervision of a Health Care Provider, in a residential treatment center other than an acute care hospital, for the active treatment of chemically dependent or mentally ill persons and to stabilize multidimensional imminent risk. Precertification is required.

**SKILLED NURSING SERVICES** - services that can be safely and effectively performed only by or under the direct supervision of licensed nursing personnel and under the direct supervision of a Professional Health Care Provider.

**SPECIAL CARE UNIT** - a section, ward or wing within a Hospital operated exclusively for critically ill patients and provides special supplies, equipment and constant observation and care by registered nurses or other highly trained personnel, excluding any section, ward or wing within a Hospital maintained for the purpose of providing normal postoperative recovery treatment services.

**SUBSCRIBER** - the individual whose application for membership has been accepted, whose coverage is in force with BCBSND and in whose name the Identification Card is issued.

**SURGICAL SERVICES** - the performance of generally accepted operative and cutting procedures by a Professional Health Care Provider.

**TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT** - services provided by a certified case manager to assist an individual with a serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance with access to medical, social, educational and other services for appropriate care and treatment.

**TELEHEALTH** - the use of interactive audio, video or other telecommunications technology by a Health Care Provider at a Distant Site to deliver health care services at an Originating Site over a secure connection that complies with state and federal requirements and any other requirements established by BCBSND. This includes the use of Store-and-Forward Technology. Telehealth does not include electronic mail, facsimile transmission or audio-only telephone except for the purpose of an E-visit or Virtual Check-in.

The following definitions apply to Telehealth:

**Distant Site** - a site at which a Health Care Provider or health care facility is located while providing medical services by means of Telehealth.

**E-visit** - a face-to-face digital communication initiated by a patient to a Health Care Provider through the Health Care Provider's online patient portal.

**Originating Site** - a site at which a patient is located at the time health services are provided to the patient by means of Telehealth.

**Store-and-Forward Technology** - the electronic information, imaging and communication that is transferred, recorded or otherwise stored in order to be reviewed at a Distant Site at a later date by a Health Care Provider or health care facility without the patient present in real time. The term includes telehome monitoring and interactive audio, video and data communication.

**Virtual Check-in** - a brief communication via telephone or other telecommunications device to decide whether an Office Visit or other service is needed.

**THERAPY SERVICES** - the following services when provided according to a prescribed plan of treatment ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider and used for the treatment of an illness or injury to promote recovery of the Member:

- A. **Chemotherapy** - the treatment of malignant disease by chemical or biological antineoplastic agents approved and administered in accordance with current literature and/or standard medical practice.
- B. **Dialysis Treatment** - the process of diffusing blood across a semipermeable membrane to remove toxic materials and to maintain fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance in cases of impaired kidney function or absence of the kidneys.
- C. **Habilitative Therapy** - Habilitative Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech Therapy is care provided for conditions which have limited the normal age appropriate motor, sensory or communication development. To be considered habilitative, therapy must help maintain or prevent deterioration of functional skills within a predictable period of time toward a Member's maximum potential.

Functional skills are defined as essential activities of daily life common to all Members such as dressing, feeding, swallowing, mobility, transfers, fine motor skills, age appropriate activities and communication. Problems such as hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities may warrant Habilitative Therapies.

- D. **Occupational Therapy** - the treatment of physical or psychological dysfunction by or under the direct supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist designed to improve and maximize independence in perceptual-motor skills, sensory integrative functioning, strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance, essential activities of daily life and preventing the progression of a physical or mental disability.
- E. **Physical Therapy** - the treatment of disease, injury or medical condition by the use of therapeutic exercise and other interventions by or under the direct supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist that focuses on improving posture, locomotion, strength, endurance, balance, coordination, joint mobility, flexibility, age appropriate motor skills, alleviating pain and preventing the progression of a physical or mental disability.
- F. **Radiation Therapy** - the treatment of disease by the flow of a radiation beam of therapeutically useful radiant energy, through a defined area; Including emission of X-rays, gamma rays, electrons or other radiations from a treatment machine.
- G. **Rehabilitative Therapy** - therapy designed to restore function following a surgery or medical procedure, injury or illness.
- H. **Respiratory Therapy** - the introduction of dry or moist gases into the lungs when performed by or under the direct supervision of a registered or certified Respiratory Therapist.
- I. **Speech Therapy** - the treatment of speech and language disorders that result in communication disabilities and swallowing disorders when provided by or under the direct supervision of a certified and licensed Speech Therapist. Speech Therapy services facilitate the development of human communications and swallowing through assessment, diagnosis and treatment when disorders occur due to disease, surgery, trauma, congenital anomaly or prior therapeutic process.

**TREATMENT PLAN** - a written report prepared by the Dentist that recommends the treatment of a dental disease, defect or injury for a Member.

**UNIQUE MEMBER IDENTIFIER** - a number assigned by BCBSND and listed on the Identification Card that identifies the Subscriber for administrative purposes.