

## **YOUR BENEFIT PLAN**

### **WA State Health Care Authority SEBB**

**All eligible school district employees, charter school employees, employees of an educational service district, and employees of an Employer Group who elect MetLife Vision Insurance, including eligible School Board Members and those eligible for Continuation Coverage**

**Vision Insurance for Members**

**Certificate Date: January 1, 2025**

Certificate Number 8

**For Subscribers who are residents of states other than Washington: Please refer to the notices following the end of this certificate for important information as to how the provisions of this certificate may vary for the state of which the Subscriber is a resident.**

WA State Health Care Authority SEBB  
626 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
P.O. Box 42720  
Olympia, WA 98504

TO SUBSCRIBERS:

All of us appreciate the protection and security insurance provides.

This certificate describes the benefits that are available to you. We urge you to read it carefully.

WA State Health Care Authority SEBB



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166

## **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company ("MetLife"), a stock company, certifies that Members are insured for the benefits described in this certificate, subject to the provisions of this certificate. This certificate is issued to the Subscriber under the Group Policy and it includes the terms and provisions of the Group Policy that describe the Member's insurance. **PLEASE READ THIS CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.**

This certificate is part of the Group Policy. The Group Policy is a legal contract between MetLife and the Policyholder and may be changed or ended without the Subscriber's consent or notice to the Subscriber.

**Policyholder:** WA State Health Care Authority SEBB

**Group Policy Number:** 219743-2-G

**Type of Insurance:** Vision Insurance

**MetLife Toll Free Number(s):**  
**For Claim Information** FOR VISION CLAIMS: 1-833-854-9624

**THIS CERTIFICATE ONLY DESCRIBES VISION INSURANCE.**

**WE ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW TO INCLUDE THE NOTICE(S) WHICH APPEAR ON THIS PAGE AND IN THE NOTICE(S) SECTION WHICH FOLLOWS THIS PAGE. PLEASE READ THE(SE) NOTICE(S) CAREFULLY.**

# **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL STATES WHO ARE INSURED FOR VISION INSURANCE**

## **Notice Regarding the Member's Rights and Responsibilities**

### **Rights:**

- We will treat communications, financial records and records pertaining to the Member's care in accordance with all applicable laws relating to privacy.
- Decisions with respect to vision treatment are the responsibility of the Member and the Vision Provider. We neither require nor prohibit any specified treatment. However, only certain specified services are covered for benefits. Please see the Vision Insurance sections of this certificate for more details.
- The Member may request a written response from MetLife to any written concern or complaint.

### **Responsibilities:**

- The Member is responsible for the prompt payment of any charges for services performed by the Vision Provider not fully covered by your Vision Insurance.
- The Member should consult with the Vision Provider about treatment options, proposed and potential procedures, anticipated outcomes, potential risks, anticipated benefits and alternatives. The Member should share with the Vision Provider the most current, complete and accurate information about the Member's medical and vision history and current conditions and medications.
- The Member should follow the treatment plans and health care recommendations agreed upon by the Member and the Vision Provider.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
CERTIFICATE FACE PAGE.....	1
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.....	4
DEFINITIONS.....	8
VISION PLAN ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT.....	11
ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS	11
Eligible Classes.....	11
Date the Subscriber is Eligible for Insurance.....	11
Eligibility for Subscribers and Dependents.....	11
School employee eligibility.....	11
Continuation coverage eligibility.....	11
School Board Member eligibility.....	11
Dependent eligibility.....	12
Enrollment for Subscribers and Dependents.....	13
For all subscribers and dependents.....	13
School employee enrollment.....	13
Continuation coverage enrollment.....	13
School Board Member Enrollment.....	13
Dependent enrollment.....	13
Dual enrollment.....	14
Medicare Eligibility and Enrollment.....	14
School employee and dependent.....	14
Continuation coverage subscriber, a School Board Member, or their dependent.....	14
When Vision Coverage Begins.....	14
School employees and dependents.....	14
Continuation coverage subscribers and dependents.....	15
School Board Members and dependents.....	15
All subscribers and dependents.....	15
Making Changes.....	15
Removing a dependent who is no longer eligible.....	15
Voluntary termination for continuation coverage subscribers or School Board Members.....	16
Making changes during annual open enrollment and special open enrollment.....	16
Annual open enrollment changes.....	16
Special open enrollment changes.....	17
Special open enrollment events that allow for a change in health plans.....	17
Special open enrollment events that allow adding or removing a dependent.....	19
When Vision Coverage Ends.....	19
Termination dates.....	19
Final premium payments.....	20
Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage.....	20
SEBB Continuation Coverage.....	20
Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.....	21
Paid Family and Medical Leave Act.....	21
General Provisions for Eligibility and Enrollment.....	22
Payment of premiums during a labor dispute.....	22
Appeal rights.....	22
Relationship to law and regulations.....	22
VISION INSURANCE.....	23
VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS.....	29
VISION INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS.....	30
VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS.....	31
VISION INSURANCE: FILING A CLAIM.....	36
VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS.....	36
GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	38
Assignment.....	38
Vision Insurance: Who We Will Pay.....	38
Entire Contract.....	38
Incontestability: Statements Made by the Subscriber.....	38
Conformity with Law.....	38

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

This schedule shows the benefits that are available under the Group Policy. Members will only be insured for the benefits:

- for which Members become and remain eligible;
- which the Subscriber elects, if subject to election; and
- which are in effect.

### BENEFIT

### BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

#### Vision Insurance For Members

##### Adults:

Service Interval	Exam	Lenses	Frame	Contacts
	Once per Calendar Year	Once Every Odd Calendar Year	Once Every Odd Calendar Year	Once Every Odd Calendar Year

##### Children (to age 19):

Service Interval	Exam	Lenses	Frame	Contacts
	Once per Calendar Year	Once per Calendar Year	Once per Calendar Year	Once per Calendar Year

<b>Exam In-Network Co-Pay</b>	\$0
<b>Materials In-Network Co-Pay</b> <i>Co-payment shall not apply to Elective Contact Lenses</i>	\$0

	<b>In-Network Coverage (Using an In-Network Vision Provider<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Out-of-Network Coverage (Using an Out-of-Network Vision Provider)</b>	
<b>EYE EXAMINATION (one per Service Interval)</b>	<b>Covered in full</b>  Comprehensive examination of visual functions and prescription of corrective eyewear.	<b>Covered up to \$45 allowance</b>  Comprehensive examination of visual functions and prescription of corrective eyewear.	
<b>RETINAL IMAGING</b>	A co-pay amount up to \$39.  The Member will not be responsible for an amount charged in excess of \$39. If the amount charged is under \$39, then the Member will only pay the amount that is charged.  Coverage for retinal imaging is an enhancement to eye examination.  Retinal imaging is not available at all provider locations – contact the Member’s In-Network Vision Provider to see if this technology (or equipment or service) is available.	Applied to the allowance for the eye examination	
<b>STANDARD CORRECTIVE LENSES</b>	<b>Covered in full</b> Lenses (Single, Lined Bifocal, Lined Trifocal or Lenticular)	Single Vision	\$30 allowance
		Lined Bifocal	\$50 allowance
		Lined Trifocal	\$65 allowance
		Lenticular	\$100 allowance

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS (continued)

	<b>In-Network Coverage (Using an In-Network Vision Provider<sup>2</sup>)</b>		<b>Out-of-Network Coverage (Using an Out-of-Network Vision Provider)</b>
<b>STANDARD LENS OPTIONS</b>	Ultraviolet Coating	Covered in full	Applied to the allowance for the applicable corrective lens
	Polycarbonate (child up to age 19)	Covered in full	
	Scratch Resistant Coating (child up to age 19)	Covered in full	
	Hi Index (child up to age 19)	Covered in full	
	Standard Progressive	Covered in full	
	Premium Progressive: \$95-\$105		\$50 allowance for Premium Progressive
	Polycarbonate (adults): \$35 Scratch Resistant Coating (adults 19+): \$17-\$33 Hi Index (adults 19+): 20% discount Anti-Reflective Coating: \$41-\$85 Tints: \$17-\$44 Photochromic: \$75 Polarized: 20% off retail		For Polycarbonate (adult), Scratch Resistant Coating (adult), Anti-Reflective Coating, Tints, Photochromatic, and Polarized applied to the allowance for the applicable corrective lens
	<p>Note: All lens options are available at a network vision provider, and not to exceed maximum member out of pocket amounts and pricing are subject to change without notice. Please check with your provider for details and maximum member out of pocket amounts applicable to your lens choice. At this time, all lens options and “not to exceed” maximum member out of pocket amounts and pricing are not available at Costco, Walmart and Sam’s Club. Please contact your local Costco, Walmart and Sam’s Club to confirm the availability of lens options and pricing prior to receiving services.</p>		
<b>FRAMES</b>	<p><b>Covered up to a \$200 allowance</b> Frames are covered up to the allowance of \$110 at Costco, Walmart, and Sam’s Club and \$200 at other optical retail locations.</p> <p>In-Network Vision Providers prescribe and/or order Covered Person’s lenses, verify the accuracy of finished lenses, and assist Covered Person with frame selection and adjustment.</p>		<b>Covered up to a \$70 allowance</b>



**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS (continued)**

<b>CONTACT LENSES</b>		
<p><b>FITTING AND EVALUATION</b></p>	<p><b>Subscriber and Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner and Children 19+:</b></p> <p><b>Standard and Premium fit:</b></p> <p>Covered in full after a Co-Pay of \$60.</p> <p><b>Children up to age 19:</b></p> <p><b>Covered in full</b></p>	<p><b>Applied to the allowance for the contact lenses</b></p>
<p><b>ELECTIVE</b></p>	<p><b>Subscriber and Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner and Children 19+:</b></p> <p><b>Covered up to \$200</b></p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p> <p><b>Children up to age 19:</b></p> <p><b>Covered up to \$300</b></p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>	<p><b>Covered up to \$105</b></p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>
<p><b>NECESSARY</b></p>	<p><b>Covered in full after material Co-payment</b></p> <p>Necessary contact lenses are a Plan Benefit when specific benefit criteria are satisfied and when prescribed by Covered Person's In-Network Vision Provider.</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>	<p><b>Covered up to \$210</b></p> <p>Necessary contact lenses are a Plan Benefit when specific benefit criteria are satisfied and when prescribed by Covered Person's In-Network Vision Provider.</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>

**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS (continued)**

<b>Value-Added Features</b> <b>Available At In-Network Vision Providers<sup>2</sup></b> <b>(These features are not insurance.)</b>	
<b>REFRACTIVE SURGERY DISCOUNT</b>	<p>Savings averaging 15% off the regular price, or 5% off a promotional offer, for Refractive Surgery.</p> <p>Please check with the Member’s provider for details applicable to their Refractive Surgery and which discount (“savings”) the Member would be eligible for. This is considered a negotiated discount a negotiated discount for the Member. The Member is responsible for the full amount of the service, less the provider discount.</p>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON GLASSES AND SUNGLASSES</b>	20% savings on additional pairs of prescription glasses and nonprescription sunglasses, including lens enhancements. <sup>1</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON LENS ENHANCEMENTS</b>	Average 20-25% savings on all lens enhancements not otherwise covered under the MetLife Vision Insurance program. <sup>1</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON FRAMES</b>	20% off any amount over your frames allowance. <sup>1</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE ON FEATURED FRAMES</b>	For certain frames, an additional \$20 allowance. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These features may not be available in all states and with all In-Network Vision Providers. Please check with the Member’s In-Network Vision Provider.

<sup>2</sup> As provided by Vision Service Plan Choice Network. The network is located throughout the United States. Services by network or non-network providers will be covered throughout the United States. Emergency vision services provided outside the United States are covered on an out-of-network basis.

## DEFINITIONS

As used in this certificate, the terms listed below will have the meanings set forth below. When defined terms are used in this certificate, they will appear with initial capitalization. The plural use of a term defined in the singular will share the same meaning.

**Anisometropia** means a condition of unequal refractive state of the two eyes, one eye requiring a different lens correction than the other.

**Annual Open Enrollment** means a period of time defined by HCA when a Subscriber may change to another health plan offered by the SEBB Program and make certain other account changes for an effective date beginning January 1 of the following year.

**Continuation Coverage** means the temporary continuation of SEBB benefits available to enrollees under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), or SEBB policies.

**Co-Payment** or **Co-Pay** means a fixed dollar amount for which We are not responsible, as shown in the Schedule of Benefits. The Member must pay the Member's Co-Payment at the time services are rendered or materials ordered.

**Covered Person(s)** means an eligible school Employee, an eligible School Board Member, a Continuation Coverage Subscriber, or a Dependent covered under this Certificate.

**Covered Services and Materials** mean a vision service or materials used to treat Member's vision condition which is:

- prescribed or performed by a Vision Provider while such person is insured for Vision Insurance;
- Necessary to treat the condition; and
- described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS or VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS sections of this certificate.

**Dependent(s)** means the Subscriber's eligible Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner as defined in this DEFINITIONS section, and/or child as described in the Dependent eligibility section of this certificate.

**Employer Group** means an employee organization representing school employees and a tribal school as defined in state statute and rules, obtaining employee benefits through a contractual agreement with the Health Care Authority (HCA) to participate in benefit plans developed by the SEB board.

**Enrollee** means an eligible school employee, an eligible School Board Member, a Continuation Coverage Subscriber, and a Dependent covered under this Certificate. (see also the "Covered Person(s)" definition).

**Health Care Authority (HCA)** means the Washington State agency that administers the PEBB and SEBB Programs.

**In-Network Vision Provider** means a Vision Provider who is contracted to provide Plan Benefits to Covered Persons of MetLife and accepts reimbursement at the negotiated rate. The In-Network Vision Provider is: Vision Service Plan Choice Network

**Keratoconus** means a development or dystrophic deformity of the cornea in which it becomes cone shaped due to a thinning and stretching of the tissue in its central area.

**Maximum Benefit Allowance** means the maximum amount We will allow for Covered Services and Materials provided by a Vision Provider.

**Member** means a person covered under this plan as a Subscriber or Dependent.

## DEFINITIONS (continued)

**Necessary** means Covered Services and Materials that are necessary and meet with professionally recognized standards of practice. The fact that a Vision Provider may prescribe, order, recommend or approve a service or material does not, in itself, make it medically necessary, or make it a Covered Service and Material even though it is listed in the Group Policy or the Benefit Schedule as Covered Service and Material.

**Out-of-Network Vision Provider/Non-Network Vision Provider** means a Vision Provider who has not contracted to provide vision care services and/or vision care materials to Covered Persons of MetLife.

**Plan** or **Plan Benefits** means the vision care services and vision care materials which a Covered Person is entitled to receive by virtue of coverage under this Certificate.

**Progressive Lens** means a multifocal lens that makes the transition from distance to near vision by a gradual, progressive addition of power. The result is a lens with a seamless appearance.

**Proof** means Written evidence satisfactory to Us that a person has satisfied the conditions and requirements for any benefit described in this certificate. When a claim is made for any benefit described in this certificate, Proof must establish:

- the nature and extent of the loss or condition;
- Our obligation to pay the claim; and
- the claimant's right to receive payment.

Proof must be provided at the claimant's expense.

**Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB)** means a group of representatives, appointed by the governor, who approves insurance benefit plans for employees and their Dependents, and establishes eligibility criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans.

**Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program** means the HCA program that administers PEBB benefit eligibility and enrollment.

**School Board Member** means the board of directors of a school district or the board of directors of an educational service district as governed by state statutes and rules.

**School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB)** means a group of representatives, appointed by the governor, who designs and approves insurance benefit plans for school employees and their Dependents, and establishes eligibility criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans.

**School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Organization** means a public school district or educational service district or charter school established under Washington State statute that is required to participate in benefit plans provided by the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB).

**School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program** means the program within HCA that administers insurance and other benefits for eligible school employees and eligible Dependents.

**Service Interval** means a period of consecutive months, as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, in which Members may receive Covered Services and Materials. This period starts on the Member's effective date of coverage. A subsequent service interval starts after vision services or materials are received. Once Covered Services and Materials are received during any service interval, additional services are not covered during the same service interval and are subject to an additional charge.

**Signed** means any symbol or method executed or adopted by a person with the present intention to authenticate a record, which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

## DEFINITIONS (continued)

**Spouse** means the Subscriber's legal spouse.

For the purposes of determining who may become covered for insurance, the term does not include any person who is insured under the Group Policy as an employee.

**State-Registered Domestic Partner** means two adults who meet the requirements for a valid state-registered domestic partnership, and enter into a state-registered domestic partnership, in the State of Washington; or a legal union, other than marriage, of two persons that was validly formed in a jurisdiction other than the State of Washington and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership in the State of Washington.

For the purposes of determining who may become covered for insurance, the term does not include any person who is insured under the Group Policy as an employee.

**Subscriber** means an eligible school employee, an eligible School Board Member, or a Continuation Coverage enrollee who has been determined eligible and is insured under this group policy, and is the individual to whom the SEBB Program or We will issue notices, information, requests, and premium bills on behalf of an Enrollee or Covered Person.

**Vision Provider** means an eye care professional who is an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or registered dispensing optician, who:

- Is licensed as such by the proper authorities in the jurisdiction where such services are performed; and
- Is acting within the scope of such license.

**We, Us and Our** mean MetLife.

**Written or Writing** means a record which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

**Year or Yearly**, for Vision Insurance, means the 12 month period that begins January 1.

# **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS**

## **SEBB**

### **VISION PLAN ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT**

#### **ELIGIBLE CLASS(ES)**

**All eligible school district employees, charter school employees, employees of an educational service district, and employees of an Employer Group who elect MetLife Vision Insurance, including eligible School Board Members and those eligible for Continuation Coverage.**

#### **DATE THE SUBSCRIBER IS ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE**

The Subscriber may only become eligible for the insurance available for the Subscriber's eligible class as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If the Subscriber is in an eligible class on January 1, 2025, the Subscriber will be eligible for the insurance described in this certificate on that date.

If the Subscriber enters an eligible class after January 1, 2025, the Subscriber will be eligible for insurance on the date the Subscriber enters that class.

In these sections, "health plan" is used to refer to a plan offering medical, vision, dental, or any combination of these coverages, developed by the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) and provided by a contracted vendor or self-insured plans administered by the Health Care Authority (HCA).

#### **ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSCRIBERS AND DEPENDENTS**

##### **School employee eligibility**

The school employee's SEBB organization will inform the school employee in writing whether or not they are eligible for SEBB benefits upon employment and whenever their eligibility status changes. The written notice will include information about the school employee's right to appeal eligibility and enrollment decisions.

A school employee of an Employer Group (such as an employee organization representing school employees or a tribal school) that contracts with HCA for SEBB benefits should contact their payroll or benefits office for eligibility criteria.

School employees have the right to appeal eligibility and enrollment decisions. Information about appeals can be found under "Appeal rights."

##### **Continuation coverage eligibility**

The SEBB Program determines whether subscribers are eligible for continuation coverage (COBRA or Unpaid Leave) upon receipt of their election to enroll. If the subscriber requests to enroll in and is not eligible for continuation coverage, the SEBB Program will notify them of their right to appeal. Information about appeals can be found under "Appeal rights."

##### **School Board Member eligibility**

The SEBB Program determines whether a School Board Member is eligible to self-pay coverage upon receipt of their election to enroll. If a School Board Member requests to enroll and is not eligible, the SEBB Program will notify them of their right to appeal. Information about appeals can be found under "Appeal rights."

## ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

### Dependent eligibility

The following are eligible dependents:

- Legal spouse
- State-registered domestic partner and substantially equivalent legal unions from jurisdictions as defined in Washington State statute. Individuals in a state-registered domestic partnership are treated the same as a legal spouse except when in conflict with federal law.
- Children, through the last day of the month in which their 26th birthday occurred regardless of marital status, student status, or eligibility for coverage under another plan. It also includes children age 26 or older with a disability as described below in "Children of any age with a developmental or physical disability." Children are defined as the subscriber's:
  - **Children based on establishment of a parent-child relationship**, as described in Washington State statutes, except when parental rights have been terminated.
  - **Children of the subscriber's spouse**, based on the spouse's establishment of a parent-child relationship, except when parental rights have been terminated. The stepchild's relationship to the subscriber (and eligibility as a dependent) ends on the same date the marriage with the spouse ends through divorce, annulment, dissolution, termination, or death.
  - **Children for whom the subscriber has assumed a legal obligation** for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of the child.
  - **Children of the subscriber's state-registered domestic partner**, based on the state-registered domestic partner's establishment of a parent-child relationship, except when parental rights have been terminated. The child's relationship to the subscriber (and eligibility as a dependent) ends on the same date the subscriber's legal relationship with the state-registered domestic partner ends through divorce, annulment, dissolution, termination, or death.
  - **Children specified in a court order or divorce decree** for whom the subscriber has a legal obligation to provide support or health care coverage.
  - **Extended dependents in the legal custody or legal guardianship of the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or the subscriber's state-registered domestic partner.** The legal responsibility is demonstrated by a valid court order and the child's official residence with the custodian or guardian. Extended dependent child does not include foster children unless the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or the subscriber's state-registered domestic partner has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption.
  - **Children of any age with a developmental or physical disability** that renders them incapable of self-sustaining employment and chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance, provided such condition occurs before the age of 26. The following requirements apply to a dependent child with a disability:
    - The subscriber must provide proof of the disability and dependency within 60 days of the child's attainment of age 26.
    - The subscriber must notify the SEBB Program in writing when the child is no longer eligible under this subsection.
    - A child with a developmental or physical disability who becomes self-supporting is not eligible as of the last day of the month in which they become capable of self-support.
    - A child with a developmental or physical disability age 26 and older who becomes capable of self-support does not regain eligibility if they later become incapable of self-support.
    - The SEBB Program (with input from the medical plan, if enrolled in medical) will periodically verify the eligibility of a dependent child with a disability beginning at age 26, but no more frequently than annually after the two-year period following the child's 26th birthday. Verification will require renewed proof of disability and dependence from the subscriber.

# **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)**

## **ENROLLMENT FOR SUBSCRIBERS AND DEPENDENTS**

### **For all subscribers and dependents:**

- To enroll at any time other than during the initial enrollment period, see “Making changes.”
- Any dependents enrolled in vision coverage will be enrolled in the same vision plan as the subscriber.

### **School employee enrollment**

**A school employee is required to enroll in a vision plan unless otherwise described in SEBB Program rules.**

A school employee must use Benefits 24/7, the online enrollment system, or submit a School Employee Enrollment form and any supporting documents to their SEBB organization or Employer Group when they become newly eligible or regain eligibility for SEBB benefits. The online enrollment must be completed or the form must be received no later than 31 days after the date the school employee becomes eligible or regains eligibility.

If the school employee does not enroll online or return the form by the deadline, the school employee will be enrolled in Metropolitan Life Vision Plan. Dependents cannot be enrolled until the SEBB Program's next annual open enrollment or when a qualifying event occurs that creates a special open enrollment that allows enrolling a dependent. See “Special open enrollment changes.”

### **Continuation coverage enrollment**

A subscriber enrolling in SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA or Unpaid Leave) may enroll by using Benefits 24/7, the online enrollment system, or by submitting the applicable SEBB Continuation Coverage Election/Change form and any supporting documents to the SEBB Program. The online enrollment must be completed or the SEBB Program must receive the election form no later than 60 days from the date the enrollee's SEBB health plan coverage ended or from the postmark date on the SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice sent by the SEBB Program, whichever is later.

Premiums and applicable premium surcharges must be made directly to HCA. The first premium payment and applicable premium surcharges are due to HCA no later than 45 days after the election period ends as described above. For more information, see “Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage” and the SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice.

### **School Board Member enrollment**

**A School Board Member is required to enroll in a vision plan.**

A newly elected School Board Member may enroll and self-pay premiums by submitting the SEBB School Board Member Election/Change form and any supporting documents to the SEBB Program. The SEBB Program must receive the form no later than 60 days from the beginning of their elected or appointed term. Premiums and applicable premium surcharges must be made directly to HCA. The first premium payment and applicable premium surcharges are due to HCA no later than 45 days after the election period ends as described above.

A School Board Member may renew their participation at the start of each subsequent term as a School Board Member. If a School Board Member is reelected for a new term consecutive from their previous term, they will not be required to make new elections.

### **Dependent enrollment**

To enroll an eligible dependent, the subscriber must include the dependent's information online using Benefits 24/7 or on the applicable enrollment form and provide the required document(s) as proof of the dependent's eligibility. The dependent will not be enrolled in SEBB health plan coverage if the SEBB Program, the SEBB organization, or the Employer Group is unable to verify their eligibility within the SEBB Program enrollment timelines.



## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)**

### **Dual enrollment**

**A subscriber** and their dependents may each be enrolled in only one SEBB vision plan.

**A school employee** or their dependent who is eligible to enroll in both the SEBB Program and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program is limited to a single enrollment in either the SEBB or PEBB Program.

For example:

- A child who is an eligible dependent under two parents enrolled in SEBB Program benefits may be enrolled as a dependent under both parents but is limited to a single enrollment in SEBB vision.
- A child who is an eligible dependent of a school employee in the SEBB Program and an employee in the PEBB Program may only be enrolled as a dependent under one parent in either the SEBB or PEBB Program.

## **MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT**

### **School employee and dependent**

**If a school employee** or their dependent becomes eligible for Medicare, they should contact the Social Security Administration to ask about the advantages of immediate or deferred Medicare enrollment.

### **Continuation coverage subscriber, a School Board Member, or their dependent**

**If a continuation coverage subscriber, a School Board Member,** or their dependent becomes eligible for Medicare, federal regulations allow enrollment in Medicare three months before they turn age 65. If they do not enroll within three months before the month they turn age 65, enrollment in Medicare may be delayed. If enrollment in Medicare does not occur when the subscriber or their dependent is first eligible, a late enrollment penalty may apply.

**A SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) subscriber** must notify the SEBB Program in writing within 30 days if, after electing SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA), a subscriber or their dependent becomes eligible for Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both) or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage. If a subscriber or their dependent enrolls in SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) and then becomes eligible for Medicare, their enrollment in SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) will be terminated the last day of the month prior to the month their Medicare coverage begins. This may cause the SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) to be terminated early, before the subscriber has used all the months they would otherwise be entitled to. A subscriber or their dependents who are already enrolled in Medicare when they enroll in SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) will not have their coverage terminated early.

## **WHEN VISION COVERAGE BEGINS**

### **School employees and dependents**

**For a newly eligible school employee** and their eligible dependents, vision coverage begins the first day of the month following the date the school employee becomes eligible.

### **Exceptions:**

- Vision coverage begins on the school employee's first day of work when their first day of work is on or after September 1, but not later than the first day of school for the current school year as established by the SEBB organization.
- When a school employee establishes eligibility toward SEBB benefits at any time in the month of August, vision coverage begins on September 1 only if the school employee is also determined to be eligible for the school year that begins on September 1.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)**

**For a school employee regaining eligibility**, including following a period of leave as described in SEBB Program rules, and their eligible dependents, vision coverage begins the first day of the month following the school employee's return to work if the school employee is anticipated to be eligible for the employer contribution.

**Note:** When a school employee who is called to active duty in the uniformed services under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) loses eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits, they regain eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits the day they return from active duty. Vision coverage begins the first day of the month in which the school employee returns from active duty.

### **Continuation coverage subscribers and dependents**

**For a continuation coverage subscriber** and their eligible dependents enrolling when newly eligible due to a qualifying event, vision coverage begins the first day of the month following the day they lost eligibility for SEBB vision plan coverage.

### **School Board Members and dependents**

**For a newly elected or appointed School Board Member** and their eligible dependents, vision coverage begins the first day of the month following the day the SEBB Program receives the required form.

### **All subscribers and dependents**

**For a subscriber or their eligible dependents enrolling during the SEBB Program's annual open enrollment**, vision coverage begins January 1 of the following year.

**For a subscriber or their eligible dependents enrolling during a special open enrollment**, vision coverage begins the first day of the month following the later of the event date or the date the online enrollment election using Benefits 24/7 or the required form is received. If that day is the first of the month, vision coverage begins on that day.

If the special open enrollment is due to the **birth or adoption of a child**, or when the subscriber has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of a child, vision coverage will begin as follows:

- **For a school employee**, vision coverage will begin the first day of the month in which the event occurs.
- **For a newly born child**, vision coverage will begin the date of birth.
- **For a newly adopted child**, vision coverage will begin on the date of placement or the date a legal obligation is assumed in anticipation of adoption, whichever is earlier.
- **For a spouse or state-registered domestic partner** of a subscriber, vision coverage will begin the first day of the month in which the event occurs.

If the special open enrollment is due to the enrollment of an **extended dependent or a dependent child with a disability**, vision coverage will begin the first day of the month following the event date or eligibility certification, whichever is later.

## **MAKING CHANGES**

### **Removing a dependent who is no longer eligible**

A subscriber must provide notice to remove a dependent who is no longer eligible due to divorce, annulment, dissolution, or a qualifying event of a dependent ceasing to be eligible as a dependent child as described under "Dependent eligibility." The notice must be received within 60 days of the last day of the month the dependent no longer meets the eligibility criteria.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)**

- **A school employee** must provide notice online using Benefits 24/7 or by submitting a written request to their SEBB organization or Employer Group.
- **Any other subscriber** must provide notice online using Benefits 24/7 or by submitting a written request to the SEBB Program.

Consequences for not submitting notice within the required 60 days may include, but are not limited to:

- The dependent may lose eligibility to continue SEBB vision coverage under one of the continuation coverage options described in "Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage."
- The subscriber may be billed for claims paid by the vision plan for services that were rendered after the dependent lost eligibility.
- The subscriber may not be able to recover subscriber-paid insurance premiums for the dependent that lost eligibility.
- The subscriber may be responsible for premiums paid by the state for the dependent's vision plan coverage after the dependent lost eligibility.

### **Voluntary termination for continuation coverage subscribers or School Board Members**

A continuation coverage subscriber or a School Board Member may voluntarily terminate enrollment in a vision plan at any time by submitting a request online using Benefits 24/7 or in writing to the SEBB Program. Enrollment in the vision plan will be terminated the last day of the month in which the request was received online or by the SEBB Program, or on the last day of the month specified in the termination request, whichever is later. If the request is received on the first day of the month, vision plan enrollment will be terminated on the last day of the previous month.

**Note:** A School Board Member must be enrolled in all SEBB health plan coverage, including SEBB medical, SEBB dental, and SEBB vision. A School Board Member who voluntarily terminates enrollment in a vision plan also terminates all other health plan enrollment.

### **Making changes during annual open enrollment and special open enrollment**

A subscriber may make certain changes to their enrollment during the annual open enrollment and if a specific life event creates a special open enrollment period.

#### **Annual open enrollment changes**

**A school employee** may make the following changes to their enrollment during the SEBB Program's annual open enrollment period:

- Enroll or remove eligible dependents
- Change their vision plan

**A school employee** must submit the election change online using Benefits 24/7 or submit the required School Employee Change form and any supporting documents to their SEBB organization or Employer Group. The change must be completed online, or the forms received, no later than the last day of the annual open enrollment period and will be effective January 1 of the following year.

**Any other subscriber** may make the following changes to their enrollment during the SEBB Program's annual open enrollment period:

- Enroll in or terminate enrollment in a vision plan
- Enroll or remove eligible dependents
- Change their vision plan

## ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

They must submit the election change online using Benefits 24/7 or submit the required SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) Election/Change, SEBB Continuation Coverage (Unpaid Leave) Election/Change, or SEBB School Board Member Election/Change form (as appropriate) and any supporting documents to the SEBB Program. The change must be completed online, or the forms received, no later than the last day of the annual open enrollment period. The change will be effective January 1 of the following year.

### Special open enrollment changes

A subscriber may change their enrollment outside of the annual open enrollment period if a qualifying event creates a special open enrollment period. However, the change in enrollment must be allowable under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and Treasury Regulations and correspond to and be consistent with the event that creates the special open enrollment for the subscriber, their dependent, or both.

A special open enrollment event must be other than a school employee gaining initial eligibility or regaining eligibility for SEBB benefits. The subscriber must provide evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment.

A special open enrollment may allow a subscriber to make the following changes:

- Enroll in or change their vision plan.
- Enroll or remove eligible dependents.

To request a special open enrollment:

- **A school employee** must make the change online using Benefits 24/7 or submit the required School Employee Change form and any supporting documents to their SEBB organization or Employer Group.
- **Any other subscriber** must make the change online using Benefits 24/7 or submit the required SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA) Election/Change, SEBB Continuation Coverage (Unpaid Leave) Election/Change, or SEBB School Board Member Election/Change form (as appropriate) and any supporting documents to the SEBB Program.

The change must be completed online, or the forms must be received, no later than 60 days after the event that creates the special open enrollment. In addition, the SEBB Program, the SEBB organization, or the Employer Group will require the subscriber to provide proof of a dependent's eligibility, evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment, or both.

**Exception:** If a subscriber wants to enroll a newborn or child whom the subscriber has adopted or has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption in SEBB health plan coverage, the subscriber should complete the request online or notify their SEBB organization, their Employer Group, or the SEBB Program by submitting the required forms as soon as possible to ensure timely payment of claims. If adding the child increases the premium, the request must be received online, or the required forms must be received no later than 60 days after the date of the birth, adoption, or the date the legal obligation is assumed for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption.

### Special open enrollment events that allow for a change in health plans

A subscriber may not change their health plan during a special open enrollment if their state-registered domestic partner or state-registered domestic partner's child is not a tax dependent.

Any of the following events may create a special open enrollment:

- Subscriber gains a new dependent due to:
  - Marriage or registering a state-registered domestic partnership.
  - Birth, adoption, or assuming a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption.
  - A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.

## ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

- Subscriber or their dependent loses other coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Subscriber has a change in employment status that affects their eligibility for the employer contribution toward their employer-based group health plan.
- Subscriber has a change in employment location that affects medical plan availability. If the subscriber changes employment locations and their current medical plan is no longer available, the subscriber must select a new medical plan as described in SEBB Program rules. If the subscriber has one or more new medical plans available, the subscriber may select to enroll in a newly available plan.
- Subscriber's dependent has a change in their own employment status that affects their eligibility or their dependent's eligibility for the employer contribution under their employer-based group health plan. "Employer contribution" means contributions made by the dependent's current or former employer toward health coverage as described in the Treasury Regulation.
- Subscriber or their dependent has a change in residence that affects health plan availability. If the subscriber has a change in residence and their current medical plan is no longer available, the subscriber must select a new medical plan as described in SEBB Program rules.
- A court order requires the subscriber or any other individual to provide insurance coverage for an eligible dependent of the subscriber (a former spouse or former state-registered domestic partner is not an eligible dependent).
- Subscriber or their dependent enrolls in coverage under Medicaid or a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or the subscriber or their dependent loses eligibility for coverage under Medicaid or CHIP.
- Subscriber or their dependent becomes eligible for state premium assistance subsidy for SEBB health plan coverage from Medicaid or CHIP.
- Subscriber or their dependent enrolls in coverage under Medicare, or the subscriber or their dependent loses eligibility for coverage under Medicare. If the subscriber's current medical plan becomes unavailable due to the subscriber or their dependents enrollment in Medicare, the subscriber must select a new medical plan.
- Subscriber or their dependent's current medical plan becomes unavailable because the subscriber or enrolled dependent is no longer eligible for a health savings account (HSA).
- Subscriber or their dependent experiences a disruption of care for active and ongoing treatment that could function as a reduction in benefits for the subscriber or their dependent. The subscriber may not change their health plan election because the subscriber or dependent's physician stops participation with the subscriber's health plan unless the SEBB Program determines that a continuity of care issue exists. The SEBB Program will consider but not limit its consideration to the following:
  - Active cancer treatment, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy
  - Treatment following a recent organ transplant
  - A scheduled surgery
  - Recent major surgery still within the postoperative period
  - Treatment for a high-risk pregnancy
- The SEBB Program determines that there has been a substantial decrease in the providers available under a SEBB medical plan.

**Note:** The plan cannot guarantee that any physician, hospital, or other provider will be available or remain under contract with the plan. An enrollee may not change vision plans simply because their provider or health care facility discontinues participation with this vision plan until the SEBB Program's next annual open enrollment or when another qualifying event creates a special open enrollment for changing health plans, unless the SEBB Program determines that a continuity of care issue exists.

## ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

### Special open enrollment events that allow adding or removing a dependent

Any of the following events may create a special open enrollment:

- Subscriber gains a new dependent due to:
  - Marriage or registering a state-registered domestic partnership.
  - Birth, adoption, or when the subscriber has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption.
  - A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.
- Subscriber or their dependent loses other coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Subscriber has a change in employment status that affects their eligibility for the employer contribution toward their employer-based group health plan.
- Subscriber's dependent has a change in their own employment status that affects their eligibility or their dependent's eligibility for the employer contribution under their employer-based group health plan. "Employer contribution" means contributions made by the dependent's current or former employer toward health coverage as described in the Treasury Regulation.
- Subscriber or their dependent has a change in enrollment under an employer-based group health plan during its annual open enrollment that does not align with the SEBB Program's annual open enrollment.
- Subscriber's dependent has a change in residence from outside of the United States to within the United States or from within the United States to outside of the United States and that change in residence resulted in the dependent losing their health insurance.
- A court order requires the subscriber or any other individual to provide insurance coverage for an eligible dependent of the subscriber (a former spouse or former state-registered domestic partner is not an eligible dependent).
- Subscriber or their dependent enrolls in coverage under Medicaid or a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or the subscriber or their dependent loses eligibility for coverage under Medicaid or CHIP.
- Subscriber or their dependent becomes eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy for SEBB health plan coverage from Medicaid or CHIP.
- Subscriber's dependent enrolls in Medicare or loses eligibility for Medicare.

### WHEN VISION COVERAGE ENDS

#### Termination dates

Vision coverage ends on the following dates:

- On the last day of the month when any enrollee ceases to be eligible. For a School Board Member this includes when their elected or appointed term ends.
- On the date a vision plan terminates or when the group policy ends. If that should occur, the subscriber will have the opportunity to enroll in another SEBB vision plan.
- **For a school employee** and their dependents when the employment is terminated, vision coverage ends when:
  - The school employee resigns. If this is the case, vision coverage ends on the last day of the month in which a school employee's resignation is effective; or

## ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

- The SEBB organization or the Employer Group terminates the employment relationship. If this is the case, vision coverage ends on the last day of the month in which the employer-initiated termination is effective.

**Note:** If the SEBB organization or the Employer Group deducted the school employee's portion of the premium for SEBB insurance coverage after the school employee was no longer eligible for the employer contribution, vision coverage ends the last day of the month for which school employee premiums were deducted.

- **For a continuation coverage subscriber or a School Board Member** who submits a request to terminate vision coverage, enrollment in vision coverage will be terminated the last day of the month in which the request was received online using Benefits 24/7 or by the SEBB Program, or on the last day of the month specified in the termination request, whichever is later. If the request is received on the first day of the month, vision coverage will be terminated on the last day of the previous month.

A subscriber will be responsible for payment of any services received after the date vision coverage ends, as described above.

### Final premium payments

Premium payments and applicable premium surcharges are not prorated during any month, for any reason, even if an enrollee dies or asks to terminate their vision plan before the end of the month.

If the monthly premium or applicable premium surcharges remain unpaid for 30 days, the account will be considered delinquent. A subscriber is allowed a grace period of 30 days from the date the monthly premiums or applicable premium surcharges become delinquent to pay the unpaid premium balance and applicable premium surcharges. If the subscriber's premium balance or applicable premium surcharges remain unpaid for 60 days from the original due date, the subscriber's vision coverage (including enrolled dependents) will be terminated retroactive to the last day of the month for which the monthly premiums and any applicable premium surcharges were paid.

### Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage

When vision coverage ends, the subscriber and their dependents covered by this vision plan may be eligible to continue SEBB vision coverage during temporary or permanent loss of eligibility.

There are three options the subscriber and their dependents may qualify for when coverage ends.

- SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA)
- SEBB Continuation Coverage (Unpaid Leave)
- PEBB retiree insurance coverage

### SEBB Continuation Coverage

The SEBB Program administers the following continuation coverage options that temporarily extend group insurance coverage when the enrollee's SEBB vision plan coverage ends due to a qualifying event:

- **SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA)** includes eligibility and administrative requirements under federal COBRA laws and regulations. Some enrollees who are not qualified beneficiaries under federal COBRA may also qualify for SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA).
- **SEBB Continuation Coverage (Unpaid Leave)** is an option created by the SEBB Program with wider eligibility criteria and qualifying event types than COBRA.

An enrollee who qualifies for both types of SEBB Continuation Coverage (COBRA and Unpaid Leave) may enroll in only one of these options. See "Continuation coverage enrollment." Refer to the SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice for details.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)**

### **Premium payments for SEBB Continuation Coverage**

If a subscriber enrolls in continuation coverage, the subscriber is responsible for timely payment of premiums and applicable premium surcharges.

### **PEBB retiree insurance coverage**

A retiring school employee or a dependent becoming eligible as a survivor is eligible to continue enrollment or defer enrollment in Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) insurance coverage if they meet procedural and substantive eligibility requirements. See the PEBB Retiree Enrollment Guide for details.

### **Transitional Continuation Coverage**

Non-represented educational service district (ESD) school employees and their dependents may gain temporary eligibility for SEBB benefits, on a self-pay basis, if they meet the following criteria:

- A non-represented ESD school employee and their dependents who are enrolled in medical, dental, or vision under a group plan offered by a SEBB organization on December 31, 2023, who lose eligibility because the school employee is not eligible for SEBB benefits, may elect to continue existing enrollment in one or more of the following SEBB benefits: medical, dental, or vision coverage. These benefits will be provided for a maximum of 18 months.
- A dependent of a SEBB-eligible, non-represented school employee of an ESD who is enrolled in medical, dental, or vision under a school employee's account on December 31, 2023, who loses eligibility because they are not an eligible dependent may continue existing enrollment for a maximum of 36 months.
- A dependent of a non-represented school employee who is continuing medical, dental, or vision coverage through an ESD on December 31, 2023, may elect to continue existing enrollment to finish out their remaining months, up to the maximum number of months authorized by Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) for a similar event, by enrolling in a medical, dental, or vision plan offered through the SEBB Program.

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

A school employee on approved leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may continue to receive the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits in accordance with the federal FMLA.

The SEBB organization or the Employer Group determines if the school employee is eligible for leave and the duration of the leave under FMLA. The school employee must continue to pay their monthly premium contribution and applicable premium surcharges during this period to maintain eligibility.

If a school employee exhausts the period of leave approved under FMLA, they may continue SEBB insurance coverage by self-paying the monthly premium and applicable premium surcharges set by HCA, with no contribution from the SEBB organization or the Employer Group. See "Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage."

### **Paid Family and Medical Leave Act**

A school employee on approved leave under the Washington State Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Program may continue to receive the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits.

The Employment Security Department determines if the school employee is eligible for leave under PFML. The school employee must continue to pay their monthly premium contribution and applicable premium surcharges during this period to maintain eligibility.

If a school employee exhausts the period of leave approved under PFML, they may continue SEBB insurance coverage by self-paying the monthly premium and applicable premium surcharges set by HCA, with no contribution from the SEBB organization or the Employer Group. See "Options for continuing SEBB vision coverage."



# ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS (continued)

## GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

### Payment of premiums during a labor dispute

Any school employee or dependent whose monthly premiums are paid in full or in part by the SEBB organization or the Employer Group may pay premiums directly to HCA if the school employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly because of a strike, lockout, or any other labor dispute, for a period not to exceed six months.

When the school employee's compensation is suspended or terminated, HCA will notify the school employee immediately (by mail at the last address of record) that the school employee may pay premiums as they become due.

If coverage is no longer available to the school employee under this certificate of coverage, then the school employee may be eligible to purchase an individual vision plan from this plan consistent with premium rates filed with the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

### Appeal rights

**Any current or former employee of a SEBB organization** or their dependent may appeal a decision made by the SEBB organization regarding SEBB eligibility, enrollment, or premium surcharges to the SEBB organization.

**Any current or former school employee of an Employer Group** that contracts with HCA for SEBB benefits, or their dependent may appeal a decision made by an Employer Group regarding SEBB eligibility, enrollment, or premium surcharges to the Employer Group.

**Any enrollee** may appeal a decision made by the SEBB Program regarding SEBB eligibility, enrollment, premium payments, or premium surcharges to the SEBB Appeals Unit.

**Any enrollee** may appeal a decision regarding the administration of a SEBB vision plan by following the appeal provisions of the plan, except when regarding eligibility, enrollment, and premium payment decisions.

Learn more at [hca.wa.gov/sebb-appeals](https://hca.wa.gov/sebb-appeals).

### Relationship to law and regulations

Any provision of this certificate of coverage that is in conflict with any governing law or regulation of Washington State is hereby amended to comply with the minimum requirements of such law or regulation.

## **VISION INSURANCE**

Benefits are available for Covered Services and Materials provided by either In-Network Vision Providers or Out-of-Network Vision Providers. However, Members may be able to reduce out-of-pocket costs by using In-Network Vision Providers because Out-of-Network Vision Providers have not entered into an agreement to limit their charges. Members are always free to receive services from any Vision Provider. Members do not need any authorization from Us before seeing a Vision Provider.

In-Network Vision Providers have agreed to provide Covered Services and Materials as listed in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If a Member incurs a charge for Covered Services and Materials from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, Proof of such service must be sent to Us. When We receive such Proof, We will review the claim and if We approve it, will pay the insurance in effect on the date that service was completed.

The benefits available under this Vision Insurance are set forth on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS. In addition to the Co-Payment, if applicable, Members may be responsible for:

- the cost of any services or materials that are not Covered Services and Materials; and
- the cost of any service or material that is in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

We do not provide vision services. Whether or not benefits are available for a particular service does not mean Members should or should not receive the service. The Member and their Vision Provider have the right and are responsible at all times for choosing the course of treatment and services to be performed.

When requesting Covered Services and Materials from an In-Network Vision Provider, We recommend that Members confirm that the Vision Provider is currently an In-Network Vision Provider at the time that the Covered Services and Materials are provided.

Members can obtain a customized listing of MetLife's In-Network Vision Providers either by calling 1-833-854-9624 or by visiting Our website at [www.mybenefits.metlife.com/wasebb](http://www.mybenefits.metlife.com/wasebb).

## **PLAN BENEFITS**

We will pay benefits for charges incurred by a Member for Covered Services and Materials as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, subject to the conditions set forth in this certificate.

If a Member receives Covered Services and Materials from an In-Network Vision Provider, We will pay the provider directly for all covered benefits.

If a Member receives Covered Services and Materials from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, and the Subscriber assigns payment of Vision Insurance benefits to a Member's Vision Provider, We will pay benefits directly to the Vision Provider. Otherwise, We will pay Vision Insurance benefits to the Subscriber.

### **In-Network**

If Covered Services and Materials are provided by an In-Network Vision Provider, We will base the benefit on the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If an In-Network Vision Provider provides Covered Services and Materials, Members will be responsible for paying:

- the Co-Payment, if applicable; and
- the cost of any service or material that is in excess of the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

## **VISION INSURANCE (continued)**

### **Out-of-Network**

If Covered Services and Materials are provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, We will base the benefit on the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

Out-of-Network Vision Providers may charge Members more than the Maximum Benefit Allowance. If an Out-of-Network Vision Provider provides Covered Services and Materials, Members will be responsible for paying any amount in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance charged by the Out-of-Network Vision Provider.

### **Visually Necessary Contact Lenses**

A visually necessary contact lens exam and an annual supply of visually necessary contact lenses are covered in full for patients meeting the established conditions below. Those patients must be eligible for materials on the date of service. Coverage is limited and may require special handling to ensure proper reimbursement. Exam and material (prescription lenses and frame) copays for contact lenses apply unless otherwise specified.

Note: Visually necessary contact lenses aren't typically covered for patients who have received refractive surgery (e.g., LASIK, PRK, or RK). However, patients with underlying conditions such as corneal ectasia, corneal deformity, scarring or irregularity that require contact lenses to provide vision improvement, may be covered for visually necessary contact lenses, if they meet the approved criteria. Treatment for corneal abrasion is covered under Essential Medical Eye Care.

### **Benefit Coverage Criteria for Base Lenses**

- Nystagmus – H55.00 through H55.09, H81.10 through H81.23, or H81.41 through H81.49
- Anisometropia greater than or equal to 3.00 diopters difference based on the spectacle prescription.
- High ametropia greater than or equal to  $\pm 10.00$  diopters in either eye based on the spectacle prescription.
- Please see Visually Necessary Contact Lens Specialty Contact Lenses below for a complete listing of covered diagnosis codes.

**Colored contact lenses (for Visually Necessary Contacts) are a covered benefit for patients with the following conditions:**

- Achromatopsia – H53.51
- Albinism – E70.30, E70.310, E70.311, E70.318, E70.319
- Aniridia – Q13.1
- Polycoria; anisocoria (congenital) – Q13.0
- Pupillary abnormalities – H21.561 through H21.569

**To submit visually necessary contact lens claims through eClaim for any of the conditions above, the Vision Provider must do the following:**

Select Necessary Contact Lens as the Contact Lens Reason. Indicate the appropriate diagnosis code and/or spectacle prescription verifying the condition. For anisometropia and/or high ametropia, enter the spectacle prescription on the lab invoice for verification purposes.

### **Scleral Lenses (For Covered Contacts and Visually Necessary Contacts)**

Bill scleral lenses using HCPCS V2530 or V2531. Hybrid contact lenses are not scleral lenses and will not be reimbursed as sclerals. Bill hybrid lenses using V2599.

When submitting a claim for Visually Necessary Contacts using V2531, the Vision Provider must provide the following information in Box 19:

- Type of lens – Scleral
- The scleral lens manufacturer or brand

## **VISION INSURANCE (continued)**

If this information is missing or incomplete, it will result in claim reimbursement at the V2599 rate.

### **Other Type of Contact Lenses (For Covered Contacts and Visually Necessary Contacts)**

Use HCPCS code V2599 for other types of contact lenses, such as hybrid lenses.

When submitting a claim using V2599 (contact lens, other type) the Vision Provider must provide the following information in Box 19:

- Type of lens
- The lens manufacturer or brand
- For example, hybrid contact lens, SynergEyes® iD

Note: Bill scleral lenses using HCPCS V2530 or V2531. Hybrid contact lenses are not scleral lenses and will not be reimbursed as scleral.

### **Piggyback Lenses Benefit**

Piggyback lenses are a covered benefit for patients meeting one of the conditions above, and who aren't able to tolerate rigid gas permeable contact lenses. This requires the use of soft contact lenses and rigid gas permeable contact lenses, in the manner of a piggyback fitting.

When submitting a claim for piggyback lenses, the Vision Provider must provide the following information in Box 19:

- Piggyback lenses

### **Spectacle lenses to wear over contacts benefit**

Contacts with spectacle lenses to wear over contacts are covered benefits for patients with the following conditions:

- Aphakia – H27.00 - H27.03 or Q12.3
- High ametropia greater than or equal to  $\pm 10.00$  diopters in either eye based on the spectacle prescription.
- Presbyopia – H52.4
- Pseudophakia – Z96.1
- Accommodative disorder
- Binocular function disorder
- Different prism requirements for distance and near vision

A prescription is required for the lenses. Plano lenses aren't a covered benefit.

When your patient qualifies for spectacle lenses to be worn over contact lenses, request the spectacle lenses claim number at the same time or within 30 days of the contact lens claim submission date. For patients with keratoconus, request a claim number for spectacle lenses to be worn over contact lenses within 12 months of the contact lens claim submission date. Frames are private transaction between you and your patient.

If your patient meets the benefit criteria for visually necessary contact lenses above and also requires spectacle lenses to wear over the contacts, please verify that the above criteria is met, and call VSP at 800.615.1883 to obtain a claim number. Please have the relevant criteria information available when calling.

### **Submitting Claims**

Vision Providers should request a case number when your patient meets the benefit coverage criteria above, but you can't submit your claim through eClaim at eyefinity.com. To get a case number so you can submit your claim through eClaim, complete a Materials Verification Form, which must include at least one of the qualifying criteria listed above. Please allow five (5) business days for a response. Put your case number in Box 23.

## VISION INSURANCE (continued)

The following situations also require the submittal of a Materials Verification Form:

- NCL claims with DOS over 6 months
- Physical condition of ears or nose which prohibits the use of eyeglasses
- Physical symptoms associated with paraplegia or quadriplegia (be specific)

Fax the Materials Verification Form to us at 916.851.4733. Or mail to VSP, PO Box 385020, Birmingham, AL 35238-5020. You can find the form in the VSPOnline section of eyefinity.com or in the Tools and Forms section Of this manual.

<b>Visually Necessary Specialty Contact Lenses</b>	
If billing with CPT code 92072*, 92311*, 92312* or 92313* – for one of these diagnosis codes:	
*Codes may not be billed together on the same claim.	
<b>Description</b>	<b>ICD-10 Codes:</b>
Absence of iris (Aniridia)	Q13.1
Achromatopsia	H53.51
Adherent leukoma	H17.00 - H17.03
Albinism	E70.30
Aphakia	H27.00 - H27.03
Band keratopathy	H18.421- H18.429
Breakdown (mechanical) of other ocular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts	T85.318A - T85.318S
Bullous keratopathy	H18.10 - H18.13
Central corneal opacity	H17.10 - H17.13
Coloboma of iris	Q13.0
Congenital aphakia	Q12.3
Congenital corneal opacity	Q13.3
Corneal ectasia	H18.711 - H18.719
Corneal scars and opacities	H17.00 - H17.9, A18.59
Corneal staphyloma	H18.721 - H18.729
Corneal transplant failure	T86.8411 - T86.8419
Corneal transplant rejection	T86.8401 - T86.8409
Corneal transplant status	Z94.7
Corrosion of cornea and conjunctival sac	T26.60XA - T26.62XS
Deep vascularization of cornea	H16.441 - H16.449
Displacement of other ocular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts	T85.328A - T85.328S
Endothelial corneal dystrophy	H18.511 - H18.519
Enophthalmos due to atrophy of orbital tissue	H05.419

## VISION INSURANCE (continued)

Epithelial (juvenile) corneal dystrophy	H18.521– H18.529
Folds and rupture in Bowman's membrane	H18.311 - H18.319
Graft-versus-host disease	D89.813
Granular corneal dystrophy	H18.531 – H18.539
Keratoconus, stable	H18.611 - H18.619
Keratoconus, unspecified	H18.601 - H18.629
Keratoconus, unstable	H18.621 - H18.629
Keratoconjunctivitis sicca, in Sjogren's syndrome	M35.01
Keratomalacia	H18.441 - H18.449
Lattice corneal dystrophy	H18.541 - H18.549
Localized vascularization of cornea Covered for significant cases only where corneal neovascularization is a complication of inflammatory, infectious or autoimmune corneal pathologies	H16.431 - H16.439
Macular corneal dystrophy	H18.551 - H18.559
Minor opacity of cornea	H17.811 - H17.819
Nodular corneal degeneration	H18.451 - H18.459
Ocular laceration and rupture with prolapse or loss of intraocular tissue	S05.20XA - S05.22XS
Ocular laceration without prolapse or loss of intraocular tissue	S05.30XA - S05.32XS
Other calcareous corneal degeneration	H18.43
Other congenital corneal malformations	Q13.4
Other corneal degeneration	H18.49
Other corneal scars and opacities	H17.89
Other hereditary corneal dystrophies	H18.591 – H18.599
Other injuries of eye and orbit	S05.8X1A - S05.8X9S
Other keratitis	H16.8
Other mechanical complication of other ocular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts	T85.398A - T85.398S
Other tuberculosis of eye	A18.59
Penetrating wound with foreign body	S05.50XA - S05.52XS
Peripheral corneal degeneration Covered for marginal corneal degenerations, such as pellucid and Terrien, or as a result of previous ocular disease or trauma	H18.461 - H18.469

## VISION INSURANCE (continued)

Peripheral opacity of cornea	H17.821 - H17.829
Pupillary abnormality	H21.561 - H21.569
Recurrent erosion of cornea	H18.831 - H18.839
Unspecified corneal deformity	H18.70
Unspecified corneal degeneration	H18.40
Unspecified corneal membrane change	H18.30
Unspecified corneal scar and opacity	H17.9
Unspecified hereditary corneal dystrophies	H18.501 - H18.509
Unspecified injury of unspecified eye and orbit	S05.90XA - S05.92XS
Vitamin A deficiency with xerophthalmic scars of cornea	E50.6

**Note:** To substantiate billing for keratoconus, records must include: patient history; K readings; BCVA with refraction; slit lamp examination of the cornea; corneal topography or anterior OCT of the cornea.

The codes listed above are from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification and are used to describe diseases, injuries, symptoms and conditions. If the Member has questions about the diagnoses listed above or the codes included with the diagnoses, please contact the Member's Vision Provider.

## **VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS**

Subject to the Service Intervals and Plan Benefits indicated in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, the following will be Covered Services and Materials:

1. One complete visual examination.
2. Standard corrective lenses. We will cover a pair of standard single vision, lined bifocal, lined trifocal or lenticular lenses that are necessary to correct vision. Standard corrective lenses are as follows:
  - eye sizes up to and including 60mm;
  - multi-focal lenses in all segment widths;
  - prism and slab off;
  - base curves (regardless of curve);
  - lenses with the combined power in any meridian is +/- .50 diopters or greater in at least one eye; and
  - plastic or glass lenses.
3. The following lens options described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS: tint (solid and gradient), standard plastic scratch coating, standard polycarbonate (if you are less than 18 years of age, standard anti-reflective coating, plastic photochromic, polarized premium anti-reflective.
4. Contact lenses.
  - A standard fitting and 1 follow-up visit by a Vision Provider.
  - The following contact lenses options, as described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS: conventional, disposable, and Necessary.
5. Necessary low vision aids.
6. We do not cover costs above the Maximum Benefit Allowance shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS for frames. If frames are selected that are more expensive than that amount, the Member will be charged the difference between the Maximum Benefit Allowance and the Vision Provider's charge for the more expensive frame.
7. Necessary contact lenses in lieu of all benefits for vision materials.



## VISION INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS

We will not pay Vision Insurance benefits for charges incurred for:

1. Services and/or materials not specifically included in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS as covered Plan Benefits.
2. Any portion of a charge in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance or reimbursement indicated in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.
3. Plano lenses (lenses with refractive correction of less than  $\pm .50$  diopter).
4. Two pairs of glasses instead of bifocals.
5. Replacement of lenses, frames and/or contact lenses furnished under this Plan which are lost, stolen or damaged, except at the normal Service Intervals when Plan Benefits are otherwise available.
6. Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
7. Medical or surgical treatment of the eye.
8. Prescription or non-prescription medications.
9. Contact lens insurance policies and service agreements.
10. Refitting of contact lenses after the initial (90-day) fitting period.
11. Contact lens modification, polishing and cleaning.
12. Any eye examination or any corrective eyewear required as a condition of employment.
13. Services or supplies received by a Member before the Vision Insurance starts for that person.
14. Missed appointments.
15. Services or materials resulting from or in the course of a Covered Person's regular occupation for pay or profit for which the Covered Person is entitled to benefits under any Workers' Compensation Law, Employer's Liability Law or similar law. The Subscriber must promptly claim and notify the Company of all such benefits.
16. Local, state and/or federal taxes, except where MetLife is required by law to pay.
17. Services:
  - for which the employer of the person receiving such services is required to pay by law; or
  - received at a facility maintained by the employer, labor union, mutual benefit association, or VA hospital.
18. Services or materials received as a result of disease, defect, or injury due to war or an act of war (declared or undeclared), taking part in a riot or insurrection, or committing or attempting to commit a felony.
19. Services, procedures, or materials for which a charge would not have been made in the absence of insurance.

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

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

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

### DEFINITIONS

A. A **Plan** is any of the following that provides benefits or services for 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. However, if COB rules do not apply to all contracts, or to all benefits in the same contract, the contract or benefit to which COB does not apply is treated as a separate plan.

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

(2) **Plan** does not include: Hospital indemnity or fixed payment coverage or other fixed indemnity or fixed payment coverage; accident only coverage; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefits for non-medical components of long-term care policies; automobile insurance policies required by statute to provide medical benefits; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid coverage; or coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

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

B. **This plan** means, in a **COB** provision, the part of the contract providing the vision care benefits to which the **COB** provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other plans. Any other part of the contract providing 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.

C. The order of benefit determination rules determine whether **This plan** is a **Primary plan** or **Secondary plan** when the person has 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 must make payment in an amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the primary plan, the total benefits paid or provided by all plans for the claim equal 100% of the **Total Allowable expense** for that claim. This means that when this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it must pay the amount which, when combined with what the **Primary plan** paid, totals 100% of the highest **Allowable expense**. In addition, if this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it must calculate its savings (its amount paid subtracted from the amount it would have paid had it been the **Primary plan**) and record these savings as a benefit reserve for the covered person. This reserve must be used to pay any expenses during that calendar year, whether or not they are an **Allowable expense** under this **Plan**. If this **Plan** is **Secondary**, it will not be required to pay an amount in excess of its maximum benefit plus any accrued savings.

D. **Allowable expense** is a vision care expense, including deductibles, coinsurance and copayments, that is covered at least in part by any **Plan** covering the person. When a **Plan** provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an **Allowable expense** and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any **Plan** covering the person is not an **Allowable expense**.

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

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

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

(2) If a person is covered by two or more **Plans** that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees is not an **Allowable expense**.

(3) The amount of any benefit reduction by the **Primary plan** because a covered person has failed to comply with the **Plan** provisions is not an **Allowable expense**. Examples of these types of plan provisions include second surgical opinions, precertification of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.

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

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

### ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES

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

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

B. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a **Plan** that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this chapter is always primary unless the provisions of both **Plans** state that the complying plan is primary.

(2) Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage is excess to any other parts of the **Plan** provided by the contract holder. Examples include major medical coverages that are superimposed over hospital and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a **Closed panel plan** to provide out-of-network benefits.

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

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

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

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

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

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

- The **Plan** of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the **Primary plan**; or
- If both parents have the same birthday, the **Plan** that has covered the parent the longest is the **Primary plan**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- The **Plan** covering the **Custodial parent**, first;
- The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **Custodial parent**, second;
- The **Plan** covering the **non-custodial parent**, third; and then
- The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **non-custodial parent**, last

(c) For a Dependent child covered under more than one **Plan** of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) above determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.

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

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

- (4) COBRA or State Continuation Coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided under COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another **Plan**, the **Plan** covering the person as an employee, member, Subscriber or retiree or covering the person as a Dependent of an employee, member, Subscriber or retiree is the **Primary plan** and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the **Secondary plan**. If the other **Plan** does not have this rule, and as a result, the **Plans** do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule under section D(1) can determine the order of benefits.
- (5) Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The **Plan** that covered the person as an employee, member, policyholder, Subscriber or retiree longer is the **Primary plan** and the **Plan** that covered the person the shorter period of time is the **Secondary plan**.
- (6) If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the **Allowable expenses** must be shared equally between the **Plans** meeting the definition of **Plan**. In addition, **This plan** will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the **Primary plan**.

### EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

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

### RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these **COB** rules and to determine benefits payable under **This plan** and other **Plans**. We may get the facts 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 needed to apply those rules and determine benefits payable.

### FACILITY OF PAYMENT

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

### RIGHT OF RECOVERY

We have the right to recover excess payment whenever We have paid Allowable expenses in excess of the maximum amount of payment necessary to satisfy the intent of this provision. We may recover excess payment from any person to whom or for whom payment was made or any other issuers or plans.

**If the Member has Questions about Coordination of Benefits, please contact MetLife at 1-833-854-9624.**

If the Member is covered by more than one vision benefit plan, and the Member does not know which is the Member's primary plan, the Member's vision provider should contact any one of the vision plans to verify which plan is primary. The health plan the Member contact is responsible for working with the other plan to determine which is primary and will let the Member know within thirty calendar days.

## **VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)**

CAUTION: All vision plans have timely claim filing requirements. If the Member's provider fails to submit the Member's claim to a secondary vision plan within that plan's claim filing time limit, the plan can deny the claim. If the Member's experience delays in the processing of the Member's claim by the primary health plan, the Member's provider will need to submit the Member's claim to the secondary health plan within its claim filing time limit to prevent a denial of the claim.

To avoid delays in claims processing, if the Member is covered by more than one plan the Member should promptly report to the Member's vision providers and plans any changes in the Member's coverage."

## **VISION INSURANCE: FILING A CLAIM**

### **CLAIMS FOR VISION INSURANCE**

If you select an In Network Vision Provider, the Member does not need to file a claim.

If you select an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, the Member may provide full payment to the Out-of-Network Vision Provider at the time of service and submit the invoice including an itemized statement of charges with the Member's claim form, or the Member may be able to assign the claim to the Out-of-Network Vision Provider. If the Out-of-Network Vision Provider accepts the assignment, the provider will submit the claim on your behalf. The Member will be responsible for any charges not covered by the Plan.

Out of network claim forms needed to file for benefits under the group insurance program can be obtained by calling MetLife at 1-833-854-9624. Vision claim forms can also be downloaded from [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits). The instructions on the claim form should be followed carefully. This will expedite the processing of the claim.

When We receive the claim form and Proof, the Member claim will be paid subject to the terms and provisions of this certificate and the Group Policy.

### **CLAIMS FOR VISION INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**When a claimant files a claim for Vision Insurance benefits described in this certificate**, both the notice of claim and the required Proof should be sent to Us within 180 days from the date of service. If it was not reasonably possible to give Written Proof within 180 days from the date of service, We will not reduce or deny the claim for this reason if the Proof is filed as soon as reasonably possible.

Claim and Proof may be given to Us by following the steps set forth below:

#### **Step 1**

A claimant can request a claim form by downloading it from [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits).

#### **Step 2**

Complete the claim form as instructed and return it with the invoice.

#### **Step 3**

The claimant must give Us Proof not later than one(1) year from the date of service unless the claimant is legally incapacitated. In any event, the Proof required must be given no later than one (1) year from the time specified.

We will pay the claim as soon as We receive proper Written Proof of loss.

### **Routine Questions on Vision Insurance Claims**

If there is any question about a claim payment, an explanation may be requested from MetLife by dialing 1-833-854-9624.

### **Claim Denial Appeals**

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, under the terms of this certificate, a request may be submitted to Us by a Covered Person or a Covered Person's authorized representative for a full review of the denial. A Covered Person may designate any person, including their provider, as their authorized representative. References in this section to "Covered Person" include the Covered Person's authorized representative, where applicable.

**Initial Appeal.** All requests for review must be made within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following denial of a claim. A Covered Person may review, during normal business hours, any documents used by Us pertinent to the denial. A Covered Person may also submit Written comments or supporting documentation concerning the claim to assist in Our review. Our response to the initial appeal, including specific reasons for the decision, shall be communicated to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the request for the appeal.

## **VISION INSURANCE: FILING A CLAIM (continued)**

**Second Level Appeal.** If a Covered Person disagrees with the response to the initial appeal of the denied claim, the Covered Person has the right to a second level appeal. A request for a second level appeal must be submitted to Us within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Our response to the initial appeal. We shall communicate Our final determination to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request, or as required by any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Our communication to the Covered Person shall include the specific reasons for the determination.

**Other Remedies.** When a Covered Person has completed the appeals stated herein, additional voluntary alternative dispute resolution options may be available, including mediation or arbitration. Additional information is available from the U.S. Department of Labor or the insurance regulatory agency for the Covered Persons' state of residency. Additionally, under the provisions of ERISA (Section 502(a)(1)(B) 29 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B)), the Covered Person has the right to bring a civil action when all available levels of reviews, including the appeal process, have been completed. ERISA remedies may apply in those instances where the claims were not approved in whole or in part as the result of appeals under this Policy and the Covered Person disagrees with the outcome of such appeals.

**Time of Action.** No action in law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the Covered Person exhausting his/her rights under this Policy and/or prior to the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the claim and any applicable documentation has been filed with Us. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations, from the time Written Proof of Loss is required to be given.

**Insurance Fraud:** Any Covered Person who intends to defraud, knowingly facilitates a fraud, submits a claim containing false or deceptive information, or who commits any other similar act as defined by applicable state or federal law, is guilty of insurance fraud. Such an act is grounds for immediate termination of the coverage under this Policy of the Covered Person committing such fraud.



## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Assignment**

The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable prior to a claim for benefits, except as required by law. We are not responsible for the validity of an assignment.

Upon receipt of a Covered Service, the Member may assign Vision Insurance benefits to the Vision Provider providing such service.

### **Vision Insurance: Who We Will Pay**

If the Member assigns payment of Vision Insurance benefits to the Member's Vision Provider, We will pay benefits directly to the Vision Provider. Otherwise, We will pay Vision Insurance benefits to the Member.

### **Entire Contract**

The Member's insurance is provided under a contract of group insurance with the Policyholder. The entire contract with the Policyholder is made up of the following:

1. the Group Policy and its Exhibits, which include the certificate(s);
2. the Policyholder's application; and
3. any amendments and/or endorsements to the Group Policy.

If there is a conflict in language between the Group Policy and the certificate, the certificate governs.

### **Incontestability: Statements Made by the Member**

Any statement made by the Member will be considered a representation and not a warranty.

Evidence of insurability will not be required nor will any statement made by the Member, which relates to insurability, be used:

1. to contest the validity of the insurance benefits; or
2. to reduce the insurance benefits.

### **Conformity with Law**

If the terms and provisions of this certificate do not conform to any applicable law, this certificate shall be interpreted to so conform.

**THIS IS THE END OF THE CERTIFICATE.**

**THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**



Delaware American Life Insurance Company  
MetLife Health Plans, Inc.  
MetLife Legal Plans, Inc.  
MetLife Legal Plans of Florida, Inc.  
Metropolitan General Insurance Company

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
Metropolitan Tower Life Insurance Company  
SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc.  
SafeHealth Life Insurance Company

## **Our Privacy Notice**

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We know that you buy our products and services because you trust us. This notice explains how we protect your privacy and treat your personal information. It applies to current and former customers. "Personal information" as used here means anything we know about you personally.

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### **SECTION 1: Plan Sponsors and Group Insurance Contract Holders**

This privacy notice is for individuals who apply for or obtain our products and services under an employee benefit plan, group insurance or annuity contract, as an executive benefit, or as otherwise made available at your work or through an association to which you belong. In this notice "you" refers to these individuals.

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### **SECTION 2: Protecting Your Information**

We take important steps to protect your personal information. We treat it as confidential. We tell our employees to take care in handling it. We limit access to those who need it to perform their jobs. Our outside service providers must also protect it, and use it only to meet our business needs. We also take steps to protect our systems from unauthorized access. We comply with all laws that apply to us.

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### **SECTION 3: Collecting Your Information**

We typically collect your name, address, age, and other relevant information. We may also collect information about any business you have with us, our affiliates, or other companies. Our affiliates include life insurers, a legal plans company and a securities broker-dealer. In the future, we may also have affiliates in other businesses.

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### **SECTION 4: How We Get Your Information**

We get your personal information mostly from you. We may also use outside sources to help ensure our records are correct and complete. These sources may include consumer reporting agencies, employers, other financial institutions, adult relatives, and others. These sources may give us reports or share what they know with others. We don't control the accuracy of information outside sources give us. If you want to make any changes to information we receive from others about you, you must contact those sources.

We may ask for medical information. The Authorization that you sign when you request insurance permits these sources to tell us about you. We may also, at our expense:

- Ask for a medical exam
- Ask for blood and urine tests
- Ask health care providers to give us health data, including information about alcohol or drug abuse

We may also ask a consumer reporting agency for a "consumer report" about you (or anyone else to be insured). Consumer reports may tell us about a lot of things, including information about:

- Reputation
- Driving record
- Finances
- Work and work history
- Hobbies and dangerous activities

The information may be kept by the consumer reporting agency and later given to others as permitted by law. The agency will give you a copy of the report it provides to us, if you ask the agency and can provide adequate identification. If you write to us and we have asked for a consumer report about you, we will tell you so and give you the name, address and phone number of the consumer reporting agency.

Another source of information is MIB, LLC (“MIB”). It is a not-for-profit membership organization of insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its Members. We, or our reinsurers, may make a brief report to MIB. If you apply to another MIB Member company for life or health insurance coverage, or a claim for benefits is submitted, MIB, upon request, will supply such company with the information in its file. Upon receipt of a request from you MIB will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Please contact MIB at 866-692-6901. If you question the accuracy of information in MIB’s file, you may contact MIB and seek a correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. You may do so by writing to MIB, LLC, 50 Braintree Hill, Suite 400, Braintree, MA 02184-8734 or go to MIB website at [www.mib.com](http://www.mib.com).

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## **SECTION 5: Using Your Information**

We collect your personal information to help us decide if you’re eligible for our products or services. We may also need it to verify identities to help deter fraud, money laundering, or other crimes. How we use this information depends on what products and services you have or want from us. It also depends on what laws apply to those products and services. For example, we may also use your information to:

- administer your products and services
- perform business research
- market new products to you
- comply with applicable laws
- process claims and other transactions
- confirm or correct your information
- help us run our business

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## **SECTION 6: Sharing Your Information With Others**

We may share your personal information with others with your consent, by agreement, or as permitted or required by law. We may share your personal information without your consent if permitted or required by law. For example, we may share your information with businesses hired to carry out services for us. We may also share it with our affiliated or unaffiliated business partners through joint marketing agreements. In those situations, we share your information to jointly offer you products and services or have others offer you products and services we endorse or sponsor. Before sharing your information with any affiliate or joint marketing partner for their own marketing purposes, however, we will first notify you and give you an opportunity to opt out.

Other reasons we may share your information include:

- doing what a court, law enforcement, or government agency requires us to do (for example, complying with search warrants or subpoenas)
- telling another company what we know about you if we are selling or merging any part of our business
- giving information to a governmental agency so it can decide if you are eligible for public benefits
- giving your information to someone with a legal interest in your assets (for example, a creditor with a lien on your account)
- giving your information to your health care provider
- having a peer review organization evaluate your information, if you have health coverage with us
- those listed in our “Using Your Information” section above

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## **SECTION 7: HIPAA**

We will not share your health information with any other company – even one of our affiliates – for their own marketing purposes. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) protects your information if you request or purchase dental, vision, long-term care and/or medical insurance from us. HIPAA limits our ability to use and disclose the information that we obtain as a result of your request or purchase of insurance. Information about your rights under HIPAA will be provided to you with any dental, vision, long-term care or medical coverage issued to you.

You may obtain a copy of our HIPAA Privacy Notice by visiting our website at [www.MetLife.com](http://www.MetLife.com). For additional information about your rights under HIPAA; or to have a HIPAA Privacy Notice mailed to you, contact us at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com), or call us at telephone number (212) 578-0299.

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**SECTION 8: Accessing and Correcting Your Information**

You may ask us for a copy of the personal information we have about you. We will provide it as long as it is reasonably locatable and retrievable. You must make your request in writing listing the account or policy numbers with the information you want to access. For legal reasons, we may not show you privileged information relating to a claim or lawsuit, unless required by law.

If you tell us that what we know about you is incorrect, we will review it. If we agree, we will update our records. Otherwise, you may dispute our findings in writing, and we will include your statement whenever we give your disputed information to anyone outside MetLife.

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**SECTION 9: Questions**

We want you to understand how we protect your privacy. If you have any questions or want more information about this notice, please contact us. A detailed notice shall be furnished to you upon request. When you write, include your name, address, and policy or account number.

**Send privacy questions to:**

MetLife Privacy Office  
P. O. Box 489  
Warwick, RI 02887-9954  
[privacy@metlife.com](mailto:privacy@metlife.com)

We may revise this privacy notice. If we make any material changes, we will notify you as required by law. We provide this privacy notice to you on behalf of the MetLife companies listed at the top of the first page.

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## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

Dear MetLife Customer:

This is your Health Information Privacy Notice from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or a member of the MetLife, Inc. family of companies, which includes SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc., SafeHealth Life Insurance Company, and Delaware American Life Insurance Company (collectively, “**MetLife**”). **Please read it carefully.** You have received this notice because of your Dental, Vision, Long-Term Care, Cancer and Specified Disease Expense Insurance, or Health coverage with us (your “**Coverage**”). MetLife strongly believes in protecting the confidentiality and security of information we collect about you. This notice refers to MetLife by using the terms “us,” “we,” or “our.”

This notice describes how we protect the personal health information we have about you which relates to your MetLife Coverage (“**Protected Health Information**” or “**PHI**”), and how we may use and disclose this information. PHI includes individually identifiable information which relates to your past, present or future health, treatment or payment for health care services. This notice also describes your rights with respect to the PHI and how you can exercise those rights.

We are required to provide this notice to you by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“**HIPAA**”). For additional information regarding our HIPAA Medical Information Privacy Policy or our general privacy policies, please see the privacy notices contained at our website, [www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com). You may submit questions to us there or you may write to us directly at MetLife, Americas – U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office, P.O. Box 902, New York, NY 10159-0902.

### **NOTICE SUMMARY**

**The following is a brief summary of the topics covered in this HIPAA notice. Please refer to the full notice below for details.**

As allowed by law, we may **use** and **disclose** PHI to:

- make, receive, or collect payments;
- conduct health care operations;
- administer benefits by sharing PHI with affiliates and Business Associates;
- assist plan sponsors in administering their plans; and
- inform persons who may be involved in or paying for another’s health care.

**In addition, we may use or disclose PHI:**

- where required by law or for public health activities;
- to avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- for health-related benefits or services;
- for law enforcement or specific government functions;
- when requested as part of a regulatory or legal proceeding; and
- to provide information about deceased persons to coroners, medical examiners, or funeral directors.

**You have the right to:**

- receive a copy of this notice;
- inspect and copy your PHI, or receive a copy of your PHI;
- amend your PHI if you believe the information is incorrect;
- obtain a list of disclosures we made about you (except for treatment, payment, or health care operations);

- ask us to restrict the information we share for treatment, payment, or health care operations;
- request that we communicate with you in a confidential manner; and
- complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

**We are required by law to:**

- maintain the privacy of PHI;
- provide this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI;
- notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured PHI; and
- follow the terms of this notice.

**NOTICE DETAILS**

We protect your PHI from inappropriate use or disclosure. Our employees, and those of companies that help us service your MetLife Coverage, are required to comply with our requirements that protect the confidentiality of PHI. They may look at your PHI only when there is an appropriate reason to do so, such as to administer our products or services.

Except in the case of Long-Term Care Coverage, we will **not use or disclose** PHI that is genetic information for underwriting purposes. For example, we will not use information from a genetic test (such as DNA or RNA analysis) of an individual or an individual's family members to determine eligibility, premiums or contribution amounts under your Coverage.

We will **not sell or disclose** your PHI to any other company for their use in marketing their products to you. However, as described below, we will use and disclose PHI about you for business purposes relating to your Coverage.

The main reasons we may **use** and **disclose** your PHI are to evaluate and process any requests for coverage and claims for benefits you may make or in connection with other health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you. The following describe these and other uses and disclosures.

- For Health Care Operations: We may also use and disclose PHI for our insurance operations. These purposes include evaluating a request for our products or services, administering those products or services, and processing transactions requested by you.

- To Affiliates and Business Associates: We may disclose PHI to Affiliates and to business associates outside of the MetLife family of companies if they need to receive PHI to provide a service to us and will agree to abide by specific HIPAA rules relating to the protection of PHI. Examples of business associates are: billing companies, data processing companies, companies that provide general administrative services, health information organizations e-prescribing gateways, or personal health record vendors that provide services to covered entities. PHI may be disclosed to reinsurers for underwriting, audit or claim review reasons. PHI may also be disclosed as part of a potential merger or acquisition involving our business in order that the parties to the transaction may make an informed business decision.

- To Plan Sponsors: We may disclose summary health information such as claims history or claims expenses to a plan sponsor to enable it to obtain premium bids from health plans, or to modify, amend or terminate a group health plan. We may also disclose PHI to a plan sponsor to help administer its plan if the plan sponsor agrees to restrict its use and disclosure of PHI in accordance with federal law.

- To Individuals Involved in Your Care: We may disclose your PHI to a family member or other individual who is involved in your health care or payment of your health care. For example, we may disclose PHI to a covered family member whom you have authorized to contact us regarding payment of a claim.

- Where Required by Law or for Public Health Activities: We disclose PHI when required by federal, state or local law. Examples of such mandatory disclosures include notifying state or local health authorities regarding particular communicable diseases, or providing PHI to a governmental agency or regulator with health care oversight responsibilities.

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

**For Payment:** We may use and disclose PHI to pay benefits under your Coverage. For example, we may review PHI contained in claims to reimburse providers for services rendered. We may also disclose PHI to other insurance carriers to coordinate benefits with respect to a particular claim. Additionally, we may disclose PHI to a health plan or an administrator of an employee welfare benefit plan for various payment-related functions, such as eligibility determination, audit and review, or to assist you with your inquiries or disputes.

interest to you. However, we will not send marketing communications to you in exchange for financial remuneration from a third party without your authorization.

- **For Law Enforcement or Specific Government Functions:** We may disclose PHI in response to a request by a law enforcement official made through a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process. We may disclose PHI about you to federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

- **When Requested as Part of a Regulatory or Legal Proceeding:** If you or your estate are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose PHI about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose PHI about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the PHI requested. We may disclose PHI to any governmental agency or regulator with whom you have filed a complaint or as part of a regulatory agency examination.

- **PHI about Deceased Individuals :** We may release PHI to a coroner or medical examiner to assist in identifying a deceased individual or to determine the cause of death. In addition, we may disclose a deceased's person's PHI to a family member or individual involved in the care or payment for care of the deceased person unless doing so is inconsistent with any prior expressed preference of the deceased person which is known to us.

- **Other Uses of PHI:** Other uses and disclosures of PHI not covered by this notice and permitted by the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization or that of your legal representative. If we are authorized to use or disclose PHI about you, you or your legally authorized representative may revoke that authorization in writing at any time, except to the extent that we have taken action relying on the authorization or if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining your Coverage. You should understand that we will not be able to take back any disclosures we have already made with authorization.

- **For Health-Related Benefits or Services:** We may use your PHI to provide you with information about benefits available to you under your current coverage or policy and, in limited situations, about health-related products or services that may be of of the PHI that we maintain about you. If we maintain the requested PHI electronically, you may ask us to provide you with the PHI in electronic format, if readily producible; or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format agreed to by you and us. To receive a copy of your PHI, you may be charged a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, electronic media, or other supplies associated with your request. You may also direct us to send the PHI you have requested to another person designated by you, so long as your request is in writing and clearly identifies the designated individual. However, certain types of PHI will not be made available for inspection and copying. This includes psychotherapy notes or PHI collected by us in connection with, or in reasonable anticipation of, any claim or legal proceeding. In very limited circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and obtain a copy of your PHI. If we do, you may request that the denial be reviewed. The review will be conducted by an individual chosen by us who was not involved in the original decision to deny your request. We will comply with the outcome of that review.

- **Right to Amend Your PHI:** If you believe that your PHI is incorrect or that an important part of it is missing, you have the right to ask us to amend your PHI while it is kept by or for us. You must specify the reason for your request. We may deny your request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason that supports the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend PHI that:

- is accurate and complete;
- was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the PHI is no longer available to make the amendment;
- is not part of the PHI kept by or for us; or
- is not part of the PHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy.

- **Right to a List of Disclosures:** You have the right to request a list of the disclosures we have made of your PHI. This list will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, health care operations, purposes of national security, to law enforcement, to corrections personnel, pursuant to your authorization, or directly to you. To request this list, you must submit your request in writing. Your request must state the time period for which you want to receive a list of disclosures. You may only request an accounting of disclosures for a period of time less than six years prior to the date of your request. Your request should indicate in what form you want the



## **Your Rights Regarding Protected Health Information That We Maintain About You**

The following are your various rights as a consumer under HIPAA concerning your PHI. Should you have questions about or wish to exercise a specific right, please contact us in writing at the applicable Contact Address listed on the last page.

**Right to Inspect and Copy Your PHI:** In most cases, you have the right to inspect and obtain a copy Use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations, or that we disclose to someone who may be involved in your care or payment for your care, like a family member or friend. While we will consider your request, **we are not required to agree to it.** If we do agree to it, we will comply with your request. To request a restriction, you must make your request in writing. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply (for example, disclosures to your spouse or parent). We will not agree to restrictions on PHI uses or disclosures that are legally required, or which are necessary to administer our business.

- **Right to Request Confidential**

**Communications :** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about PHI in a certain way or at a certain location if you tell us that communication in another manner may endanger you. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing and specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

- **Contact Addresses:** If you have any questions about a specific individual right or you want to exercise one of your individual rights, please submit your request in writing to the address below which applies to your Coverage:

**MetLife or SafeGuard Dental & Vision  
P.O. Box 14587  
Lexington, KY 40512-4587**

**MetLife LTC Privacy Coordinator  
1300 Hall Boulevard, 3rd Floor  
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

**Delaware American Life Insurance  
Company  
MetLife Worldwide Benefits  
P.O. Box 1449  
Wilmington, DE 19899-1449**

list (for example, paper or electronic). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. We may charge you for responding to any additional requests. We will notify you of the cost involved, and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before you incur any cost.

- **Right to Request Restrictions:** You have the Right to request a restriction or limitation on PHI we of the PHI that we maintain about you. If we maintain the requested PHI electronically, you may ask us to provide you with the PHI in electronic format, if readily producible; or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format agreed to by you and us. To receive a copy of your PHI, you may be charged a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, electronic media, or other supplies associated with your request. You may also direct us to send the PHI you have requested to another person designated by you, so long as your request is in writing and clearly identifies the designated individual. However, certain types of PHI will not be made available for inspection and copying. This includes psychotherapy notes or PHI collected by us in connection with, or in reasonable anticipation of, any claim or legal proceeding. In very limited circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and obtain a copy of your PHI. If we do, you may request that the denial be reviewed. The review will be conducted by an individual chosen by us who was not involved in the original decision to deny your request. We will comply with the outcome of that review.

- **Right to File a Complaint:** If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us or with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with us, please contact MetLife, Americas – U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office, P.O. Box 902, New York, NY 10159-0902. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint. If you have questions as to how to file a complaint, please contact us at telephone number (212) 578-0299 or at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Changes to This Notice:** We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for PHI we already have about you, as well as any PHI we receive in the future. The effective date of this notice and any revised or changed notice may be found on the last page, on the bottom right-hand corner of the notice. You will receive a copy of any revised notice from MetLife by mail or by e-mail, if e-mail delivery is offered by MetLife and you agree to such delivery.

**Cancer and Specified Disease  
Expense Insurance  
c/o Bay Bridge Administrators, LLC  
P.O. Box 161690  
Austin, TX 78716**

**Further Information:** You may have additional rights under other applicable laws. For additional information regarding our HIPAA Medical Information Privacy Policy or our general privacy policies, please e-mail us at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com) or call us at telephone number (212) 578-0299, or write us at:

MetLife, Americas  
U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office  
P.O. Box 902  
New York, NY 10159-0902

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## **Uniformed Services Employment And Reemployment Rights Act**

This section describes the right that you may have to continue coverage for yourself and your covered dependents under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

### **Continuation of Group Vision Insurance:**

If you take a leave from employment for “service in the uniformed services,” as that term is defined in USERRA, and as a consequence your vision insurance coverage under your employer’s group vision insurance policy ends, you may elect to continue vision insurance for yourself and your covered dependents, for a limited period of time, as described below.

The law requires that your employer notify you of your rights, benefits and obligations under USERRA including instructions on how to elect to continue insurance, the amount and procedure for payment of premium. If permitted by USERRA, your employer may require that you elect to continue coverage within a period of time specified by your employer.

You may be responsible for payment of the required premium to continue insurance. If your leave from employment for service in the uniformed services lasts less than 31 days, your required premium will be no more than the amount you were required to pay for vision insurance before the leave began; for a leave lasting 31 or more days, you may be required to pay up to 102% of the total vision insurance premium, including any amount that your employer was paying before the leave began.

Your and your covered dependents’ insurance that is continued pursuant to USERRA will end on the earliest of the following:

- the end of 24 consecutive months from the date your leave from employment for service in the uniformed services begins; or
- the day after the date on which you fail to apply for, or return to employment, in accordance with USERRA.

You and your covered dependent may become entitled to continuation of coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (“COBRA”) while you have vision insurance coverage under your employer’s group vision insurance policy pursuant to USERRA. Contact your employer for more information.

**THE BENEFITS OF THE POLICY PROVIDING YOUR COVERAGE ARE GOVERNED PRIMARILY BY THE LAW OF A STATE OTHER THAN FLORIDA.**

**For Idaho Residents: TEN DAY RIGHT TO EXAMINE CERTIFICATE:** You may return the certificate to Us within 10 days from the date You receive it. If You return it within the 10 day period, the certificate will be considered never to have been issued. We will refund any premium paid after We receive Your notice of cancellation.

**THE GROUP INSURANCE POLICY PROVIDING COVERAGE UNDER THIS CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED IN A JURISDICTION OTHER THAN MARYLAND AND MAY NOT PROVIDE ALL THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY MARYLAND LAW.**

**For New Mexico Residents: This type of plan is NOT considered "minimum essential coverage" under the Affordable Care Act and therefore does NOT satisfy the individual mandate that the Subscriber have health insurance coverage. If the Subscriber does not have other health insurance coverage, the Subscriber may be subject to a federal tax penalty.**

**For New Mexico Residents:** If You are not satisfied with Your certificate for any reason, You may return it to Us within 30 days after You receive it, unless a claim has previously been received by Us under Your certificate. We will refund any premium that has been paid and the certificate will then be considered to have never been issued. You should be aware that, if You elect to return the certificate for a refund of premiums, losses which otherwise would have been covered under Your certificate will not be covered.

**For New Hampshire Residents: 30 Day Right to Examine Certificate.**

Please read this Certificate. The Subscriber may return the Certificate to Us within 30 days from the date the Subscriber receive it. If you return it within the 30 day period, the Certificate will be considered never to have been issued and We will refund any premium paid for insurance under this Certificate.

**WE ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW TO INCLUDE THE NOTICE(S) WHICH APPEAR ON THIS PAGE AND IN THE NOTICE(S) SECTION WHICH FOLLOWS THIS PAGE. PLEASE READ THE(S) NOTICE(S) CAREFULLY.**

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS**

### **Have a complaint or need help?**

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

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

### **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**

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

**Call: Corporate Consumer Relations Department at 1-800-438-6388**

**Toll-free: 1-800-438-6388**

Email: [Johnstown\\_Complaint\\_Referrals@metlife.com](mailto:Johnstown_Complaint_Referrals@metlife.com)

Mail: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
700 Quaker Lane  
2nd Floor  
Warwick, RI 02886

### **The Texas Department of Insurance**

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

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

File a complaint: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Email: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Mail: Consumer Protection, MC: CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711-2030

### **¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?**

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

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

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS**

### **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**

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

**Llame a: Departamento de Relaciones Corporativas del Consumidor al 1-800-438-6388**

**Teléfono gratuito: 1-800-438-6388**

Correo electrónico: [Johnstown\\_Complaint\\_Referrals@metlife.com](mailto:Johnstown_Complaint_Referrals@metlife.com)

Dirección postal: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
700 Quaker Lane  
2nd Floor  
Warwick, RI 02886

### **El Departamento de Seguros de Texas**

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

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

Presente una queja en: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Correo electrónico: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Dirección postal: Consumer Protection, MC: CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O.  
Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711-2030

# **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALASKA, CONNECTICUT, LOUISIANA, MINNESOTA, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW MEXICO, TEXAS AND UTAH**

## **The Definition Of Child Is Modified For The Coverages Listed Below:**

### **For Alaska Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The term also includes newborns.

### **For Connecticut Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The age limit for children will not be less than 26, regardless of the child's marital status, student status or full-time employment status. Your natural child, adopted child or stepchild under age 26 will not need to be supported by You to qualify as a Child under this insurance.

A Child's insurance will not end due to age until the end of the Year in which that Child attains age 26.

### **For Louisiana Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The term also includes the Subscriber's grandchildren residing with the Subscriber. The age limit for children and grandchildren will not be less than 21, regardless of the child's or grandchild's student status or full-time employment status. In addition, the age limit for students will not be less than 24. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child, stepchild or grandchild under age 21 will not need to be supported by the Subscriber to qualify as a Child under this insurance.

### **For Minnesota Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The term also includes:

- the Subscriber's grandchildren who are financially dependent upon the Subscriber and reside with the Subscriber continuously from birth;
- children for whom the Subscriber, the Subscriber's Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner is the legally appointed guardian; and
- children for whom the Subscriber have initiated an application for adoption.

The age limit for children and grandchildren will not be less than 25 regardless of the child's or grandchild's student status or full-time employment status. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child stepchild or children for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner is the legally appointed guardian under age 25 will not need to be supported by the Subscriber to qualify as a Child under this insurance.

### **For Montana Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The term also includes newborn infants of any person insured under this certificate. The age limit for children will not be less than 25, regardless of the child's student status or full-time employment status. Your natural child, adopted child or stepchild under age 25 will not need to be supported by You to qualify as a child under this insurance.

### **For New Hampshire Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The age limit for children will not be less than 26, regardless of the child's marital status, student status or full-time employment status. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child or stepchild under age 26 will not need to be supported by the Subscriber to qualify as a Child under this insurance.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALASKA, CONNECTICUT, LOUISIANA, MINNESOTA, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW MEXICO, TEXAS AND UTAH (continued)**

### **For New Mexico Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The age limit for children will not be less than 25, regardless of the child's student status or full-time employment status. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child or stepchild will not be denied vision insurance coverage under this certificate because:

- that child was born out of wedlock;
- that child is not claimed as the Subscriber's dependent on the Subscriber's federal income tax return; or
- that child does not reside with the Subscriber.

### **For Texas Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The term also includes the Subscriber's grandchildren. The age limit for children and grandchildren will not be less than 25, regardless of the child's or grandchild's student status, full-time employment status or military service status. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child or stepchild under age 25 will not need to be supported by the Subscriber to qualify as a Child under this insurance. In addition, grandchildren must be able to be claimed by the Subscriber as a dependent for Federal Income Tax purposes at the time the Subscriber applied for Insurance.

### **For Utah Residents (Vision Insurance):**

The age limit for children will not be less than 26, regardless of the child's student status or full-time employment status. The Subscriber's natural child, adopted child or stepchild under age 26 will not need to be supported by the Subscriber to qualify as a Child under this insurance. The term includes an unmarried child who is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a mental or physical handicap as defined by applicable law and who has been continuously covered under a Vision plan since reaching age 26, with no break in coverage of more than 63 days, and who otherwise qualifies as a Child except for the age limit. Proof of such handicap must be sent to Us within 31 days after:

- the date the Child attains the limiting age in order to continue coverage; or
- the Subscriber enrolls a Child to be covered under this provision;

and at reasonable intervals after such date, but no more often than annually after the two-year period immediately following the date the Child qualifies for coverage under this provision.



## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ARKANSAS**

If the Subscriber have a question concerning the Subscriber's coverage or a claim, first contact the Policyholder or group account administrator. If, after doing so, the Subscriber still has a concern, the Subscriber may call the toll free telephone number shown on the Certificate Face Page.

Policyholders have the right to file a complaint with the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID). The Subscriber may call AID to request a complaint form at (800) 852-5494 or (501) 371-2640 or write the Department at:

Arkansas Insurance Department  
Consumer Services Division  
1 Commerce Way, Suite 102  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OR TO MAKE A COMPLAINT, CONTACT THE POLICYHOLDER OR METLIFE AT:**

**METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
ATTN: CONSUMER RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
500 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15904**

**1-800-438-6388**

**IF, AFTER CONTACTING THE POLICYHOLDER AND/OR METLIFE, YOU FEEL THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AT:**

**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
CONSUMER SERVICES  
300 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013**

**WEBSITE: <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/>**

**1-800-927-4357 (within California)  
1-213-897-8921 (outside California)**

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California law provides that for vision insurance, domestic partners of California's residents must be treated the same as spouses. If the certificate does not already have a definition of domestic partner, then the following definition applies:

**"Domestic Partner** means each of two people, one of whom is an employee of the Policyholder, a resident of California and who have registered as domestic partners or members of a civil union with the California government or another government recognized by California as having similar requirements."

If the certificate already has a definition of domestic partner, that definition will apply to California residents, as long as it recognizes as a domestic partner any person registered as the employee's domestic partner with the California government or another government recognized by California as having similar requirements.

Wherever the term "**Spouse**" appears in this certificate it shall, unless otherwise specified, be read to include Your Domestic Partner.

Wherever the term step-child appears, it is replaced by step-child or child of Your Domestic Partner.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF CONNECTICUT**

If You are a resident of Connecticut, and live in a county where there is no In-Network Vision Provider and travel distance to an In-Network Vision Provider, in a neighboring county, is more than 20 miles or 30 minutes travel time (or if you live in Fairfield County, 10 miles or 20 minutes travel time), We will pay benefits for Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider as if the service was provided by an In-Network Vision Provider. Additionally, if You are unable to schedule an appointment with an In-Network Vision Provider within 15 business days, We will pay benefits for Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider as if the service was provided by an In-Network Vision Provider. In order to ensure that the benefits are paid accordingly, We must be notified prior to receiving services from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider. Please call Us at 1-800-942-0854 for assistance.

# NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF COLORADO

## Domestic Partner

Colorado law provides that for dental insurance, domestic partners of Colorado's residents must be treated the same as spouses. If the certificate does not already have a definition of domestic partner, then the following definition applies:

**"Domestic Partner** means each of two people, one of whom is an employee of the Policyholder, a resident of Colorado and who have registered as domestic partners or members of a civil union with the Colorado government or another government recognized by Colorado as having similar requirements."

If the certificate already has a definition of domestic partner, that definition will apply to Colorado residents, as long as it recognizes as a domestic partner any person registered as the employee's domestic partner with the Colorado government or another government recognized by Colorado as having similar requirements.

Wherever the term "**Spouse**" appears in this certificate it shall, unless otherwise specified, be read to include Your Domestic Partner.

Wherever the term step-child appears, it is replaced by step-child or child of Your Domestic Partner.

## Definition of Child

The term also includes newborns.

## Vision Insurance: Coordination of Benefits

With respect to coordination of benefits, the benefits will never be less than what is shown under the following language.

This coordination of benefits (COB) provision applies when a Covered Person has vision coverage under more than one plan. "Plan" is defined below.

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

## DEFINITIONS

- A. A Plan is any of the following that provides benefits or services for 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. However, if COB rules do not apply to all contracts, or to all benefits in the same contract, the contract or benefit to which COB does not apply is treated as a separate plan.
  - (1) Plan includes: Group insurance contracts, health maintenance organizations (HMO) contracts, closed panel plans or other forms of group type coverage (whether insured or uninsured); medical care components of long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; vision benefits under group or individual automobile contracts; and Medicare or any other federal governmental plan, as permitted by law.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF COLORADO (continued)

- (2) Plan does not include: Hospital indemnity or fixed payment coverage or other fixed indemnity or fixed payment coverage; accident only coverage; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefits for non-medical components of long-term care policies; automobile insurance policies required by statute to provide medical benefits; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid coverage; or coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

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

- B. This plan means, in a COB provision, the part of the contract providing the vision care benefits to which the COB provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other plans. Any other part of the contract providing 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.
- C. The order of benefit determination rules determine whether This plan is a Primary plan or Secondary plan when the person has vision care coverage under more than one Plan.

When This Plan is primary, its benefits are determined before those of any other Plan and without considering any other Plan's benefits. When This Plan is secondary, its benefits are determined after those of another Plan and may be reduced because of the Primary Plan's benefits, so that all Plan benefits do not exceed 100% of the total Allowable Expense.

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

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

- (1) If a person is covered by two or more Plans that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement method or other similar reimbursement method, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an Allowable expense.
- (2) If a person is covered by two or more Plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees is not an Allowable expense.
- (3) The amount of any benefit reduction by the Primary plan because a covered person has failed to comply with the Plan provisions is not an Allowable expense. Examples of these types of plan provisions include second surgical opinions, precertification of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.
- E. Closed panel plan is a Plan that provides vision benefits to covered persons in the form of services through a panel of providers who are primarily employed by the Plan, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.
- F. Custodial parent is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF COLORADO (continued)

### ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES

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

- A. The Primary plan pays or provides its benefits according to its terms of coverage and without regard to the benefits under any other Plan.
- B. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a Plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this chapter is always primary unless the provisions of both Plans state that the complying plan is primary.  
  
(2) Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage is excess to any other parts of the Plan provided by the contract holder. Examples include major medical coverages that are superimposed over hospital and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a Closed panel plan to provide out-of-network benefits.
- C. A Plan may consider the benefits paid or provided by another Plan in calculating payment of its benefits only when it is secondary to that other Plan.
- D. Each Plan determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules that apply:
  - (1) Non-Dependent or Dependent. The Plan that covers the person other than as a dependent, for example as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the Primary plan and the Plan that covers the person as a dependent is the Secondary plan. However, if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law, Medicare is secondary to the Plan covering the person as a dependent, and primary to the Plan covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g., a retired employee), then the order of benefits between the two Plans is reversed so that the Plan covering the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the Secondary plan and the other Plan is the Primary plan.
  - (2) Dependent Child Covered Under More Than One Plan. Unless there is a court decree stating otherwise, when a dependent child is covered by more than one Plan the order of benefits is determined as follows:
    - (a) For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
      - The Plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the Primary plan; or
      - If both parents have the same birthday, the Plan that has covered the parent the longest is the Primary plan.
    - (b) For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
      - (i) If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the dependent child's vision care expenses or health care coverage and the Plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that Plan is primary. This rule applies to claim determination periods commencing after the Plan is given notice of the court decree;
      - (ii) If a court decree states one parent is to assume primary financial responsibility for the dependent child but does not mention responsibility for health care expenses, the plan of the parent assuming financial responsibility is primary;

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF COLORADO (continued)

- (iii) If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the provisions of subparagraph (a) above determine the order of benefits;
  - (iv) If a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the health care expenses or health care coverage of the dependent child, the provisions of subsection (a) above determine the order of benefits; or
  - (iv) If there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:
    - The Plan covering the Custodial parent, first;
    - The Plan covering the spouse of the Custodial parent, second;
    - The Plan covering the non-custodial parent, third; and then;
    - The Plan covering the spouse of the non-custodial parent, last
- (c) For a dependent child covered under more than one Plan of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) above determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.
- (3) Active Employee or Retired or Laid-off Employee. The Plan that covers a person as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired, is the Primary plan. The Plan covering that same person as a retired or laid-off employee is the Secondary plan. The same would hold true if a person is a dependent of an active employee and that same person is a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule under section D(1) can determine the order of benefits.
- (4) COBRA or State Continuation Coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided under COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another Plan, the Plan covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree or covering the person as a dependent of an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is the Primary plan and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the Secondary plan. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule under section D(1) can determine the order of benefits.
- (5) Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The Plan that covered the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree longer is the Primary plan and the Plan that covered the person the shorter period of time is the Secondary plan.
- (6) If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the Allowable expenses must be shared equally between the Plans meeting the definition of Plan. In addition, This plan will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the Primary plan.



## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF COLORADO (continued)**

### **EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN**

- A. When This plan is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all Plans during a claim determination period are not more than the total Allowable expenses. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the Secondary plan must make payment in an amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the Primary plan, the total benefits paid or provided by all plans for the claim equal one hundred percent of the total Allowable expense for that claim. Total Allowable expense is the highest Allowable expense of the Primary plan or the Secondary plan. In addition, the Secondary plan must credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.
- B. If a Covered Person is enrolled in two or more Closed Panel Plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-panel provider, benefits are not payable by one Closed Panel Plan, COB shall not apply between that Plan and other Closed Panel Plans.

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

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these COB rules and to determine benefits payable under This plan and other Plans. We may get the facts 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 needed to apply those rules and determine benefits payable.

### **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

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

### **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

We have the right to recover excess payment whenever We have paid Allowable expenses in excess of the maximum amount of payment necessary to satisfy the intent of this provision. We may recover excess payment from any person to whom or for whom payment was made or any other issuers or plans.

**If You have Questions about Coordination of Benefits, please contact 1-855-METEYE1**

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

**CAUTION:** All vision plans have timely claim filing requirements. If You or Your provider fail to submit Your claim to a secondary vision plan within that plan's claim filing time limit, the plan can deny the claim. If You experience delays in the processing of Your claim by the primary health plan, You or Your provider will need to submit Your claim to the secondary health plan within its claim filing time limit to prevent a denial of the claim.

To avoid delays in claims processing, if You are covered by more than one plan You should promptly report to Your vision providers and plans any changes in Your coverage.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF GEORGIA**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The laws of the state of Georgia prohibit insurers from unfairly discriminating against any person based upon his or her status as a victim of family violence.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF IDAHO**

If the Subscriber has a question concerning the Subscriber's coverage or a claim, the Subscriber may call the toll free telephone number shown on the Certificate Face Page.

If the Subscriber is still concerned after contacting MetLife, the Subscriber should feel free to contact:

Idaho Department of Insurance  
Consumer Affairs  
700 West State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043

1-800-721-3272 (for calls placed within Idaho) or 208-334-4250 or [www.DOI.Idaho.gov](http://www.DOI.Idaho.gov)

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ILLINOIS**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

To make a complaint to MetLife, the Subscriber may write to:

MetLife  
P.O. Box 997100  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7100

The address of the Illinois Department of Insurance is:

Illinois Department of Insurance  
Public Services Division  
Springfield, Illinois 62767

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF INDIANA**

**Questions regarding your policy or coverage should be directed to:**

**Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
1-855-METEYE1**

If you (a) need the assistance of the government agency that regulates insurance; or (b) have a complaint you have been unable to resolve with your insurer you may contact the Department of Insurance by mail, telephone or email:

State of Indiana Department of Insurance  
Consumer Services Division  
311 West Washington Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Consumer Hotline: (800) 622-4461; (317) 232-2395

Complaint can be filed electronically at [www.in.gov/idoi](http://www.in.gov/idoi)

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MAINE**

The Subscriber have the right to designate a third party to receive notice if the Subscriber's insurance is in danger of lapsing due to a default on the Subscriber's part, such as for nonpayment of a contribution that is due. The intent is to allow reinstatements where the default is due to the insured person's suffering from cognitive impairment or functional incapacity. The Subscriber may make this designation by completing a "Third-Party Notice Request Form" and sending it to MetLife. Once the Subscriber has made a designation, the Subscriber may cancel or change it by filling out a new Third-Party Notice Request Form and sending it to MetLife. The designation will be effective as of the date MetLife receives the form. Call MetLife at the toll-free telephone number shown on the face page of this certificate to obtain a Third-Party Notice Request Form. Within 90 days after cancellation of coverage for nonpayment of premium, the Subscriber, any person authorized to act on the Subscriber's behalf, or any covered Dependent may request reinstatement of the certificate on the basis that the Subscriber suffered from cognitive impairment or functional incapacity at the time of cancellation.

## **NOTICE FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS**

### **CONTINUATION OF VISION INSURANCE**

1. If the Subscriber's Vision Insurance ends due to a Plant Closing or Covered Partial Closing, such insurance will be continued for 90 days after the date it ends.
2. If the Subscriber's Vision Insurance ends because:
  - the Subscriber ceases to be in an Eligible Class; or
  - the Subscriber's employment terminates;

for any reason other than a Plant Closing or Covered Partial Closing, such insurance will continue for 31 days after the date it ends.

Continuation of the Subscriber's Vision Insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT subsection will end before the end of continuation periods shown above if the Subscriber becomes covered for similar benefits under another plan.

**Plant Closing** and **Covered Partial Closing** have the meaning set forth in Massachusetts Annotated Laws, Chapter 151A, Section 71A.

### **CONTINUATION OF VISION INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER'S FORMER SPOUSE OR STATE-REGISTERED DOMESTIC PARTNER**

If the judgment of divorce dissolving the Subscriber's marriage provides for continuation of insurance for the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner when the Subscriber remarries, Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner that would otherwise end may be continued.

To continue Vision insurance under this provision:

1. the Subscriber must make a written request to the employer to continue such insurance;
2. the Subscriber must make any required premium to the employer for the cost of such insurance.

The request form will be furnished by the Employer.

Such insurance may be continued from the date the Subscriber's marriage is dissolved until the earliest of the following:

- the date the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner remarries;
- the date of expiration of the period of time specified in the divorce judgment during which the Subscriber is required to provide Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner;
- the date coverage is provided under any other group health plan;
- the date the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner becomes entitled to Medicare;
- the date Vision Insurance under the policy ends for all active employees, or for the class of active employees to which the Subscriber belonged before the Subscriber's employment terminated;
- the date of expiration of the last period for which the required premium payment was made; or
- the date such insurance would otherwise terminate under the policy.

If the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner is eligible to continue Vision Insurance under this provision and any other provision of this Policy, all such continuation periods will be deemed to run concurrently with each other and shall not be deemed to run consecutively.

# NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MISSISSIPPI

## CLAIMS FOR VISION INSURANCE

### Routine Questions on Vision Insurance Claims

If there is any question about a claim payment, an explanation may be requested from MetLife by dialing 1-855-METEYE1.

### Initial Determination

If the Subscriber's claim for Vision Insurance benefits is a Clean Claim and it is approved, benefits will be paid within 25 days after We receive Proof in an electronic form of a covered loss, or within 35 days after receipt of Proof in paper form of a covered loss. Proof includes, but is not limited to, information essential for Us to administer coordination of benefits.

"Clean Claim" means a claim that:

- does not require further information, adjustment or alteration by the Subscriber or the provider of the services in order to process and pay it;
- does not have any defects;
- does not have any impropriety, including any lack of supporting documentation; and
- does not involve a particular circumstance required special treatment that substantially prevents timely payments from being made on the claim.

A Clean Claim does not include a claim submitted by a provider more than 30 days after the date of service, or if the provider does not submit the claim on the Subscriber's behalf, a claim submitted more than 30 days after the date the provider bills the Subscriber. Errors, such as system errors, attributable to the insurer, do not change the clean claim status.

If We do not deny payment of such benefits to the Subscriber by the end of the 25 day period for clean claims submitted in electronic form, or 35 day period for Clean Claims submitted in paper form, and such benefits remain due and payable to the Subscriber, interest will accrue on the amount of such benefits at the rate of 3 percent per month until such benefits are finally settled. If We do not pay benefits to the Subscriber when due and payable, the Subscriber may bring action to recover such benefits, any interest which has accrued with respect to such benefits and any other damages which may be allowed by law. We will pay benefits when We receive satisfactory Proof of the Subscriber's claim.

If We are unable to pay a claim for Vision Insurance benefits because additional information or documentation is required, or there is a particular circumstance requiring special treatment, within 25 days after the date We receive the claim if it is submitted in electronic form, or within 35 days after the date MetLife receives the claim if it is submitted in paper form, We will send the Subscriber notice of what supporting documentation or information is needed. Any claim or portion of a claim for Vision Insurance benefits that is resubmitted with all of the supporting documentation requested in Our notice and becomes payable will be paid to the Subscriber within 20 days after it is received.



## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MISSISSIPPI

### Claim Denial Appeals

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, under the terms of this certificate, a request may be submitted to Us by a Covered Person or a Covered Person's authorized representative for a full review of the denial. A Covered Person may designate any person, including their provider, as their authorized representative. References in this section to "Covered Person" include the Covered Person's authorized representative, where applicable.

**Initial Appeal.** All requests for review must be made within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following denial of a claim. A Covered Person may review, during normal business hours, any documents used by Us pertinent to the denial. A Covered Person may also submit Written comments or supporting documentation concerning the claim to assist in Our review. Our response to the initial appeal, including specific reasons for the decision, shall be communicated to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the request for the appeal.

**Second Level Appeal.** If a Covered Person disagrees with the response to the initial appeal of the denied claim, the Covered Person has the right to a second level appeal. A request for a second level appeal must be submitted to Us within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Our response to the initial appeal. We shall communicate Our final determination to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request, or as required by any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Our communication to the Covered Person shall include the specific reasons for the determination.

**Other Remedies.** When a Covered Person has completed the appeals stated herein, additional voluntary alternative dispute resolution options may be available, including mediation or arbitration. Additional information is available from the U.S. Department of Labor or the insurance regulatory agency for the Covered Persons' state of residency. Additionally, under the provisions of ERISA (Section 502(a)(1)(B) 29 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B)), the Covered Person has the right to bring a civil action when all available levels of reviews, including the appeal process, have been completed. ERISA remedies may apply in those instances where the claims were not approved in whole or in part as the result of appeals under this Policy and the Covered Person disagrees with the outcome of such appeals.

**Time of Action.** No action in law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the Covered Person exhausting his/her rights under this Policy and/or prior to the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the claim and any applicable documentation has been filed with Us. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations, in accordance with the terms of this Policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three (3) years from the last date that the claim and any applicable invoices were submitted to Us, and no such action shall be brought at all unless brought within three (3) years from the expiration of the time within which such materials are required to be submitted in accordance with the terms of this Policy. If it is determined in such action that We acted in bad faith as evidenced by a repeated or deliberate pattern of failing to pay benefits and/or claims when due, the Subscriber (or the provider, if the Subscriber assigned the benefits to the provider) shall be entitled to recover any interest which may accrue plus damages in an amount up to three (3) times the amount of the benefits that remain unpaid until the claim is finally settled or adjudicated.

**Insurance Fraud:** Any Covered Person who intends to defraud, knowingly facilitates a fraud, submits a claim containing false or deceptive information, or who commits any other similar act as defined by applicable state or federal law, is guilty of insurance fraud. Such an act is grounds for immediate termination of the coverage under this Policy of the Covered Person committing such fraud.

## **NOTICE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS**

### **CONTINUATION OF THE SUBSCRIBER'S VISION INSURANCE**

If the Subscriber is a resident of New Hampshire, the Subscriber's Vision Insurance may be continued if it ends because the Subscriber's employment ends unless:

- the Subscriber's employment ends due to the Subscriber's gross misconduct;
- this Vision Insurance ends for all employees;
- this Vision Insurance is changed to end Vision Insurance for the class of employees to which the Subscriber belong;
- the Subscriber are entitled to enroll in Medicare; or
- the Subscriber's Vision Insurance ends because the Subscriber failed to pay the required premium.

The Employer must give the Subscriber written notice of:

- the Subscriber's right to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance;
- the amount of premium payment that is required to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance;
- the manner in which the Subscriber must request to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance and pay premiums; and
- the date by which premium payments will be due.

The premium that the Subscriber must pay for the Subscriber's continued Vision Insurance may include:

- any amount that the Subscriber contributed for the Subscriber's Vision Insurance before it ended;
- any amount the Employer paid; and
- an administrative charge which will not to exceed two percent of the rest of the premium.

To continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance, the Subscriber must:

- send a written request to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance; and
- pay the first premium within 30 days after the date the Subscriber's employment ends.

The maximum continuation period will be the longest of:

- 36 months if the Subscriber's employment ends because the Subscriber retires, and within 12 months of retirement the Subscriber has a substantial loss of coverage because the employer files for bankruptcy protection under Title 11 of the United States Code;
- 29 months if the Subscriber becomes entitled to disability benefits under Social Security within 60 days of the date the Subscriber's Employment ends; or
- 18 months.

The Subscriber's continued Vision Insurance will end on the earliest of the following to occur:

- the end of the maximum continuation period;
- the date this Vision Insurance ends;
- the date this Vision Insurance is changed to end Vision Insurance for the class of employees to which the Subscriber belongs;
- the date the Subscriber are entitled to enroll for Medicare;
- if the Subscriber does not pay the required premium to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance; or
- the date the Subscriber becomes eligible for coverage under any other group Vision coverage.

## **NOTICE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS (continued)**

### **CONTINUATION OF THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENT'S VISION INSURANCE**

If the Subscriber is a resident of New Hampshire, the Subscriber's Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents may be continued if it ends because the Subscriber's employment ends, the Subscriber's marriage ends in divorce or separation, or the Subscriber dies, unless:

- the Subscriber's employment ends due to the Subscriber's gross misconduct;
- this Vision Insurance ends for all Dependents;
- this Vision Insurance is changed, for the class of employees to which the Subscriber belongs, to end Vision Insurance for Dependents;
- the Dependent is entitled to enroll in Medicare; or
- the Subscriber's Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber fails to pay a required premium.

If Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber's marriage ends in divorce or separation, the party responsible under the divorce decree or separation agreement for payment of premium for continued Vision Insurance must notify the employer, in writing, within 30 days of the date of the divorce decree or separation agreement that the divorce or separation has occurred. If the Subscriber and the Subscriber's divorced or separated Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner share responsibility for payment of the premium for continued Vision Insurance, both the Subscriber and the Subscriber's divorced or separated Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner must provide the notification.

The Employer must give the Subscriber, or the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner if the Subscriber has died or the Subscriber's marriage has ended, written notice of:

- the Subscriber's right to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents;
- the amount of premium payment that is required to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents;
- the manner in which the Subscriber or the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner must request to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents and pay premiums; and
- the date by which premium payments will be due.

The premium that the Subscriber or the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner must pay for continued Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents may include:

- any amount that the Subscriber contributed for the Subscriber's Vision Insurance before it ended; and
- any amount the Employer paid.

To continue Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents, the Subscriber or the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner must:

- send a written request to continue Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents; and
- must pay the first premium within 30 days of the date Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends.

If the Subscriber, and the Subscriber's former Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner, if applicable, fail to provide any required notification, or fail to request to continue Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents and pay the first premium within the time limits stated in this section, the Subscriber's right to continue Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents will end.

## **NOTICE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS (continued)**

### **CONTINUATION OF THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENT'S VISION INSURANCE (Continued)**

The maximum continuation period will be the longest of the following that applies:

- 36 months if Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber's marriage ends in divorce or separation, except that with respect to a Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner who is age 55 or older when the Subscriber's marriage ends in divorce or separation the maximum continuation period will end when the divorced or separated Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner becomes eligible for Medicare or eligible for participation in another employer's group plan;
- 36 months if Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber dies, except that with respect to a Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner who is age 55 or older when the Subscriber dies, the maximum continuation period will end when the Subscriber's surviving Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner becomes eligible for Medicare or eligible for participation in another employer's group vision coverage;
- 36 months if Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber becomes entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of Social Security, except that with respect to a Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner who is age 55 or older when the Subscriber becomes entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of Social Security, the maximum continuation period will end when the divorced or separated Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner becomes eligible for Medicare or eligible for participation in another employer's group vision coverage;
- 36 months if the Subscriber becomes entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of Social Security while the Subscriber is already receiving continued benefits under this section, except that with respect to a Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner who is age 55 or older when the Subscriber first becomes entitled to continue the Subscriber's Vision Insurance the maximum continuation period will end when the divorced or separated Spouse or State-Registered Domestic Partner becomes eligible for Medicare or eligible for participation in another employer's group vision coverage;
- 36 months with respect to a Dependent Child if Vision Insurance ends because the Child ceases to be a Dependent Child;
- 36 months if the Subscriber's employment ends because the Subscriber retires, and within 12 months of retirement the Subscriber has a substantial loss of coverage because the employer files for bankruptcy protection under Title 11 of the United States Code;
- 29 months if Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber's employment ends, and within 60 days of the date the Subscriber's employment ends you become entitled to disability benefits under Social Security; or
- 18 months if Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents ends because the Subscriber's employment ends.

A Dependent's continued Vision Insurance will end on the earliest of the following to occur:

- the end of the maximum continuation period;
- the date this Vision Insurance ends;
- the date this Vision Insurance is changed to end Vision Insurance for Dependents for the class of employees to which the Subscriber belongs;
- the date the Dependent becomes entitled to enroll for Medicare;
- if the Subscriber does not pay a required premium to continue Vision Insurance for the Subscriber's Dependents; or
- the date the Dependent becomes eligible for coverage under any other group vision coverage.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF NEW MEXICO

### Consumer Complaint Notice

If the Subscriber is a resident of New Mexico, the Subscriber's coverage will be administered in accordance with the minimum applicable standards of New Mexico law. If the Subscriber has concerns regarding a claim, premium, or other matters relating to this coverage, the Subscriber may file a complaint with the New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) using the complaint form available on the OSI website and found at: <https://www.osi.state.nm.us/ConsumerAssistance/index.aspx>.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Vision Insurance for a Dependent Child may be continued past the age limit if that Child is a full-time student and insurance ends due to the Child being ordered to active duty (other than active duty for training) for 30 or more consecutive days as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or a Reserve Component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Insurance will continue if such Child:

- re-enrolls as a full-time student at an accredited school, college or university that is licensed in the jurisdiction where it is located;
- re-enrolls for the first term or semester, beginning 60 or more days from the child's release from active duty;
- continues to qualify as a Child, except for the age limit; and
- submits the required Proof of the child's active duty in the National Guard or a Reserve Component of the United States Armed Forces.

Subject to the When Vision Coverage Ends subsection of the section entitled ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR THE SUBSCRIBER AND THE SUBSCRIBER'S DEPENDENTS, this continuation will continue until the earliest of the date:

- the insurance has been continued for a period of time equal to the duration of the child's service on active duty; or
- the child is no longer a full-time student.

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS**

**THE INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. THE SUBSCRIBER SHOULD CONSULT THE SUBSCRIBER'S EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM.**

## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS**

If You are a resident of Texas and live in a county where there is no In-Network Vision Provider and travel distance to an In-Network Vision Provider is more than 90 minutes travel time and 75 miles away, We will pay benefits for Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider as if the service was provided by an In-Network Vision Provider. In order to ensure that the benefits are paid accordingly, We must be notified prior to receiving services from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider. Please call Us at 1-855-METEYE1 for assistance.

If You or a Dependent receive emergency or urgent vision care from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, We will pay benefits for those Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider as if the services were provided by an In-Network Vision Provider.



## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS

If the Subscriber resides in Texas, note the following Procedures for Vision Claims will be followed:

### Routine Questions on Vision Insurance Claims

If there is any question about a claim payment, an explanation may be requested from MetLife by dialing 1-855-METEYE1.

### Claim Denial Appeals

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, under the terms of this certificate, a request may be submitted to Us by a Covered Person or a Covered Person's authorized representative for a full review of the denial. A Covered Person may designate any person, including their provider, as their authorized representative. References in this section to "Covered Person" include the Covered Person's authorized representative, where applicable.

**Initial Appeal.** All requests for review must be made within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following denial of a claim. A Covered Person may review, during normal business hours, any documents used by Us pertinent to the denial. A Covered Person may also submit Written comments or supporting documentation concerning the claim to assist in Our review. Our response to the initial appeal, including specific reasons for the decision, shall be communicated to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the request for the appeal.

**Second Level Appeal.** If a Covered Person disagrees with the response to the initial appeal of the denied claim, the Covered Person has the right to a second level appeal. A request for a second level appeal must be submitted to Us within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Our response to the initial appeal. We shall communicate Our final determination to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request, or as required by any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Our communication to the Covered Person shall include the specific reasons for the determination.

**Other Remedies.** When a Covered Person has completed the appeals stated herein, additional voluntary alternative dispute resolution options may be available, including mediation or arbitration. Additional information is available from the U.S. Department of Labor or the insurance regulatory agency for the Covered Persons' state of residency. Additionally, under the provisions of ERISA (Section 502(a)(1)(B) 29 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B)), the Covered Person has the right to bring a civil action when all available levels of reviews, including the appeal process, have been completed. ERISA remedies may apply in those instances where the claims were not approved in whole or in part as the result of appeals under this Policy and the Covered Person disagrees with the outcome of such appeals.

**Time of Action.** No action in law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the Covered Person exhausting his/her rights under this Policy and/or prior to the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the claim and any applicable documentation has been filed with Us. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations, in accordance with the terms of this Policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three (3) years from the last date that the claim and any applicable invoices were submitted to Us, and no such action shall be brought at all unless brought within three (3) years from the expiration of the time within which such materials are required to be submitted in accordance with the terms of this Policy.

**Insurance Fraud:** Any Covered Person who intends to defraud, knowingly facilitates a fraud, submits a claim containing false or deceptive information, or who commits any other similar act as defined by applicable state or federal law, is guilty of insurance fraud. Such an act is grounds for immediate termination of the coverage under this Policy of the Covered Person committing such fraud.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF UTAH

## **Notice of Protection Provided by Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association**

This notice provides a **brief summary** of the Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association ("the Association") and the protection it provides for policyholders. This safety net was created under Utah law, which determines who and what is covered and the amounts of coverage.

The Association was established to provide protection in the unlikely event that your life, health, or annuity insurance company becomes financially unable to meet its obligations and is taken over by its insurance regulatory agency. If this should happen, the Association will typically arrange to continue coverage and pay claims, in accordance with Utah law, with funding from assessments paid by other insurance companies. (For the purposes of this notice, the terms "insurance company" and "insurer" include health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and limited health plans.)

The basic protections provided by the Association are:

- Life Insurance
  - o \$500,000 in death benefits
  - o \$200,000 in cash surrender or withdrawal values
- Accident and Health Insurance
  - o \$500,000 for health benefit plans
  - o \$500,000 in disability income insurance benefits
  - o \$500,000 in long-term care insurance benefits
  - o \$500,000 in other types of health insurance benefits
- Annuities
  - o \$250,000 in the present value of annuity benefits in aggregate, including any net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values

The maximum amount of protection for each individual, regardless of the number of policies or contracts, is \$500,000. Special rules may apply with regard to health benefit plans.

**Note: Certain policies and contracts may not be covered or fully covered.** For example, coverage does not extend to any portion of a policy or contract that the insurer does not guarantee, such as certain investment additions to the account value of a variable life insurance policy or a variable annuity contract. There are also various residency requirements and other limitations under Utah law.

Benefits provided by a long-term care rider to a life insurance or annuity contract shall be considered the same type of benefit as the base life insurance policy or annuity contract to which it relates.

To learn more about the above protections, please visit the Association's website at [www.ulhiga.org](http://www.ulhiga.org) or contact:

Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Assoc.  
466 South 500 East, Suite 100  
Salt Lake City UT 84102  
(801) 320-9955 (801) 957-9200

Utah Insurance Department  
4315 S. 2700 W., Suite 2300  
Taylorsville, UT 84129

## **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF VIRGINIA**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUBSCRIBER'S INSURANCE**

In the event the Subscriber needs to contact someone about this insurance for any reason please contact the Subscriber's agent. If no agent was involved in the sale of this insurance, or if the Subscriber has additional questions the Subscriber may contact the insurance company issuing this insurance at the following address and telephone number:

Metlife  
P.O. Box 997100  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7100  
Attn: Corporate Consumer Relations Department

To phone in a claim related question, the Subscriber may call Claims Customer Service at:  
1-855-METEYE1

If the Subscriber has any questions regarding an appeal or grievance concerning the vision services that the Subscriber have been provided that have not been satisfactorily addressed by this Vision Insurance, the Subscriber may contact the Virginia Office of the Managed Care Ombudsman for assistance.

The Office of the Managed Care Ombudsman  
Bureau of Insurance  
P.O. Box 1157  
Richmond, VA 23218-1157  
1-804-371-9691 - phone  
1-877-310-6560 - toll-free  
1-804-371-9944 - fax  
[www.scc.virginia.gov](http://www.scc.virginia.gov) - web address  
[ombudsman@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:ombudsman@scc.virginia.gov) - email

Or:

Office of Licensure and Certification  
Division of Acute Care Services  
Virginia Department of Health  
9960 Mayland Drive  
Suite 401  
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463  
Phone number: 1-800-955-1819/ local: 804-367-2106  
Fax: (804) 527-4503  
MCHIP@vdh.virginia.gov

Written correspondence is preferable so that a record of the Subscriber's inquiry is maintained. When contacting the Subscriber's agent, company or the Bureau of Insurance, have the Subscriber's policy number available.

## **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF VIRGINIA (continued)**

### **VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS**

#### **Routine Questions on Vision Insurance Claims**

If there is any question about a claim payment, an explanation may be requested from MetLife by dialing 1-855-METEYE1.

#### **Claim Denial Appeals**

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, under the terms of this certificate, a request may be submitted to Us by a Covered Person or a Covered Person's authorized representative for a full review of the denial. A Covered Person may designate any person, including their provider, as their authorized representative. References in this section to "Covered Person" include the Covered Person's authorized representative, where applicable.

**Initial Appeal.** All requests for review must be made within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following denial of a claim. A Covered Person may review, during normal business hours, any documents used by Us pertinent to the denial. A Covered Person may also submit Written comments or supporting documentation concerning the claim to assist in Our review. Our response to the initial appeal, including specific reasons for the decision, shall be communicated to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the request for the appeal.

**Second Level Appeal.** If a Covered Person disagrees with the response to the initial appeal of the denied claim, the Covered Person has the right to a second level appeal. A request for a second level appeal must be submitted to Us within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Our response to the initial appeal. We shall communicate Our final determination to the Covered Person within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request, or as required by any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Our communication to the Covered Person shall include the specific reasons for the determination.

**Other Remedies.** When a Covered Person has completed the appeals stated herein, additional voluntary alternative dispute resolution options may be available, including mediation or arbitration. Additional information is available from the U.S. Department of Labor or the insurance regulatory agency for the Covered Persons' state of residency. Additionally, under the provisions of ERISA (Section 502(a)(1)(B) 29 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B)), the Covered Person has the right to bring a civil action when all available levels of reviews, including the appeal process, have been completed. ERISA remedies may apply in those instances where the claims were not approved in whole or in part as the result of appeals under this Policy and the Covered Person disagrees with the outcome of such appeals.

**Time of Action.** No action in law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the Covered Person exhausting his/her rights under this Policy and/or prior to the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the claim and any applicable documentation has been filed with Us. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations, in accordance with the terms of this Policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three (3) years from the last date that the claim and any applicable invoices were submitted to Us, and no such action shall be brought at all unless brought within three (3) years from the expiration of the time within which such materials are required to be submitted in accordance with the terms of this Policy.

**Insurance Fraud:** Any Covered Person who intends to defraud, knowingly facilitates a fraud, submits a claim containing false or deceptive information, or who commits any other similar act as defined by applicable state or federal law, is guilty of insurance fraud. Such an act is grounds for immediate termination of the coverage under this Policy of the Covered Person committing such fraud.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF WISCONSIN

### **KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH THE SUBSCRIBER'S INSURANCE PAPERS**

**PROBLEMS WITH THE SUBSCRIBER'S INSURANCE?** - If the Subscriber is having problems with the Subscriber's insurance company or agent, do not hesitate to contact the insurance company or agent to resolve the Subscriber's problem.

Metlife  
Attn: Corporate Consumer Relations Department  
P.O. Box 997100  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7100  
1-855-METEYE1

The Subscriber can also contact the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**, a state agency which enforces Wisconsin's insurance laws, and file a complaint. The Subscriber can contact the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE** by contacting:

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance  
Complaints Department  
P.O. Box 7873  
Madison, WI 53707-7873  
1-800-236-8517 outside of Madison or 608-266-0103 in Madison.