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*State of Indiana - ASO - A&B - Vision*

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1/1/2013**

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Administered by Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.



*Administered by Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.*

# Your Vision Benefit Booklet



# Vision Benefit Booklet

## Blue View Vision<sup>SM</sup> Select

Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.  
120 Monument Circle  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Important: This is not an insured benefit plan. The benefits described in this Benefit Booklet or any rider or amendments hereto are funded by the Employer who is responsible for their payment. Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.**

## BENEFIT BOOKLET

Welcome to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield! This Benefit Booklet has been prepared by the Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, to help explain your vision care benefits. Please refer to this Benefit Booklet whenever you require vision services. It describes how to access vision care, what vision services are covered by the Plan, and what portion of the vision care costs you will be required to pay.

The coverage described in this Benefit Booklet is based upon the conditions of the Administrative Services Agreement issued to your Employer, and is based upon the benefit plan that your Employer chose for you. The Administrative Services Agreement, this Benefit Booklet and any endorsements, amendments or riders attached, form the Administrative Services Agreement under which Covered Services are available under your vision care benefits.

This Benefit Booklet should be read in its entirety. Since many of the provisions of this Benefit Booklet are interrelated, you should read the entire Benefit Booklet to get a full understanding of your coverage.

Many words used in the Benefit Booklet have special meanings. These words appear in capitals and are defined for you. Refer to these definitions in the Definitions section for the best understanding of what is being stated. The Benefit Booklet also contains exclusions.

**Read your Benefit Booklet Carefully.** The Benefit Booklet sets forth many of the rights and obligations between you and the Plan. Payment of benefits is subject to the provisions, limitations and exclusions of your Benefit Booklet. It is therefore important that you read your Benefit Booklet.

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# 1 SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

The Schedule of Benefits is a summary of the amount of benefits available when you receive Covered Services from a Provider. Please refer to the Covered Services section for a more complete explanation of the specific vision services covered by the Plan. All Covered Services are subject to the conditions, exclusions, limitations, terms and provisions of the Benefit Booklet including any attachments or riders.

**CHOICE OF VISION CARE PROVIDER:** Nothing contained in this Benefit Booklet restricts or interferes with your right to select the Vision Care Provider of your choice, but your benefits are reduced when you use a Non-Network Provider.

## DEPENDENT AGE LIMIT

To the dependent's 26th birthday. For additional Dependent Information such as Disabled Dependent eligibility, see the Eligibility and Enrollment section of this Benefit Booklet.

## COVERED SERVICES

## COPAYMENT/MAXIMUMS

### Exam with dilation as necessary

**Network**  
\$10 Copayment

**Non-Network**  
Reimbursed up to \$35

Limited to one exam per Member every 12 months.

### Prescription Lenses - Standard Plastic

Lenses or Contact Lenses Limited to one set of lenses every 12 months.

#### Standard Plastic Lenses (Pair)

• Single Vision Lenses	\$25 Copayment	Reimbursed up to \$25
• Bifocal Lenses	\$25 Copayment	Reimbursed up to \$40
• Trifocal Lenses	\$25 Copayment	Reimbursed up to \$55
• Standard Polycarbonate - (add-on the lens Copayment)	\$20 Copayment	Not Covered

**Lens Option** (paid by Member and added to the base price of the lens)

• Tint	\$15 Copayment	Not Covered
• UV Coating	\$15 Copayment	Not Covered
• Standard Scratch-Resistant	\$15 Copayment	Not Covered
• Standard Progressive - (add-on biofocal)	\$65 Copayment	Not Covered
• Standard Anti-Reflective	\$45 Copayment	Not Covered
• Other Add-Ons	20% off retail	Not Covered

**Frames** (Limited to one set of frames per Member every 24 months \*)

Up to \$110 Allowance

Reimbursed up to \$35



**Prescription Contact Lenses Fit and Follow-up** (A contact lens fitting and two follow-up visits are available to you once a comprehensive eye exam has been completed.)

• **Standard**

A standard contact lens fitting includes spherical clear contact lenses for conventional wear and planned replacement. Examples include but are not limited to disposable and frequent replacement.

\$40 Copayment

Reimbursed up to \$35

• **Premium**

A premium contact lens fitting includes all lens designs, material and specialty fittings other than standard contact lenses. Examples include but are not limited to toric and multifocal.

10% off retail

Reimbursed up to \$35

**Contact Lenses** (allowance covers materials only):

• **Conventional Elective**

\$0 Copayment; \$105 allowance. 15% off balance over \$105

Reimbursed up to \$95

• **Disposable Elective**

\$0 Copayment; \$105 allowance

Reimbursed up to \$95

• **Non-elective**

\$0 Copayment; Paid in Full

Reimbursed up to \$165

**Low Vision Benefits**

(subject to prior approval)

\$0 Copayment

\$0 Copayment

\$1,000 Lifetime Maximum

\$1,000 Lifetime Maximum

**2 DEFINITIONS**

This section defines terms that have special meanings. If a word or phrase has a special meaning or is a title, it will be capitalized. The word or phrase is defined in this section or at the place in the text where it is used.

**Actively at Work** - Present and capable of carrying out the normal assigned job duties of the Employer. Subscribers who are absent from work due to a health related disability, maternity leave or regularly scheduled vacation will be considered

Actively At Work.

**Additional Savings Program** – A discount program associated with Network Providers. It can be used for certain non-covered services and plan overages. The discount plan is subject to change at any time.

**Administrative Services Agreement** - The agreement between the Administrator and the Employer regarding the administration of certain elements of the vision care benefits of the

Employer's group vision plan.

**Administrator** - An organization or entity that the Employer contracts with to provide administrative and claims payment services under this Plan. The Administrator is Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. **The Administrator provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.**

**Benefit Booklet** - This summary of the terms of your vision benefits.

**Copayment** - A specific dollar amount indicated in the Schedule of Benefits for which you are responsible.

**Covered Services** - Services and supplies or treatment as described in the Benefit Booklet which are performed, prescribed, directed or authorized by a Provider. To be a Covered Service the service, supply or treatment must be:

- Within the scope of the license of the Provider performing the service;
- Rendered while coverage under this Plan is in force;
- Within the Maximum Allowable Amount;
- Not specifically excluded or limited by the Plan;
- Specifically included as a benefit within the Benefit Booklet.

A Covered Service is incurred on the date the service, supply or treatment was provided to you.

**Dependent** - A Subscriber's spouse and unmarried dependent children who have met the Plan's eligibility requirements and have not reached the age limit shown in the Schedule of Benefits. See the Eligibility and Enrollment section.

**Effective Date** - The date when your coverage begins under this Plan. A Dependent's coverage begins on the Effective Date of the sponsoring Subscriber.

**Elective Contact Lenses** - All prescription contact lenses that are cosmetic in nature or Non-Elective Contact Lenses.

**Eligible Person** - A person who satisfies the Employer's eligibility requirements and is entitled to apply to be a Subscriber. See the Eligibility and Enrollment section.

**Employer** - The legal entity contracting with the Administrator for administration of group vision care benefits.

**Enrollment Date** - The first day of coverage or, if there is a waiting period, the first day of the waiting period (typically the date employment begins).

**Family Coverage** - Coverage for the Subscriber and eligible Dependents.

**Fees** - The periodic charges which are required to be paid by you and/or the Employer to maintain benefits under the Plan.

**Identification Card** - A card issued by the Plan that bears the Member's name, identifies the membership by number, and may contain information about your coverage. It is important to carry this card with you.

**Lenses** - Materials prescribed for the visual welfare of the patient. Materials would include single vision, bifocal, trifocal or other more complex lenses.

**Low Vision** - Any severe visual problem that is not substantially correctable with regular lenses, including single lenses, bifocal lenses, and trifocal lenses.

**Maximum Allowable Amount** - The maximum amount allowed for Covered Services you receive based on the fee schedule. The Maximum Allowable Amount is subject to any Copayments, Coinsurance, limitations or Exclusions listed in this Benefit Booklet.

For a Network Provider, the Maximum Allowable Amount is equal to the amount that constitutes payment in full under the Network Provider's participation agreement for this product. If a Network Provider accepts as full payment an amount less than the negotiated rate under the participation agreement, the lesser amount will be the Maximum Allowable Amount.

For a Non-Network Provider who is a physician or other non-facility Provider, even if the Provider has a participation agreement with the Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, for

another product, the Maximum Allowable Amount is the lesser of the actual charge or the standard rate under the participation agreement used with Network Providers for this Product.

The Maximum Allowable Amount is reduced by any penalties for which a Provider is responsible as a result of its agreement with the Administrator.

**Member** - A Subscriber or Dependent who has satisfied the eligibility conditions; applied for coverage; been approved by the Plan; and for whom Fee payment has been made. Members are sometimes called “you” and “your.”

**Non-Elective Contact Lenses** - Contact lenses which are provided for reasons that are not cosmetic in nature. Non-Elective Contact Lenses are Covered Services when the following conditions have been identified or diagnosed:

- Extreme visual acuity or other functional problems that cannot be corrected by spectacle lenses; or
- Keratoconus-unusual cone-shaped thinning of the cornea of the eye which usually occurs before the age of 20 years; or

- High Ametropia-unusually high levels of near sightedness, far sightedness, or astigmatism are identified; or
- Anisometropia-when one eye requires a much different prescription than the other eye.

**Open Enrollment** – A period of enrollment designated by the Plan in which Eligible Persons or their Dependents can enroll without penalty after the initial enrollment; see the "Eligibility and Enrollment" section for more information.

**Plan** – The group vision benefit plan provided by the Employer and explained in this Benefit Booklet.

**Provider** - A duly licensed person or facility that provides services within the scope of an applicable license and is a person or facility that the Plan approves. This includes any Provider rendering services that are required by applicable state law to be covered when rendered by such Provider.

**Subscriber** - An employee or Member of the Employer who is eligible to receive benefits under the Plan.

### 3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

You have coverage provided under the Plan because of your employment with/membership with/retirement from the Employer. You must satisfy certain requirements to participate in the Employer’s benefit plan. These requirements may include probationary or waiting periods and Actively At Work standards as determined by the Employer or state and/or federal law and approved by the Administrator, on behalf of the Employer.

**Your Eligibility requirements are described in general terms below. For more specific eligibility information, see your Human Resources or Benefits Department.**

#### Eligibility

1. All active full-time (37.5 hours per week) employees and their eligible “dependents”.
2. All appointed or elected officials and their eligible “dependents”.
3. Employees eligible under the Short and Long Term Disability Program remain eligible during the period of disability.
4. "Dependent" means:
  - a. Spouse of an employee;
  - b. Any children, step-children, foster children, legally adopted children of the employee or Spouse, or children for whom the employee or Spouse has been

appointed legal guardian or awarded legal custody by a court, under the age of 26, or who the Group has determined are covered under a "Qualified Medical Child Support Order" as defined by ERISA or any applicable state law. Such child shall remain a "dependent" until the child's twenty-sixth (26th) birthday.

- c. In the event a child who is a "dependent" as defined herein, is both:
1. incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical disability, and
  2. is chiefly dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance;

prior to age 19, such child's coverage shall continue if satisfactory evidence of such disability and dependency is received within 120 days after the maximum age is attained. Coverage for the "dependent" will continue until the employee discontinues his coverage or the disability no longer exists. A Dependent child of the employee who attained age 19 while covered under another Health Care policy and met the disability criteria specified above, is an eligible dependent for enrollment so long as no break in Coverage longer than sixty-three (63) days has occurred immediately prior to enrollment. Proof of disability and prior coverage will be required. The plan requires annual documentation from a physician after the child's attainment of the limiting age.

5. A group health coverage program that is equal to that offered active employees shall be provided by the State for each "Retired Legislator" who meets the following:
  - a. Is no longer a member of the General Assembly;
  - b. Who served as a legislator for at least 10 years.  
A retired legislator who is eligible for insurance coverage under this section

may elect to have the legislator's Spouse covered under the health insurance program. In addition, the surviving Spouse of a legislator who has died may elect to participate in the group health insurance program if all of the following apply:

1. The deceased legislator would have been eligible to participate in the group health insurance program under this section had the legislator retired on the date of the legislator's death;
2. The surviving Spouse files a written request for insurance coverage with the employer;
3. The surviving Spouse pays an amount equal to the employer's and employee's premium for the group health coverage for an active employee.

The eligibility of the retired legislator's Spouse, or a surviving Spouse of a legislator for group health coverage is not affected by the death of the retired legislator and is not affected by the retired legislator's eligibility for Medicare. The Spouse's eligibility ends on the earliest of the following:

- a. When the employer terminates the health coverage program;
- b. The date of the Spouse's remarriage;  
"Dependent" for a "Retired Legislator" means an unmarried person who:
  1. Is a child, stepchild, foster child, or adopted child of a former legislator or Spouse of a former legislator or a child who resides in the home of a former legislator or Spouse of a former legislator who has been appointed legal guardian for the child; and
  2. Is less than twenty-six (26) years of age; at least twenty-six (26)

years of age, incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical disability, and is chiefly dependent on a former legislator or Spouse of a former legislator for support and maintenance.

6. "Retirees" meeting the following criteria will continue to be eligible until they become eligible for Medicare:
  - a. Must retire before January 1, 2007
  - b. Must have reached age fifty-five (55) upon retirement but who is not eligible for Medicare;
  - c. Must have completed twenty (20) years of public service, ten (10) years of which must be continuous State service immediately preceding retirement;
  - d. Must have fifteen (15) years of participation in a retirement fund.
7. "Retirees" meeting the following criteria will continue to be eligible until they become eligible for Medicare:
  - a. Must retire after December 31, 2006.
  - b. Must have reached age fifty-five (55) upon retirement but who is not eligible for Medicare;
  - c. Must have completed fifteen (15) years of public service, ten (10) years of which must be continuous State service immediately preceding retirement.
8. "Retirees" meeting the following criteria will continue to be eligible until they become eligible for Medicare:
  - a. Must have been employed as a teacher in a State institution under IC 11-10-5, IC 12-24-3, IC 16-33-3, or IC 16-33-4;
  - b. Must have reached age fifty-five (55) upon retirement but who is not eligible for Medicare;
  - c. Must have fifteen (15) years of service credit as a participant in the retirement
9. A group health coverage program that is equal to that offered active employees shall be provided by the State for each "Retired Judge" who meets the following:
  - a. Retirement date is after June 30, 1990;
  - b. Will have reached the age of sixty-two (62) on or before retirement date;
  - c. Is not eligible for Medicare coverage as prescribed by 42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.;
  - d. Who has at least eight (8) years of service credit as a participant in the Judge's retirement fund, with at least eight (8) years of service credit completed immediately preceding the Judge's retirement.
10. A group health coverage program that is equal to that offered active employees shall be provided by the State for each "Retired Prosecuting Attorney" who meets the following:
  - a. Who is a retired participant under the Prosecuting Attorney's Retirement fund;
  - b. Whose retirement date is after January 1, 1990;
  - c. Who is at least sixty-two (62) years of age;
  - d. Who is not eligible for Medicare coverage as prescribed by 42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.; and
  - e. Who has at least ten (10) years of service credit as a participant in the Prosecuting Attorneys retirement fund, with at least ten (10) years of service credit completed immediately preceding the participant's retirement.

11. Retirees eligible under subsections 6 - 10 must file a written request for the coverage within ninety (90) days after retirement. The Spouse's subsequent eligibility to continue insurance under the surviving Spouse's eligibility end on the earliest of the following:
  - a. Twenty-four (24) months from the date the deceased Retirees coverage is terminated. At the end of the period the Spouse would be eligible to remain covered until the end of the maximum period under COBRA;
  - b. When the Spouse becomes eligible for Medicare coverage as prescribed by 42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.
  - c. The end of the month following remarriage; or
  - d. As otherwise provided in I.C. 5-10-8-8(g).
12. Employee on a leave of absence for ninety (90) days or less and out of pay status
13. An employee on family medical leave
14. Retirees eligible under IC 5-10-12.
15. A former legislator, dependent, or Spouse as defined and pursuant to the conditions set forth in IC 5-10-8-8.2.
16. All active and retired full-time and part-time employees, elected or appointed officers and officials of a local unit of government that elect to provide health coverage under this plan. A local unit of government is defined as follows:
  - a. A city, town, county, township, public library, or school corporation
  - b. Any board, commission, department, division, authority, institution, establishment, facility, or governmental unit under the supervision of either the state or a city, town, county, township, public library, or school corporation, having a payroll in relation to persons it immediately employs, even if it is not a separate taxing unit.

17. As otherwise provided by Act of the Indiana General Assembly.

### **Effective Date Of Your Coverage**

**“For specific information concerning your Effective Date of coverage under this Plan, you should see your Human Resources or benefits department.”**

Coverage for a newborn child is effective from the moment of birth. Covered Services include the treatment of any injury or illness such as congenital deformity, hereditary complication, premature birth, and routine nursery care. Newborn must be formally added to Employee's policy through "family status" change process. See NEWBORN INFANT COVERAGE.

### **Newborn Infant Coverage**

The benefits payable for covered Dependent children shall be paid for a sick or injured newborn infant of a Covered Person for the first 30 days of his or her life. The coverage for newly adopted children will be the same as for other covered Dependents. The coverage for the newborn infant or newly adopted child consists of coverage of injury or sickness, including the necessary care and treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects and birth abnormalities. Coverage for the newborn infant or newly adopted child shall include, but not be limited to, benefits for Inpatient or Outpatient expenses arising from medical and dental treatment (including orthodontic and oral surgery treatment) involved in the management of birth defects known as cleft lip and cleft palate.

The coverage required for a newly adopted child:

1. Is effective upon the earlier of:
  - a) The date of placement for the purpose of adoption; or
  - b) The date of the entry of an order granting the adoptive parent custody of the child for purpose of adoption;

2. Continues unless the placement is disrupted prior to legal adoption and the child is removed from placement; or
3. Continues unless required action as described below is not taken.

**To be covered beyond the first 30 days, the newborn or newly adopted child must be added to the Covered Person's Plan Enrollment within the first 30 days after birth or adoption.**

If the Enrollee must change to coverage with a higher fee to add the child, the Enrollee will be liable for the higher fee for the entire period of the child's coverage, including the first 30 days.

### Federal Laws Related To Your Coverage

In the past few years, Congress has passed several laws that have affected our group health plans. These laws are designed to reduce Medicare expenditures by requiring that active employees and/or their Dependents who are either age 65 or over, or disabled to elect either:

- a) our group health Plan, or
- b) Medicare as their primary coverage.

The preference is option (a) since option (b) would require the discontinuance of the group medical Plan. In addition, Medicare no longer requires enrollment in the Part B Supplemental

Medical Insurance Benefit for which there is a charge so long as you remain covered under our group medical Plan.

### Special Enrollment/Special Enrollees

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your Dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your Dependents in this Plan, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after your other coverage ends. In addition, if you have a new Dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your Dependents in the Plan, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Eligible Employees and Dependents may also enroll under two additional circumstances:

- the Employee's or Dependent's Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- the Employee or Dependent becomes eligible for a subsidy (state premium assistance program) under Medicaid or CHIP.

The Employee or Dependent must request Special Enrollment within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid/CHIP or of the eligibility determination.

## 4 TERMINATION AND CONTINUATION

### Individual Termination

Your coverage will terminate on the earliest of the following dates:

- On the date the group Plan is terminated.
- On the last day of the period for which Fees have been paid, if the State of Indiana fails to pay the required Fees for you, except
  - when resulting from clerical mistake or inadvertent error.
- On the last day of the period for which Fees have been paid in which you leave or are dismissed from employment.
- On the date your Dependent(s) cease(s) to be a covered Dependent.
- Upon the date of your death, coverage for

your Dependents shall terminate at the end of the period for which Fees have been paid.

## Certification of Prior Creditable Coverage

If your coverage is terminated, you and your covered Dependents will receive a certification showing when you were covered under the Plan. You may need the document to qualify for another group health Plan. You may also need the certification to buy, for yourself or your family, an individual policy that does not exclude coverage for medical conditions that were present before your enrollment. Certifications may be requested within 24 months of losing coverage.

You may also request a certification be provided to you at any other time, even if you have not lost coverage under this Plan. If you have any questions, contact the customer service telephone number listed on the back of your Identification Card.

## Continuation

### Federal Continuation of Coverage (COBRA)

The following applies if you are covered under an Employer which is subject to the requirements of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1985, as amended.

COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you when you would otherwise lose coverage under your Employer's vision plan. It can also become available to other Members of your family, who are covered under the Employer's vision plan, when they would otherwise lose their vision coverage. For additional information about your rights and obligations under federal law under the coverage provided by the Employer's vision plan, you should contact the Employer.

### COBRA Continuation Coverage

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of vision coverage under the Employer's vision plan when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed below. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your Dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Employer's vision plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Employer's vision plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage may or may not be required to pay for COBRA continuation coverage. Contact the Employer for Fee payment requirements.

If you are a Subscriber, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Employer's vision plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of a Subscriber, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Employer's vision plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your Dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Employer's vision plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:



- The parent-Subscriber dies;
- The parent-Subscriber's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-Subscriber's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-Subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Employer's vision plan as a "Dependent child."

### **If Your Employer Offers Retirement Coverage**

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the Employer, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired Subscriber covered under the Employer's vision plan, the retired Subscriber will become a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired Subscriber's spouse, surviving spouse, and Dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under Employer's vision plan.

### **When is COBRA Coverage Available**

COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to qualified beneficiaries only after the Employer has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the Subscriber, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the Employer, or the Subscriber's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), then you must notify the Employer of the qualifying event.

### **You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events**

For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the Subscriber and spouse or a Dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a Dependent child), you must notify the Employer within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs.

### **How is COBRA Coverage Provided**

Once the Employer receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered Subscribers may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

### **How Long Will Continuation Coverage Last?**

In the case of a loss of coverage due to end of employment or reduction in hours of employment, coverage may be continued only for up to a total of 18 months. In the case of losses of coverage due to the Subscriber's death, divorce or legal separation, the Subscriber's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits or a Dependent child ceasing to be a Dependent under the terms of the Employer's health plan, coverage may be continued for up to a total of 36 months. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the Subscriber's hours of employment, and the Subscriber became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the Subscriber lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement.

### **How Can You Extend The Length of COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

If you elect continuation coverage, an extension of the maximum period of coverage may be available if a qualified beneficiary is disabled or a

second qualifying event occurs. You must notify the Employer of a disability or a second qualifying event in order to extend the period of continuation coverage. Failure to provide notice of a disability or second qualifying event may affect the right to extend the period of continuation coverage.

- **Disability**

An 11-month extension of coverage may be available if any of the qualified beneficiaries is determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to be disabled. You must provide the SSA determination of your disability to the Employer within 60 days of receipt. The disability has to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage. Each qualified beneficiary who has elected continuation coverage will be entitled to the 11-month disability extension if one of them qualifies. If the qualified beneficiary is determined by SSA to no longer be disabled, you must notify the Employer of that fact within 30 days after SSA's determination.

- **Second Qualifying Event**

An 18-month extension of coverage will be available to spouses and Dependent children who elect continuation coverage if a second qualifying event occurs during the first 18 months of continuation coverage. The maximum amount of continuation coverage available when a second qualifying event occurs is 36 months. Such second qualifying events may include the death of a covered Subscriber, divorce or separation from the covered Subscriber, the covered Subscriber's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), or a Dependent child's ceasing to be eligible for coverage as a Dependent under the Employer's health plan. These events can be a second qualifying event only if they would have caused the qualified beneficiary to lose coverage under the Plan if the first qualifying event had not occurred. You must notify the Employer within 60 days after a second qualifying event occurs if you want to extend your continuation coverage.

### **Trade Act of 1974**

Special COBRA rights apply to Subscribers who have been terminated or experienced a reduction of hours and who qualify for a "trade readjustment allowance" or "alternative trade adjustment assistance" under a federal law called the Trade Act of 1974. These Subscribers are entitled to a second opportunity to elect COBRA coverage for themselves and certain family members (if they did not already elect COBRA coverage), but only within a limited period of sixty (60) days (or less) and only during the six (6) months immediately after their Employer health plan coverage ended.

If you, the Subscriber, qualify for assistance under the Trade Act of 1974, you should contact the Employer for additional information. You must contact the Employer promptly after qualifying for assistance under the Trade Act of 1974 or you will lose these special COBRA rights.

### **Fees and the End of COBRA Coverage**

Fees will be no more than 102% of the Employer rate (unless your coverage continues beyond 18 months because of a disability. In that case, Fees in the 19th through 29th months may be 150% of the Employer rate).

Continuation coverage will be terminated before the end of the maximum period if:

- any required Fee is not paid in full on time,
- a qualified beneficiary becomes covered, after electing continuation coverage, under another Employer health plan that does not impose any pre-existing condition Exclusion for a pre-existing condition of the qualified beneficiary,
- a qualified beneficiary becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both) after electing continuation coverage, or
- the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan for its employees.

Continuation coverage may also be terminated for any reason the Employer would terminate coverage of a participant or beneficiary not receiving continuation coverage (such as fraud).

### **If You Have Questions**

Questions concerning your Employer's health plan and your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the Employer. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.)

### **Continuation of Coverage Due To Military Service**

In the event you are no longer Actively At Work due to military service in the Armed Forces of the United States, you may elect to continue vision coverage for yourself and your Dependents (if any) under the Plan in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, as amended.

"Military service" means performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis, and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, and full-time National Guard duty.

You may elect to continue to cover yourself and your eligible Dependents (if any) under the Plan by notifying your employer in advance and payment of any required contribution for vision coverage. This may include the amount the Employer normally pays on your behalf. If Your military service is for a period of time less than 31 days, You may not be required to pay more than the active Member contribution, if any, for continuation of vision coverage.

If continuation is elected under this provision, the maximum period of vision coverage under the Plan shall be the lesser of:

1. The 18-month period (24 months if continuation is elected on or after 12/10/2004) beginning on the first date of your absence from work; or
2. The day after the date on which You fail to apply for or return to a position of employment.

Regardless whether you continue your vision coverage, if you return to your position of employment your vision coverage and that of your eligible Dependents (if any) will be reinstated under the Plan. No exclusions or waiting period may be imposed on you or your eligible Dependents in connection with this reinstatement unless a sickness or injury is determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in, or aggravated during, the performance of military service.

### **Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993**

A Subscriber who is taking a period of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (the Act) will retain eligibility for coverage during this period. The Subscriber and his or her Dependents shall not be considered ineligible due to the Subscriber not being Actively At Work.

If the Subscriber does not retain coverage during the leave period, the Subscriber and any eligible Dependents who were covered immediately prior to the leave may be reinstated upon return to work without medical underwriting and without imposition of an additional waiting period. To obtain coverage for a Subscriber upon return from leave under the Act, the Employer must provide the Administrator with evidence satisfactory to the Employer of the applicability of the Act to the Subscriber, including a copy of the health care Provider statement allowed by the Act.

## 5 HOW TO OBTAIN COVERED SERVICES

### Network Services and Benefits

If a Network Provider renders your care, benefits will be provided at the Network level. Refer to the Schedule of Benefits. No benefits will be provided for care that is not a Covered Service even if performed by a Network Provider.

The Administrator may inform you that a service you received is not a Covered Service under the Plan. You may appeal this decision. See the Complaint and Appeals Procedures section of this Benefit Booklet.

**Network Providers** are Professional Providers and other facility Providers who contract with the Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, to perform services for you. You will not be required to file any claims for services you obtain directly from Network Providers.

### Non-Network Services and Benefits

Services that are not obtained from a Network Provider will be considered a Non-Network Service. In addition, certain services may not be covered unless obtained from a Network Provider, and/or may result in higher cost-share amounts. See your Schedule of Benefits. You will be required to file claims for services that you obtain directly from a Non-Network Provider.

### Relationship of Parties (Plan - Network Providers)

The relationship between the Plan and Network Providers is an independent contractor relationship. Network Providers are not agents or employees of the Plan, nor is the Plan, or any employee of the Plan, an employee or agent of Network Providers.

The Plan shall not be responsible for any claim or demand on account of damages arising out of, or in any manner connected with, any injuries suffered by a Member while receiving care from any Provider or in any Provider's facilities.

Your Network Provider's agreement for providing Covered Services may include financial incentives or risk sharing relationships related to provision of services or referrals to other Providers, including Network and Non-Network Providers. If you have questions regarding such incentives or risk sharing relationships, please contact your Provider or the Administrator.

### Not Liable for Provider Acts or Omissions

The Plan is not responsible for the actual care you receive from any person. This Benefit Booklet does not give anyone any claim, right, or cause of action against the Plan based on what a Provider of vision care, services or supplies, does or does not do.

## 6 COVERED SERVICES

This section describes the Covered Services available under your vision care benefits when provided and billed by eligible Providers. All Covered Services are subject to the exclusions listed in the Exclusions section and all other conditions and limitations of the Benefit Booklet. The amount payable for Covered Services varies

depending on whether you receive your care from a Network Provider or a Non-Network Provider and whether or not you choose optional services and/or custom materials rather than standard services and supplies. Payment amounts are specified in the Schedule of Benefits.

The following are Covered Services:

- Vision examinations
- Standard Eyeglass Lenses
- Frames
- Contact Lenses
- Low vision benefits

Services and materials obtained through a Non-Network Provider are subject to the same Exclusions and limitations as services through a Network Provider.

### **Vision Eye Examination**

The Plan covers up to a comprehensive eye examination including dilation as needed minus any applicable Copayment. The eye examination may include the following:

- Case history
- Recording corrected and uncorrected visual acuity
- Internal exam
- External exam
- Pupillary reflexes
- Binocular vision
- Objective refraction
- Subjective refraction
- Glaucoma test
- Slit lamp exam (Biomicroscopy)
- Dilation
- Color vision
- Depth perception
- Diagnosis and treatment plan.

### **Eyeglass Lenses**

Eyeglass lenses are available in standard or basic plastic (CR39) lenses including single vision, bifocal and trifocal. If you choose progressive lenses that are no line bifocals, there will be an additional cost. All eyeglass lenses are subject to the applicable Copayment listed in the Schedule of Benefits. There will also be an additional cost for any add-ons to the lenses such as scratch-resistant coating or ultra-violet coating. These and any other lens add-ons may be discounted according to the Plan's Additional Savings Program.

### **Frames**

The frame allowance is based upon the retail cost. The Member may apply the plan allowance toward the selection of frames. The Schedule of Benefits list the frame allowance available under your plan. If you choose a frame that is valued at more than the Maximum Allowable Amount you are responsible for the balance based upon the Additional Savings Program.

### **Elective Contact Lenses**

The contact lens allowance must be completely used at the time of initial service. No amount of the allowance may be carried forward to use during another service date. The Schedule of Benefits list the contact lens allowance available under this Plan.

### **Non-Elective Contact Lenses**

This benefit is available for a limited number of diagnoses and is in lieu of the standard contact lens or lenses & frame benefit.

## Eligibility

Conditions that provide eligibility for consideration of this Non-Elective Contact Lens benefit include:

- Keratoconus where the patient is not correctable to 20/40 in either or both eyes using standard spectacle lenses.
- High Ametropia exceeding -12 D or +9 D in spherical equivalent.
- Anisometropia of 3 D or more.
- Patients whose vision can be corrected three (3) lines of improvement on the visual acuity chart when compared to best corrected standard spectacle lenses.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The Plan will not reimburse for Non-Elective Contact Lenses for any Member who has undergone prior elective corneal surgery, such as radial keratotomy (RK), photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), or LASIK.

## Low Vision Services

The Plan's Low Vision benefits includes low vision exams with supplemental testing and low vision optical or non-optical aids for severely visually impaired Members when using a Network Provider, and are in lieu of standard exam and materials benefits. These Members may be represented by children whose visual impairment includes the inability to read standard-sized printed material, chalkboards or computers. They may also be adults who are concerned with employment, maintaining an independent lifestyle or social interaction.

### Eligibility for Low Vision Services

Members may be considered for Low Vision benefits through a Network Provider when the following eligible conditions are present:

- The best corrected acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye, or

- There can be demonstrated a constriction of the peripheral fields in the better eye to 10 degrees or less from the fixation point or the widest diameter subtends an angle less than 20 degrees in the better eye.

## Low Vision Benefits

Benefits for Covered Services are subject to any Copayment/Coinsurance and maximums listed in the Schedule of Benefits. Covered Services for Low Vision include:

- Comprehensive low vision exam
- Optical/Non-optical aids
- Supplemental testing
- Any supplemental testing is considered part of the Optical/Non-optical aids total maximum allowance.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Supplemental testing includes, but is not limited to: Automated Visual Fields, Contrast Sensitivity testing, Glare testing, Color Vision testing, Visually Evoked Potential (VEP) testing, Electroretinogram (ERG) testing, and Electro-oculogram (EOG) testing.

## Cosmetic Options

Benefits are available for the services below in accordance with the Additional Savings Program. The Member will be responsible for the following items at a discounted rate when provided by a Network Provider:

- Blended lenses
- Contact lenses (except as noted herein)
- Oversize lenses
- Progressive multifocal lenses
- Photochromatic lenses, or tinted lenses
- Coated lenses
- Frames that exceed the Maximum Allowable Amount

- Cosmetic Spectacle Lenses
- Ultra-violet coating
- Scratch resistant coating
- Anti-reflective coating
- Optional cosmetic items

## **7** EXCLUSIONS

The following section indicates items that are excluded from benefit consideration, and are not considered Covered Services. This information is provided as an aid to identify certain common items that may be misconstrued as Covered Services, but is in no way a limitation upon, or a complete listing of, such items considered not to be Covered Services.

The Plan does not provide vision benefits for services, supplies or charges:

1. Received from an individual or entity that is not a Provider, as defined in this Benefit Booklet.
2. For any condition, disease, defect, ailment, or injury arising out of and in the course of employment if benefits are available under any Worker's Compensation Act or other similar law. This exclusion applies if you receive the benefits in whole or in part. This exclusion also applies whether or not you claim the benefits or compensation. It also applies whether or not you recover from any third party.
3. To the extent that they are provided as benefits by any governmental unit, unless otherwise required by law or regulation.
4. For illness or injury that occurs as a result of any act of war, declared or undeclared.
5. For a condition resulting from direct participation in a riot, civil disobedience, nuclear explosion, or nuclear accident.
6. For which you have no legal obligation to pay in the absence of this or like coverage.
7. Received from an optical or medical department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, mutual benefit association, labor union, trust or similar person or group.
8. Prescribed, ordered, referred by, or received from a member of your immediate family, including your spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, in-law, or self.
9. For completion of claim forms or charges for medical records or reports unless otherwise required by law.
10. For missed or canceled appointments.
11. In excess of Maximum Allowable Amount.
12. Incurred prior to your Effective Date.
13. Incurred after the termination date of this coverage except as specified elsewhere in this Benefit Booklet.
14. For services or supplies primarily for educational, vocational, or training purposes, except as otherwise specified herein.
15. For sunglasses and accompanying frames.
16. For safety glasses and accompanying frames.
17. For inpatient or outpatient hospital vision care.
18. For Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
19. For non-prescription lenses.
20. For two pairs of glasses in lieu of bifocals.
21. For Plano lenses (lenses that have no refractive power).
22. For medical or surgical treatment of the eyes.

23. Lost or broken lenses or frames, unless the Member has reached his or her normal interval for service when seeking replacements.
24. For services or supplies not specifically listed in the Benefit Booklet.
25. Certain brands on which the manufacturer imposes a no discount policy.
26. For services or supplies combined with any other offer, coupon or in-store advertisement.

## 8 CLAIMS PAYMENT

### Obtaining Services/Claim Payment

For services received from a Non-Network Provider, you are responsible for making sure a claim is filed in order to receive benefits. If you elect to obtain services from a Non-Network Provider you must pay the entire bill at the time the services are rendered. To request reimbursement for Covered Services the Administrator will need the following information:

- The name, address and phone number of the Non-Network Provider along with an itemized statement of charges
- The covered Member's name and address, group number, Social Security number or Member identification number
- The patient's name, birthdate and relationship to the Member

The Member should keep a copy of the information and send the originals to the following address:

Blue View Vision Select Claims  
Administration  
Attn: OON Claims  
PO BOX 8504  
Mason, OH 45040-7111

### Notice of Claim

The Plan is not liable, unless the Administrator receives written notice that Covered Services have

been given to you. An expense is considered incurred on the date the service or supply was given.

The notice must be given to the Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, within 90 days of receiving the Covered Services, and must have the data the Administrator needs to determine benefits. Failure to give the Administrator notice within 90 days will not reduce any benefit if you show that the notice was given as soon as reasonably possible. No notice can be submitted later than one year after the usual 90 day filing period ends. If the notice submitted does not include sufficient data the Administrator needs to process the claim, then the necessary data must be submitted to the Administrator within the time frames specified in this provision or no benefits will be payable except as otherwise required by law.

### Claim Forms

Many Providers will file for you. If the forms are not available, either send a written request for claim forms to the Administrator or contact customer service and ask for claim forms to be sent to you. The form will be sent to you within 15 days. If you do not receive the forms, written notice of services rendered may be submitted to the Administrator without the claim form. The same information that would be given on the claim form must be included in the written notice of claim. This includes:

- Name of patient
- Patient's relationship with the Subscriber



- Identification number
- Date, type and place of service
- Your signature and the Physician's signature

## Proof of Claim

Written proof of claim satisfactory to the Administrator must be submitted to the Administrator within 90 days after the date of the event for which claim is made. If proof of claim is not sent within the time required, the claim will not be reduced or denied if it was not possible to do send proof within this time. However, the proof must be sent as soon as reasonably possible. In any case, the proof required must be sent to the Administrator no later than one year following the 90 day period specified, unless you were legally incapacitated.

## Time Benefits Payable

The Plan will pay all benefits within 30 days for clean claims filed electronically, or 45 days for clean claims filed on paper. "Clean claims" means a claim submitted by you or a Provider that has no defect, impropriety, or particular circumstance requiring special treatment preventing payment. If the Administrator has not received the information it needs to process a claim, the Administrator will ask for the additional information necessary to complete the claim. You will receive a copy of that request for additional information, for your information. In those cases, the Administrator cannot complete the processing of the claim until the additional information requested has been received. The Administrator will make its request for additional information within 30 days of the Administrator's initial receipt of the claim and will complete the Administrator's processing of the claim within 15

days after the Administrator's receipt of all requested information.

At the Plan's discretion, benefits will be paid to you or the Provider of services. You may not assign any payment. If other parties have paid benefits under this Plan, the Plan may reimburse those other parties and be fully discharged from that portion of its liability.

## Member's Cooperation

Each Member shall complete and submit to the Plan such authorizations, consents, releases, assignments and other documents as may be requested by the Plan in order to obtain or assure reimbursement under Medicare, Worker's Compensation or any other governmental program. Any Member who fails to cooperate will be responsible for any charge for services.

## Explanation of Benefits

After you receive vision care, you will often receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). The EOB is a summary of the coverage you receive. The EOB is not a bill, but a statement from the Plan to help you understand the coverage you are receiving. The EOB shows:

- total amounts charged for services/supplies received;
- the amount of the charges satisfied by your coverage;
- the amount for which you are responsible (if any);
- general information about your Appeals rights and for ERISA plans, information regarding the right to bring an action after the Appeals process.

## 9 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Entire Agreement

This Benefit Booklet, the Administrative Services Agreement, the Employer's application, any Riders, Endorsements or Attachments, and the individual applications of the Subscriber and Dependents, if any, constitute the entire agreement between the Plan and the Employer and as of the Effective Date, supersede all other agreements between the parties. Any and all statements made to the Plan by the Employer and any and all statements made to the Employer by the Plan are representations and not warranties, and no such statement, unless it is contained in a written application for coverage under the Plan, shall be used in defense to a claim under the Plan.

### Form or Content of Benefit Booklet

No agent or employee of the Administrator is authorized to change the form or content of this Benefit Booklet. Such changes can be made only through an endorsement authorized and signed by a person authorized to sign on behalf of the Employer.

### Circumstances Beyond the Control of the Plan

In the event of circumstances not within the control of the Plan, including but not limited to, a major disaster, epidemic, the complete or partial destruction of facilities, riot, civil insurrection, labor disputes not within the control of the Plan, disability of a significant part of a Network Provider's personnel or similar causes, or the rendering of vision care services provided under the Plan is delayed or rendered impractical, the Plan shall make a good-faith effort to arrange for an alternative method of providing coverage. In such event, the Plan and Network Providers shall render vision care services provided under this Plan insofar as practical, and according to their best judgment; but the Plan and Network

Providers shall incur no liability or obligation for delay, or failure to provide or arrange for services if such failure or delay is caused by such an event.

### Coordination of Benefits

This Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies when you have vision care coverage under more than one Plan.

Please note that several terms specific to this provision are listed below. Some of these terms have different meanings in other parts of the Benefit Booklet, e.g., Plan. For this provision only, "Plan" will have the meanings as specified below. In the rest of the Benefit Booklet, Plan has the meaning listed in the **Definitions** section.

The order of benefit determination rules determine the order in which each Plan will pay a claim for benefits. The Plan that pays first is called the Primary Plan. The Primary Plan must pay benefits according to its policy terms regardless of the possibility that another Plan may cover some expenses. The Plan that pays after the Primary Plan is the Secondary Plan. The Secondary Plan may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all Plans do not exceed 100% of the total Allowable expense.

### COB DEFINITIONS

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

1. Plan includes: Group and non group insurance contracts and subscriber contracts; Health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts; Uninsured arrangements of group or group-type coverage; Coverage under group or non group closed panel plans; Group-type contracts; Medical care

components of long term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; medical benefits under group or individual automobile contracts (whether "fault" or "no fault"); Other governmental benefits, except for Medicare, Medicaid or a government plan that, by law, provides benefits that are in excess of those of any private insurance plan or other nongovernmental plan.

2. Plan does not include: Accident only coverage; Specified disease or specified accident coverage; Limited health benefit coverage; Benefits for non-medical components of long-term care policies; Hospital indemnity coverage benefits or other fixed indemnity coverage; School accident-type coverages covering grammar, high school, and college students for accidents only, including athletic injuries, either on a twenty-four (24) hour or "to and from school" basis; and Medicare supplement policies.

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

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

The order of benefit determination rules determine whether This Plan is a Primary Plan or Secondary Plan when you have vision care coverage under more than one Plan.

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

**Allowable expense** is a health or vision care expense, including Deductibles and/or Coinsurance, that is covered at least in part by any Plan covering you. When a Plan provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an Allowable expense and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any Plan covering you is not an Allowable expense. In addition, any expense that a Provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging you is not an Allowable expense; however, if a Provider has a contractual agreement with both the Primary and Secondary Plans, then the higher of the of the contracted fees is the Allowable expense, and the Provider may charge up to the higher contracted fee.

The following are non Allowable expenses:

1. If you are covered by 2 or more Plans that calculate their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement method or other similar reimbursement methods, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an Allowable expense.
2. If you are covered by 2 or more Plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees is not an Allowable expense.
3. If you are covered by one Plan that calculates its benefits or services on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement method or other similar reimbursement method and another Plan that provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, the Primary Plan's payment arrangement will be the Allowable expense for all Plans. However, if the Provider has contracted with the Secondary Plan to provide the benefit or service for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the Primary Plan's payment arrangement and if the Provider's contract permits, the

negotiated fee or payment will be the Allowable expense used by the Secondary Plan to determine its benefits.

4. The amount of any benefit reduction by the Primary Plan because you have 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 or services, and Network Provider arrangements.

**Closed panel plan** is a Plan that provides vision care benefits primarily in the form of services through a panel of Providers that contract with or are employed by the Plan, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other Providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.

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

## ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES

When you are covered by two or more Plans, the rules for determining the order of benefit payments are:

The Primary Plan pays or provides its benefits according to its terms of coverage and without regard to the benefits of under any other Plan.

1. Except as provided in Paragraph 2. below, a Plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this COB provision is always primary unless the provisions of both Plans state that the complying Plan is primary.
2. Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage will be excess to any other parts of the Plan provided by the contract holder. Examples of these types of

situations are major medical coverages that are placed 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.

A Plan may consider the benefits paid or provided by another Plan in calculating payment of its benefits only when it is secondary to that other Plan.

Each Plan determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules that apply:

### **Rule 1 - Non-Dependent or Dependent.**

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

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

1. For a Dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
  - The Plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the Primary Plan; or
  - If both parents have the same birthday, the Plan that has covered the parent the longest is the Primary Plan.
2. For a Dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:

- If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the Dependent child's vision care expenses or vision care coverage and the Plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that Plan is primary. This rule applies to plan years commencing after the Plan is given notice of the court decree;
- If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the Dependent child's vision care expenses or vision care coverage, the provisions of 1. above will determine the order of benefits;
- If a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the vision care expenses or vision care coverage of the Dependent child, the provisions of 1. above will determine the order of benefits; or
- If there is no court decree assigning responsibility for the Dependent child's vision care expenses or vision care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:
  - The Plan covering the Custodial parent;
  - The Plan covering the spouse of the Custodial parent;
  - The Plan covering the non-custodial parent; and then
  - The Plan covering the spouse of the non-custodial parent.

3. For a Dependent child covered under more than one Plan of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the provisions of item 1. above will determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.

**Rule 3 - Active Employee or Retired or Laid-off Employee.** The Plan that covers you as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired, is the Primary Plan. The Plan also covering you as a retired or laid-off employee is the Secondary Plan. The same would

hold true if you are a Dependent of an active employee and you are a Dependent of a retired or laid-off employee. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if "Rule 1 - Non-Dependent or Dependent" can determine the order of benefits.

**Rule 4 - COBRA or State Continuation Coverage.** If you are covered under COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law and are covered under another Plan, the Plan covering you as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree or covering you as a Dependent of an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is the Primary Plan and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the Secondary Plan. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if "Rule 1 - Non-Dependent or Dependent" can determine the order of benefits.

**Rule 5 - Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage.** The Plan that covered you longer is the Primary Plan and the Plan that covered you the shorter period of time is the Secondary Plan.

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

## EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

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

Allowable expense for that claim.

Because the Allowable expense is generally the higher of the Primary and Secondary Plans' allowable amounts, a Network Provider can bill you for any remaining Coinsurance and/or Deductible under the higher allowable amount. In addition, the Secondary Plan will credit to its Plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other vision care coverage.

If you are enrolled in two or more Closed panel plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-panel Provider, benefits are not payable by one Closed panel plan, COB will not apply between that Plan and other Closed panel plans.

### **RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION**

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

### **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

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

### **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

If the amount of the payments made by Us is more than should have paid under this COB provision, We may recover the excess from one or more of the persons:

1. We have paid or for whom We have paid; or
2. Any other person or organization that may be responsible for the benefits or services provided for the Member.

The "amount of the payments made" includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

### **Other Government Programs**

The benefits under the Plan shall not duplicate any benefits that Members are entitled to, or eligible for, under any other governmental program. This does not apply if any particular laws require the Plan to be the primary payor. If the Plan has duplicated such benefits, all money paid by such programs to Members for services they have or are receiving, shall be paid by or on behalf of the Member to the Plan.

### **Right of Recovery**

Whenever payment has been made in error, the Plan will have the right to recover such payment from you or, if applicable, the Provider. In the event the Plan recovers a payment made in error from the Provider, except in cases of fraud, the Plan will only recover such payment from the Provider during the 24 months after the date the Plan made the payment on a claim submitted by the Provider. The Plan reserves the right to deduct or offset any amounts paid in error from any pending or future claim.

The Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, has oversight responsibility for compliance with Provider and vendor contracts. The Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, may enter into a settlement or compromise regarding enforcement of these contracts and may

retain any recoveries made from a Provider or Vendor resulting from these audits if the return of the overpayment is not feasible. The Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, has established recovery policies to determine which recoveries are to be pursued, when to incur costs and expenses and settle or compromise recovery amounts. The Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, will not pursue recoveries for overpayments if the cost of collection exceeds the overpayment amount. The Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, may not provide you with notice of overpayments made by the Plan or you if the recovery method makes providing such notice administratively burdensome.

### **Relationship of Parties (Employer-Member-Plan)**

Neither the Employer nor any Member is the agent or representative of the Plan.

The Employer is responsible for passing information to the Member. For example, if the Plan gives notice to the Employer, it is the Employer's responsibility to pass that information to the Member. The Employer is also responsible for passing eligibility data to the Plan in a timely manner. If the Employer does not provide the Plan with timely enrollment and termination information, the Plan is not responsible for the payment of Covered Services for Members.

### **Conformity with Law**

Any provision of this Plan which is in conflict with federal law, is hereby automatically amended to conform with the minimum requirements of such laws.

### **Clerical Error**

Clerical error, whether of the Employer or the Administrator, in keeping any record pertaining to this coverage will not invalidate coverage otherwise validly in force or continue coverage otherwise validly terminated.

### **Policies and Procedures**

The Employer is able to introduce new policies, procedures, rules and interpretations, as long as they are reasonable. Such changes are introduced to make the Plan more orderly and efficient. Members must follow and accept any new policies, procedures, rules and interpretations.

### **Waiver**

No agent or other person, except an authorized officer of the Employer, has able to disregard any conditions or restrictions contained in this Benefit Booklet, to extend the amount of time for making a payment to the Plan, or to bind the Plan by making any promise or representation or by giving or receiving any information.

### **Employer's Sole Discretion**

The Employer may, in its sole discretion, cover services and supplies not specifically covered by the Plan. This applies if the Employer, with advice from the Administrator, determines such services and supplies are in lieu of more expensive services and supplies which would otherwise be required for the care and treatment of a Member.

### **Reservation of Discretionary Authority**

The Administrator shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to enable it to carry out its duties in connection with the operation of the Plan and interpretation of the Benefit Booklet. This includes, without limitation, the power to construe the Administrative Services Agreement, to determine all questions arising under the Plan, to resolve Member Grievances and to make, establish and amend the rules, regulations and procedures with regard to the interpretation of the Benefit Booklet of the Plan. A specific limitation or exclusion will override more general benefit language. The Administrator has complete discretion to interpret the Benefit Booklet. The

Administrator's determination shall be final and conclusive and may include, without limitation, determination of whether the services, treatment, or supplies are Medically Necessary, Experimental Procedures, and whether charges are consistent with the Plan's maximum Covered Expense amount. A Member may utilize all applicable Grievance & Appeals procedures.

## **Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Note**

The Employer, on behalf of itself and its participants, hereby expressly acknowledges its understanding that this Benefit Booklet and the Administrative Services Agreement constitutes a

contract solely between the Employer and Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. dba Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem), and that Anthem is an independent corporation licensed to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and marks in the state of Indiana. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield marks are registered by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independently licensed Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. and in other countries. Further, Anthem is not contracting as the agent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association or any other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plan or licensee. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of Anthem other than those obligations created under other provisions of this agreement.

## **10 COMPLAINT AND APPEALS**

The Administrator's customer service representatives are specially trained to answer your questions about vision benefit plans. Please call during business hours, Monday through Friday, with questions regarding:

- Your coverage and benefit levels, including Reimbursement amounts;
- Specific claims or services you have received;
- Provider is in the Network; and/or
- Provider directories.

You will be notified, in writing, if a claim or other request for benefits is denied in whole or in part. If such a request is denied, the notice of denial will explain why benefits were denied and describe your rights under the Appeals Procedure. A Complaint Procedure also exists to help you understand the Plan's determinations.

### **The Complaint Procedure**

A Complaint Procedure is available to provide reasonable, informative responses to complaints

that you may have concerning the Plan. A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction that can often be resolved by an explanation from the Plan of its procedures and contracts. The Plan invites you to share any concerns that you may have over benefit determinations or coverage cancellations. If you have a complaint or problem concerning benefits or services, please contact the Administrator. You may submit your complaint by letter or by telephone call. Or, if you wish, you may meet with your local service representative to discuss your complaint.

Members are encouraged to file complaints within 60 days of an initial, adverse action, but must file within six months after receipt of notice of the initial, adverse action. The time required to review complaints does not extend the time in which appeals must be filed.

### **The Appeals Procedure**

An appeal is a formal request from you for the Plan to change a previous determination. If you are notified in writing of a Coverage Denial or any other adverse decision by the Administrator, you



will be advised of your right to an internal appeal.

A Coverage Denial means the Administrator's determination that a service, treatment, drug or device is specifically limited or excluded under this Plan.

The internal appeals process may be initiated by the Member, the Member's authorized representative, or a Provider acting on behalf of the Member within 60 days of receipt of the Plan written notice of a Coverage Denial, or any other adverse decision made by the Administrator, but must be filed within six months of your receipt of the initial decision. The request should include any medical information pertinent to the appeal. All portions of the medical records that are relevant to the appeal and any other comments, documents, records or other information submitted by the Member relating to the issue being appealed, regardless of whether such information was considered in making the initial decision, will be considered in the review of the appeal. Any new medical information pertinent to the appeal will also be considered. Members are entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, documents, records, and other information relevant to the Member's appeal.

If a representative is seeking an appeal on behalf of a Member, the Administrator must obtain a signed Designation of Representation (DOR) form from the Member. The appeal process will not begin until the Administrator has received the properly completed DOR. The Administrator will forward a Designation of Representation form to the Member for completion.

The individuals responsible for reviewing your request for an internal appeal will not be the same individuals who made the initial denial or determination. They will not be the subordinates of the initial decision-maker either and no deference will be given to the initial decision.

Within a reasonable period of time but no later than 30 days after receiving a written or an oral request for an appeal, the Administrator will send a written decision to the Member or their authorized representative.

## Contact Person For Appeals

The request for an internal appeal must be submitted to the following address or telephone number or to the appeal address or telephone number provided on your written notice of an adverse decision:

Blue View Vision  
ATTN: Appeals  
555 Middle Creek Parkway  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Telephone Number: 866-723-0515

The person holding the position named above will be responsible for processing your request.

The Plan encourages its Members to submit requests for appeal in writing. The request for appeal should describe the problem in detail. Attach copies of bills, medical records, or other appropriate documentation to support the appeal that may be in your possession.

You must file appeals on a timely basis. As state above, you are encouraged to file internal appeals within 60 days of your receipt of the Plan's initial decision. Internal appeals must be filed, however, within six months of your receipt of the initial decision.

## Vision Services

The Plan is not liable for the furnishing of Covered Services, but merely for the payment of them. You shall have no claim against the Plan for acts or omissions of any Provider from whom you receive Covered Services. The Plan has no responsibility for a Provider's failure or refusal to give Covered Services to you.

## Limitation of Actions

No lawsuit or legal action of any kind related to a benefit decision may be filed by you in a court of law or in any other forum, unless it is commenced no earlier than 60 days after the Administrator receives the claim or other request for benefits

and within three years of the Plan's final decision on the claim or other request for benefits. If the Plan decides an appeal is untimely, the Plan's latest decision on the merits of the underlying claim or benefit request is the final decision date. You must exhaust the Plan's internal appeals procedure before filing a lawsuit or other legal

action of any kind against the Plan. If your vision benefit plan is sponsored by your employer and subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and your appeal as described above results in an adverse benefit determination, you have a right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA.



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