
PLAN DOCUMENT AND
SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION FOR

THE CITY OF
TROY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
ELIGIBILITY, FUNDING, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS	3
OPEN ENROLLMENT	11
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS	12
VISION CARE BENEFITS	18
MEDICAL BENEFITS	15
COST MANAGEMENT SERVICES	21
DEFINED TERMS	25
PLAN EXCLUSIONS.....	35
HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM	34
COORDINATION OF BENEFITS.....	44
THIRD PARTY RECOVERY PROVISION.....	41
CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA	43
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PLAN ADMINISTRATION	50
GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION	56

INTRODUCTION

This document is a description of City of Troy (the Plan). No oral interpretations can change this Plan. The Plan described is designed to protect Plan Participants against certain catastrophic health expenses.

Coverage under the Plan will take effect for an eligible Employee and designated Dependents when the Employee and such Dependents satisfy the Waiting Period and all the eligibility requirements of the Plan.

Changes in the Plan may occur in any or all parts of the Plan including benefit coverage, deductibles, maximums, co-payments, exclusions, limitations, definitions, eligibility and the like.

Failure to follow the eligibility or enrollment requirements of this Plan may result in delay of coverage or no coverage at all. Reimbursement from the Plan can be reduced or denied because of certain provisions in the Plan, such as coordination of benefits, subrogation, exclusions, timeliness of COBRA elections, utilization review or other cost management requirements, lack of Medical Necessity, lack of timely filing of claims or lack of coverage. These provisions are explained in summary fashion in this document; additional information is available from the Plan Administrator at no extra cost.

The Plan will pay benefits only for the expenses incurred while this coverage is in force. No benefits are payable for expenses incurred before coverage began or after coverage terminated. An expense for a service or supply is incurred on the date the service or supply is furnished.

No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover under any section of this Plan until the appeal rights provided have been exercised and the Plan benefits requested in such appeals have been denied in whole or in part.

If the Plan is terminated, amended, or benefits are eliminated, the rights of Covered Persons are limited to Covered Charges incurred before termination, amendment or elimination.

This document summarizes the Plan rights and benefits for covered Employees and their Dependents and is divided into the following parts:

Eligibility, Funding, Effective Date and Termination. Explains eligibility for coverage under the Plan, funding of the Plan and when the coverage takes effect and terminates.

Schedule of Benefits. Provides an outline of the Plan reimbursement formulas as well as payment limits on certain services.

Benefit Descriptions. Explains when the benefit applies and the types of charges covered.

Cost Management Services. Explains the methods used to curb unnecessary and excessive charges.

This part should be read carefully since each Participant is required to take action to assure that the maximum payment levels under the Plan are paid.

Defined Terms. Defines those Plan terms that have a specific meaning.

Plan Exclusions. Shows what charges are **not** covered.

Claim Provisions. Explains the rules for filing claims and the claim appeal process.

Coordination of Benefits. Shows the Plan payment order when a person is covered under more than one plan.

Third Party Recovery Provision. Explains the Plan's rights to recover payment of charges when a Covered Person has a claim against another person because of injuries sustained.

Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA. Explains when a person's coverage under the Plan ceases and the continuation options which are available.

ERISA Information. Explains the Plan's structure and the Participants' rights under the Plan.

ELIGIBILITY, FUNDING, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS

A Plan Participant should contact the Plan Administrator to obtain additional information, free of charge, about Plan coverage of a specific benefit, particular drug, treatment, test or any other aspect of Plan benefits or requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Classes of Employees. All Active and Retired Employees of the Employer.

Eligibility Requirements for Employee Coverage. A person is eligible for Employee coverage from the first day that he or she:

- (1) is a Full-Time, Active Employee of the Employer. An Employee is considered to be Full-Time if he or she normally works at least 35 hours per week and is on the regular payroll of the Employer for that work.
- (2) is a Retired Employee of the Employer.
- (3) is in a class eligible for coverage.
- (4) completes the employment Waiting Period of 30 consecutive days as an Active Employee. A "Waiting Period" is the time between the first day of employment as an eligible Employee and the first day of coverage under the Plan. Coverage begins first of the month following the 30 day waiting period.

Eligible Classes of Dependents. A Dependent is any one of the following persons:

- (1) A covered Employee's Spouse and unmarried children from birth to the limiting age of 19 years. The Dependent children must be primarily dependent upon the covered Employee for support and maintenance. However, a Dependent child will continue to be covered after age 19, provided the child is a full-time student at an accredited school, primarily dependent upon the covered Employee for support and maintenance, is unmarried and under the limiting age of 25. When the child reaches either limiting age, coverage will end on the child's birthday. If the child does not maintain full-time status or graduates, coverage closes independent of limiting age.

Full-time student coverage continues between semester/quarters only if the student is enrolled as a full-time student in the next regular semester/quarter. If the student is not enrolled as a full-time student, coverage will be terminated.

The term "Spouse" shall mean the person recognized as the covered Employee's husband or wife under the laws of the state where the covered Employee lives. The Plan Administrator may require documentation proving a legal marital relationship.

The term "children" shall include natural children, adopted children or children placed with a covered Employee in anticipation of adoption. Step-children who reside in the Employee's household may also be included as long as a natural parent remains married to the Employee and also resides in the Employee's household.

If a covered Employee is the Legal Guardian of an unmarried child or children, these children may be enrolled in this Plan as covered Dependents.

The phrase "child placed with a covered Employee in anticipation of adoption" refers to a child whom the Employee intends to adopt, whether or not the adoption has become final, who has not attained the age of 18 as of the date of such placement for adoption. The term "placed" means the assumption and retention by such Employee of a legal obligation for total or partial support of the child in anticipation of

adoption of the child. The child must be available for adoption and the legal process must have commenced.

Any child of a Plan Participant who is an alternate recipient under a qualified medical child support order shall be considered as having a right to Dependent coverage under this Plan.

A participant of this Plan may obtain, without charge, a copy of the procedures governing qualified medical child support order (QMCSO) determinations from the Plan Administrator.

In all cases, to qualify as an eligible Dependent under the Plan, the child must be dependent upon the covered Employee for over one-half of his support during the Plan Year. A special rule applies in the case of a child of divorced parents, legally separated parents or parents who lived apart at all times of the year or during the last six months of the calendar year. The child will be considered dependent upon the Employee for over one-half of his support if the child is in the custody of the Employee and/or the other parent for more than one-half of the year and the child is dependent upon one and/or both parents for more than one-half of his support for the year. The Plan Administrator may require documentation proving dependency, including birth certificates, tax records or initiation of legal proceedings severing parental rights.

- (2) A covered Dependent child who reaches the limiting age and is Totally Disabled, incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical handicap, primarily dependent upon the covered Employee for support and maintenance and unmarried. The Plan Administrator may require, at reasonable intervals during the two years following the Dependent's reaching the limiting age, subsequent proof of the child's Total Disability and dependency.

After such two-year period, the Plan Administrator may require subsequent proof not more than once each year. The Plan Administrator reserves the right to have such Dependent examined by a Physician of the Plan Administrator's choice, at the Plan's expense, to determine the existence of such incapacity.

These persons are excluded as Dependents: other individuals living in the covered Employee's home, but who are not eligible as defined; the legally separated or divorced former Spouse of the Employee; any person who is on active duty in any military service of any country; or any person who is covered under the Plan as an Employee.

If a person covered under this Plan changes status from Employee to Dependent or Dependent to Employee, and the person is covered continuously under this Plan before, during and after the change in status, credit will be given for deductibles and all amounts applied to maximums.

If both mother and father are Employees, their children will be covered as Dependents of the mother or father, but not of both.

Eligibility Requirements for Dependent Coverage. A family member of an Employee will become eligible for Dependent coverage on the first day that the Employee is eligible for Employee coverage and the family member satisfies the requirements for Dependent coverage.

At any time, the Plan may require proof that a Spouse or a child qualifies or continues to qualify as a Dependent as defined by this Plan.

FUNDING

Cost of the Plan. City of Troy shares the cost of Employee and Dependent coverage under this Plan with the covered Employees hired after July 1, 1998. For Retired Employees, hired prior to July 1, 1998, and their dependents, the City of Troy will pay the full cost of coverage under this Plan during the life of the Employee, and subject to bargaining agreements in force at the time of the Employee's retirement.

The level of any Employee contributions is set by the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator reserves the right to change the level of Employee contributions.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment Requirements. An Employee must enroll for coverage by filling out and signing an enrollment application. The covered Employee is required to enroll for Dependent coverage including newborns.

Enrollment Requirements for Newborn Children.

A newborn child of a covered Employee who has Dependent coverage is not automatically enrolled in this Plan. Charges for covered nursery care will be applied toward the Plan of the newborn child. If the newborn child is required to be enrolled and is not enrolled in this Plan on a timely basis, as defined in the section "Timely Enrollment" following this section, there will be no payment from the Plan and the parents will be responsible for all costs.

Charges for covered routine Physician care will be applied toward the Plan of the newborn child. If the newborn child is required to be enrolled and is not enrolled in this Plan on a timely basis, there will be no payment from the Plan and the covered parent will be responsible for all costs.

If the child is required to be enrolled and is not enrolled within 30 days of birth, the enrollment will be considered a Late Enrollment.

TIMELY OR LATE ENROLLMENT

- (1) **Timely Enrollment** - The enrollment will be "timely" if the completed form is received by the Plan Administrator no later than 30 days after the person becomes eligible for the coverage, either initially or under a Special Enrollment Period.

If two Employees (husband and wife) are covered under the Plan and the Employee who is covering the Dependent children terminates coverage, the Dependent coverage may be continued by the other covered Employee with no Waiting Period as long as coverage has been continuous.

- (2) **Late Enrollment** - An enrollment is "late" if it is not made on a "timely basis" or during a Special Enrollment Period.

If an individual loses eligibility for coverage as a result of terminating employment or a general suspension of coverage under the Plan, then upon becoming eligible again due to resumption of employment or due to resumption of Plan coverage, only the most recent period of eligibility will be considered for purposes of determining whether the individual is a Late Enrollee.

The time between the date a Late Enrollee first becomes eligible for enrollment under the Plan and the first day of coverage is not treated as a Waiting Period. Coverage begins the first of the month after after 3 month Waiting Period.

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

Federal law provides Special Enrollment provisions under some circumstances. If an Employee is declining enrollment for himself or his dependents (including their spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, there may be a right to enroll in this Plan if there is a loss of eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage). However, a request for enrollment must be made within 30 days after the coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage).

In addition, in the case of a birth, marriage, adoption or placement for adoption, there may be a right to enroll in this Plan. However, a request for enrollment must be made within 30 days after the birth, marriage, adoption or placement for adoption.

The Special Enrollment rules are described in more detail below. To request Special Enrollment or obtain more detailed information of these portability provisions, contact the Plan Administrator, City of Troy, City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5, Troy, New York, 12180, 518-279-7122

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS

The Enrollment Date for anyone who enrolls under a Special Enrollment Period is the first date of coverage. Thus, the time between the date a special enrollee first becomes eligible for enrollment under the Plan and the first day of coverage is not treated as a Waiting Period.

- (1) Individuals losing other coverage creating a Special Enrollment right.** An Employee or Dependent who is eligible, but not enrolled in this Plan, may enroll if loss of eligibility for coverage is due to each of the following conditions:
 - (a)** The Employee or Dependent was covered under a group health plan or had health insurance coverage at the time coverage under this Plan was previously offered to the individual.
 - (b)** If required by the Plan Administrator, the Employee stated in writing at the time that coverage was offered that the other health coverage was the reason for declining enrollment.
 - (c)** The coverage of the Employee or Dependent who had lost the coverage was under COBRA and the COBRA coverage was exhausted, or was not under COBRA and either the coverage was terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for the coverage or because employer contributions towards the coverage were terminated.
 - (d)** The Employee or Dependent requests enrollment in this Plan not later than 31 days after the date of exhaustion of COBRA coverage or the termination of non-COBRA coverage due to loss of eligibility or termination of employer contributions, described above. Coverage will begin no later than the first day of the first calendar month following the date the completed enrollment form is received.
 - (e)** For purposes of these rules, a loss of eligibility occurs if:
 - (i)** The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility on the earliest date a claim is denied that would meet or exceed a lifetime limit on all benefits.
 - (ii)** The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility due to the plan no longer offering any benefits to a class of similarly situated individuals (i.e.: part-time employees).

- (iii) The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility as a result of legal separation, divorce, cessation of dependent status (such as attaining the maximum age to be eligible as a dependent child under the plan), death, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment or contributions towards the coverage were terminated.
- (iv) The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility when coverage is offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the individual market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live or work in a service area, (whether or not within the choice of the individual).
- (v) The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility when coverage is offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the individual market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live or work in a service area, (whether or not within the choice of the individual), and no other benefit package is available to the individual.

If the Employee or Dependent lost the other coverage as a result of the individual's failure to pay premiums or required contributions or for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the plan), that individual does not have a Special Enrollment right.

(2) Dependent beneficiaries. If:

- (a) The Employee is a participant under this Plan (or has met the Waiting Period applicable to becoming a participant under this Plan and is eligible to be enrolled under this Plan but for a failure to enroll during a previous enrollment period), and
- (b) A person becomes a Dependent of the Employee through marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption,

then the Dependent (and if not otherwise enrolled, the Employee) may be enrolled under this Plan. In the case of the birth or adoption of a child, the Spouse of the covered Employee may be enrolled as a Dependent of the covered Employee if the Spouse is otherwise eligible for coverage. If the Employee is not enrolled at the time of the event, the Employee must enroll under this Special Enrollment Period in order for his eligible Dependents to enroll.

The Dependent Special Enrollment Period is a period of 31 days and begins on the date of the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption. To be eligible for this Special Enrollment, the Dependent and/or Employee must request enrollment during this 31-day period.

The coverage of the Dependent and/or Employee enrolled in the Special Enrollment Period will be effective:

- (a) in the case of marriage, the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the completed request for enrollment is received;
- (b) in the case of a Dependent's birth, as of the date of birth; or
- (c) in the case of a Dependent's adoption or placement for adoption, the date of the adoption or placement for adoption.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective Date of Employee Coverage. An Employee will be covered under this Plan as of the first day of the calendar month following the date that the Employee satisfies all of the following:

- (1) The Eligibility Requirement.
- (2) The Active Employee Requirement.
- (3) The Enrollment Requirements of the Plan.

Active Employee Requirement.

An Employee must be an Active Employee (as defined by this Plan) for this coverage to take effect.

Effective Date of Dependent Coverage. A Dependent's coverage will take effect on the day that the Eligibility Requirements are met; the Employee is covered under the Plan; and all Enrollment Requirements are met.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

When coverage under this Plan stops, Plan Participants will receive a certificate that will show the period of Creditable Coverage under this Plan. The Plan maintains written procedures that explain how to request this certificate. Please contact the Plan Administrator for a copy of these procedures and further details.

When Employee Coverage Terminates. Employee coverage will terminate on the earliest of these dates (except in certain circumstances, a covered Employee may be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage. For a complete explanation of when COBRA continuation coverage is available, what conditions apply and how to select it, see the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA):

- (1) The date the Plan is terminated.
- (2) The last day of the calendar month in which the covered Employee ceases to be in one of the Eligible Classes. This includes death or termination of Active Employment of the covered Employee. (See the Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.) It also includes an Employee on disability, leave of absence or other leave of absence, unless the Plan specifically provides for continuation during these periods.
- (3) The earliest date the Employee has a claim that is denied in whole or in part because the Employee has met or exceeded a lifetime limit on all benefits.

Continuation During Periods of Employer-Certified Disability, Leave of Absence or Layoff. A person may remain eligible for a limited time if Active, full-time work ceases due to disability, leave of absence or layoff. This continuance will end as follows:

For disability leave only: the date the Employer ends the continuance.

For leave of absence or layoff only: the date the Employer ends the continuance.

While continued, coverage will be that which was in force on the last day worked as an Active Employee. However, if benefits reduce for others in the class, they will also reduce for the continued person.

Continuation During Family and Medical Leave. Regardless of the established leave policies mentioned above, this Plan shall at all times comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 as promulgated in regulations issued by the Department of Labor.

During any leave taken under the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Employer will maintain coverage under this Plan on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the covered Employee had been continuously employed during the entire leave period.

If Plan coverage terminates during the FMLA leave, coverage will be reinstated for the Employee and his or her covered Dependents if the Employee returns to work in accordance with the terms of the FMLA leave. Coverage will be reinstated only if the person(s) had coverage under this Plan when the FMLA leave started, and will be reinstated to the same extent that it was in force when that coverage terminated. For example, Pre-Existing Conditions limitations and other Waiting Periods will not be imposed unless they were in effect for the Employee and/or his or her Dependents when Plan coverage terminated.

Rehiring a Terminated Employee. A terminated Employee who is rehired will be treated as a new hire and be required to satisfy all Eligibility and Enrollment requirements. However, if the Employee is returning to work directly from COBRA coverage, this Employee does not have to satisfy any employment waiting period.

Employees on Military Leave. Employees going into or returning from military service may elect to continue Plan coverage as mandated by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act under the following circumstances. These rights apply only to Employees and their Dependents covered under the Plan immediately before leaving for military service.

- (1) The maximum period of coverage of a person under such an election shall be the lesser of:
 - (a) The 24 month period beginning on the date on which the person's absence begins; or
 - (b) The day after the date on which the person was required to apply for or return to a position of employment and fails to do so.
- (2) A person who elects to continue health plan coverage must pay up to 102% of the full contribution under the Plan, except a person on active duty for 30 days or less cannot be required to pay more than the Employee's share, if any, for the coverage.
- (3) An exclusion or Waiting Period may not be imposed in connection with the reinstatement of coverage upon reemployment if one would not have been imposed had coverage not been terminated because of service. However, an exclusion or Waiting Period may be imposed for coverage of any Illness or Injury determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in, or aggravated during, the performance of uniformed service.

When Dependent Coverage Terminates. A Dependent's coverage will terminate on the earliest of these dates (except in certain circumstances, a covered Dependent may be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage. For a complete explanation of when COBRA continuation coverage is available, what conditions apply and how to select it, see the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA):

- (1) The date the Plan or Dependent coverage under the Plan is terminated.
- (2) The date that the Employee's coverage under the Plan terminates for any reason including death. (See the Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)
- (3) The date a covered Spouse loses coverage due to loss of dependency status. (See the Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)
- (4) On the first date that a Dependent child ceases to be a Dependent as defined by the Plan. (See the Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)

- ~~(5)~~ The end of the period for which the required contribution has been paid if the charge for the next period is not paid when due.
- (6) The earliest date the Dependent has a claim that is denied in whole or in part because it meets or exceeds a lifetime limit on all benefits.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Every December, the annual open enrollment period, covered Employees and their covered Dependents will be able to change some of their benefit decisions based on which benefits and coverages are right for them.

Benefit choices made during the open enrollment period will become effective January 1 and remain in effect until the next January 1 unless there is a Special Enrollment event or a change in family status during the year (birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption) or loss of coverage due to loss of a Spouse's employment. To the extent previously satisfied, coverage Waiting Periods will be considered satisfied when changing from one benefit option under the Plan to another benefit option under the Plan.

A Plan Participant who fails to make an election during open enrollment will automatically retain his or her present coverages.

Plan Participants will receive detailed information regarding open enrollment from their Employer.

SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

Verification of Eligibility Local 518-220-4600 or out of area 800-888-1238

Call this number to verify eligibility for Plan benefits **before** the charge is incurred.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

All benefits described in this Schedule are subject to the exclusions and limitations described more fully herein including, but not limited to, the Plan Administrator's determination that: care and treatment is Medically Necessary; that charges are Usual and Reasonable; that services, supplies and care are not Experimental and/or Investigational. The meanings of these capitalized terms are in the Defined Terms section of this document.

Only a general description of health benefits covered by this Plan is included in this document. A more detailed schedule of coverage is available to any Plan Participant, at no cost, who requests one from the Plan Administrator.

Note: The following services must be precertified or reimbursement from the Plan may be reduced.

The attending Physician does not have to obtain precertification from the Plan for prescribing a maternity length of stay that is 48 hours or less for a vaginal delivery or 96 hours or less for a cesarean delivery.

- Inpatient Admission
- Inpatient Substance Abuse / Mental Disorder treatments
- Skilled Nursing Facility stays
- Home Health Care
- Capsular Endoscopy
- Septoplasty
- Radiology (MRI, MRA, PET Scans, Nuclear Cardiology)
- Other services –The above services may be subject to change.
Notify the Customer Service area for additional information before receiving services.

Please see the Cost Management section in this booklet for details.

The Plan is a plan which contains a Participating Provider Organization.

PPO name: Traditional Blue PPO
Address: 30 Century Hill Drive
Latham, New York 12110
Telephone: 1-800-888-1238

This Plan has entered into an agreement with certain Hospitals, Physicians and other health care providers, which are called Participating Providers. Because these Participating Providers have agreed to charge reduced fees to persons covered under the Plan, the Plan can afford to reimburse a higher percentage of their fees.

Therefore, when a Covered Person uses a Participating Provider, that Covered Person will receive a higher payment from the Plan than when a Non-participating Provider is used. It is the Covered Person's choice as to which Provider to use.

Under the following circumstances, the higher in-Network payment will be made for certain non-Network services:

If a Covered Person is out of the PPO service area and has a Medical Emergency requiring immediate care.
If a Covered Person receives Physician or anesthesia services by a non-Network Provider at an in-Network facility.

Additional information about this option, as well as a list of Participating Providers, will be given to Plan Participants, at no cost, and updated as needed.

Deductibles/Co-payments payable by Plan Participants

Deductibles/Co-payments are dollar amounts that the Covered Person must pay before the Plan pays.

A deductible is an amount of money that is paid once a Calendar Year per Covered Person. Typically, there is one deductible amount per Plan and it must be paid before any money is paid by the Plan for any Covered Charges. Each January 1st, a new deductible amount is required. Deductibles do not accrue toward the 100% maximum out-of-pocket payment.

A co-payment is a smaller amount of money that is paid each time a particular service is used. Typically, there may be co-payments on some services and other services will not have any co-payments.

Please see the attached corresponding benefit summaries /SBCs for schedule of benefits.

Please note:

- Out of Network providers are reimbursed up to the fee schedule for eligible Hospital and Medical services. For out of network services, in addition to any applicable deductible and coinsurance, the patient is responsible for any amounts that exceed our allowance.
- Preauthorization is required for, but not limited to, all inpatient admissions; select outpatient procedures; home health care; select durable medical equipment; select prosthetics and orthotics; MRIs, MRAs, and Pet Scans.
- Maternity admissions include Nursery care up to 48 hours for normal delivery and 96 hours for C-section. Preauthorization is not needed for maternity stay unless complications necessitate longer than normal hospital stay.
- For Prosthetics/Orthotics benefits: orthotics will include coverage for special shoes due to full or partial amputation related to a diabetic condition. The special shoes are limited to one pair per year and must be purchased through participating provider.
- For maximum vision care benefits, please utilize Davis Vision Care providers.
- All visit limits are an aggregate between in and out of network services and are per calendar year, unless otherwise stated.

VISION CARE BENEFITS

Vision care benefits apply when vision care charges are incurred by a Covered Person for services that are recommended and approved by a Physician or Optometrist.

BENEFIT PAYMENT

Benefit payment for a Covered Person will be made as described in the Schedule of Benefits.

VISION CARE CHARGES

Vision care charges are charges for the vision care services and supplies shown in the Schedule of Benefits. Benefits for these charges are payable up to the maximum benefit amounts shown in the Schedule of Benefits for each vision care service or supply.

LIMITS

No benefits will be payable for the following:

- (1) **Before covered.** Care, treatment or supplies for which a charge was incurred before a person was covered under this Plan.
- (2) **Excluded.** Charges excluded or limited by the Plan design as stated in this document.
- (3) **Health plan.** Any charges that are covered under a health plan that reimburses a greater amount than this Plan.
- (4) **No prescription.** Charges for lenses ordered without a prescription.
- (5) **Orthoptics.** Charges for orthoptics (eye muscle exercises).
- (6) **Sunglasses.** Charges for safety goggles or sunglasses, including prescription type.
- (7) **Training.** Charges for vision training or subnormal vision aids.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Medical Benefits apply when Covered Charges are incurred by a Covered Person for care of an Injury or Sickness and while the person is covered for these benefits under the Plan.

DEDUCTIBLE

Deductible Amount. This is an amount of Covered Charges for which no benefits will be paid. Before benefits can be paid in a Calendar Year a Covered Person must meet the deductible shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

Family Unit Limit. When the maximum amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits has been incurred by members of a Family Unit toward their Calendar Year deductibles, the deductibles of all members of that Family Unit will be considered satisfied for that year.

Deductible For A Common Accident. This provision applies when two or more Covered Persons in a Family Unit are injured in the same accident.

These persons need not meet separate deductibles for treatment of injuries incurred in this accident; instead, only one deductible for the Calendar Year in which the accident occurred will be required for them as a unit for expenses arising from the accident.

BENEFIT PAYMENT

Each Calendar Year, benefits will be paid for the Covered Charges of a Covered Person that are in excess of the deductible and any co-payments. Payment will be made at the rate shown under reimbursement rate in the Schedule of Benefits. No benefits will be paid in excess of the Maximum Benefit Amount or any listed limit of the Plan.

OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT

Covered Charges are payable at the 80% shown each Calendar Year until the out-of-pocket limit shown in the Schedule of Benefits is reached. Then, Covered Charges incurred by a Covered Person will be payable at 100% (except for the charges excluded) for the rest of the Calendar Year. The Covered Charges will include deductible and coinsurance applied to out of network services. Any charges that exceed your plans allowed amount for services provided by a non-participating provider are excluded.

When a Family Unit reaches the out-of-pocket limit, Covered Charges for that Family Unit will be payable at 100% (except for the charges excluded) for the rest of the Calendar Year. The Covered Charges will include deductible and coinsurance applied to out of network services. Any charges that exceed your plans allowed amount for services provided by a non-participating provider are excluded.

COVERED CHARGES

Covered charges are charges that are incurred for the following items of service and supply. These charges are subject to the benefit limits, exclusions and other provisions of this Plan. A charge is incurred on the date that the service or supply is performed or furnished.

- (1) **Hospital Care.** The medical services and supplies furnished by a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center or a Birthing Center. Covered charges for room and board will be payable as shown in the Schedule of Benefits. After 23 observation hours, a confinement will be considered an inpatient confinement.

Room charges made by a Hospital having only private rooms will be paid at 80% of the average private room rate.

Charges for an Intensive Care Unit stay are payable as described in the Schedule of Benefits.

- (2) **Coverage of Pregnancy.** The charges for the care and treatment of Pregnancy are covered the same as any other Sickness.

Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

- (3) **Skilled Nursing Facility Care.** The room and board and nursing care furnished by a Skilled Nursing Facility will be payable if and when:

- (a) the patient is confined as a bed patient in the facility;
- (b) the attending Physician certifies that the confinement is needed for further care of the condition that caused the Hospital confinement; and
- (c) the attending Physician completes a treatment plan which includes a diagnosis, the proposed course of treatment and the projected date of discharge from the Skilled Nursing Facility.

Covered charges for a Covered Person's care in these facilities is limited to the covered daily maximum shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

- (4) **Physician Care.** The professional services of a Physician for surgical or medical services.

- (a) Charges for **multiple surgical procedures** will be a Covered Charge subject to the following provisions:
 - (i) If bilateral or multiple surgical procedures are performed by one (1) surgeon, benefits will be determined based on the fee that is allowed for the primary procedures; 50% of the Usual and Reasonable Charge will be allowed for each additional procedure performed through the same incision. Any procedure that would not be an integral part of the primary procedure or is unrelated to the diagnosis will be considered "incidental" and no benefits will be provided for such procedures;
 - (ii) If multiple unrelated surgical procedures are performed by two (2) or more surgeons on separate operative fields, benefits will be based on the charge for each surgeon's primary procedure. If two (2) or more surgeons perform a procedure that is normally performed by one (1) surgeon, benefits for all surgeons will not exceed the percentage allowed for that procedure; and
 - (iii) If an assistant surgeon is required, the assistant surgeon's covered charge will not exceed 20% of the surgeon's charge which will be according to our fee schedule.

- (5) **Private Duty Nursing Care.** The private duty nursing care by a licensed nurse (R.N., L.P.N. or L.V.N.). Covered charges for this service will be included to this extent:

- (a) **Inpatient Nursing Care.** Charges are covered only when care is Medically Necessary or not Custodial in nature and the Hospital's Intensive Care Unit is filled or the Hospital has no Intensive Care Unit.
- (b) **Outpatient Nursing Care.** Outpatient private duty nursing care is not covered.

- (6) **Home Health Care Services and Supplies.** Charges for home health care services and supplies are covered only for care and treatment of an Injury or Sickness when Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility confinement would otherwise be required. The diagnosis, care and treatment must be certified by the attending Physician and be contained in a Home Health Care Plan.

Benefit payment for nursing, home health aide and therapy services is subject to the Home Health Care limit shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

A home health care visit will be considered a periodic visit by either a nurse or therapist, as the case may be, or four hours of home health aide services. Custodial care is not covered.

- (7) **Hospice Care Services and Supplies.** Charges for hospice care services and supplies are covered only when the attending Physician has diagnosed the Covered Person's condition as being terminal, determined that the person is not expected to live more than six months and placed the person under a Hospice Care Plan.

Covered charges for Hospice Care Services and Supplies are payable as described in the Schedule of Benefits.

Bereavement counseling services by a licensed social worker or a licensed pastoral counselor for the patient's immediate family (covered Spouse and/or covered Dependent Children). Bereavement services must be furnished within six months after the patient's death and are limited to five visits.

- (8) **Other Medical Services and Supplies.** These services and supplies not otherwise included in the items above are covered as follows:

- (a) Local Medically Necessary professional land or air **ambulance** service. A charge for this item will be a Covered Charge only if the service is to the nearest Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility for an emergency condition where necessary treatment can be provided unless the Plan Administrator finds a longer trip was Medically Necessary.
- (b) **Anesthetic**; oxygen; blood and blood derivatives that are not donated or replaced; intravenous injections and solutions. Administration of these items is included.
- (c) **Cardiac rehabilitation** as deemed Medically Necessary provided services are rendered (a) under the supervision of a Physician; (b) in connection with a myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion or coronary bypass surgery; (c) initiated within 12 weeks after other treatment for the medical condition ends and for a limit of 24 visits per calendar year; and (d) in a Medical Care Facility as defined by this Plan.
- (d) Radiation or **chemotherapy** and treatment with radioactive substances. The materials and services of technicians are included.
- (e) Initial **contact lenses** or glasses required following cataract surgery per vision care services noted in the Schedule of Benefits.
- (f) Rental of **durable medical or surgical equipment** if deemed Medically Necessary. These items may be bought rather than rented, with the cost not to exceed the fair market value of the equipment at the time of purchase, but only if agreed to in advance by the Plan Administrator.
- (g) Care, supplies and services for the diagnosis and treatment of **infertility**.
- (h) **Laboratory studies.**
- (i) Treatment of **Mental Disorders and Substance Abuse**. Covered charges for care, supplies and treatment of Mental Disorders and Substance Abuse will be limited as follows:

All treatment is subject to the benefit payment maximums shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

Psychiatrists (M.D.), psychologists (Ph.D.), counselors (Ph.D.) or Masters of Social Work (M.S.W.) may bill the Plan directly. Other licensed mental health practitioners must be under the direction of and must bill the Plan through these professionals.

- (j) Injury to or care of **mouth, teeth and gums**. Charges for Injury to or care of the mouth, teeth, gums and alveolar processes will be Covered Charges under Medical Benefits only if that care is for the following oral surgical procedures:

Excision of tumors and cysts of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth.

Emergency repair due to Injury to sound natural teeth.

Surgery needed to correct accidental injuries to the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, floor and roof of the mouth.

Excision of benign bony growths of the jaw and hard palate.

External incision and drainage of cellulitis.

Incision of sensory sinuses, salivary glands or ducts.

No charge will be covered under Medical Benefits for dental and oral surgical procedures involving orthodontic care of the teeth, periodontal disease, temporal mandibular joint disorder or syndrome, and preparing the mouth for the fitting of or continued use of dentures

- (k) **Occupational therapy** by a licensed occupational therapist. Therapy must be ordered by a Physician, result from an Injury or Sickness and improve a body function. Covered Charges do not include recreational programs, maintenance therapy or supplies used in occupational therapy.
- (l) **Organ transplant** limits. Charges for obtaining donor organs or tissues are Covered Charges under the Plan when the recipient is a Covered Person. When the donor has medical coverage, his or her plan will pay first. The benefits under this Plan will be reduced by those payable under the donor's plan. Charges otherwise covered under the Plan that are incurred for the care and treatment due to an organ or tissue transplant are subject to these limits:
 - The transplant must be performed to replace an organ or tissue.
 - evaluating the organ or tissue;
 - removing the organ or tissue from the donor
- (m) The initial purchase, fitting and repair of **orthotic appliances** such as braces, splints or other appliances which are required for support for an injured or deformed part of the body as a result of a disabling congenital condition or an Injury or Sickness. We will include coverage for special shoes due to full or partial amputation relating to a diabetic condition. This benefit is limited to one pair per year and must be purchased through a participating provider only. There is no coverage when services are provided by a non-participating provider.
- (n) **Physical therapy** by a licensed physical therapist. The therapy must be in accord with a Physician's exact orders as to type, frequency and duration and for conditions which are subject to significant improvement through short-term therapy.
- (o) **Prescription** Drugs (as defined).

- (p) Routine **Preventive Care**. Covered charges under Medical Benefits are payable for routine Preventive Care as described in the Schedule of Benefits.

Charges for Routine Well Adult Care. Routine well adult care is care by a Physician that is not for an Injury or Sickness.

Charges for Routine Well Child Care. Routine well child care is routine care by a Physician that is not for an Injury or Sickness.

- (q) The initial purchase, fitting and repair of fitted **prosthetic devices** which replace body parts.
- (r) **Reconstructive Surgery**. Correction of abnormal congenital conditions and reconstructive mammoplasties will be considered Covered Charges.

This mammoplasty coverage will include reimbursement for:

- (i) reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed,
- (ii) surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, and
- (iii) coverage of prostheses and physical complications during all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas,

in a manner determined in consultation with the attending Physician and the patient.

- (s) **Speech therapy** by a licensed speech therapist. Therapy must be ordered by a Physician and follow either: (i) surgery for correction of a congenital condition of the oral cavity, throat or nasal complex (other than a frenectomy) of a person; (ii) an Injury; or (iii) a Sickness that is other than a learning or Mental Disorder.
- (t) **Spinal Manipulation/Chiropractic services** by a licensed M.D., D.O. or D.C. Coverage will include medically necessary skeletal adjustments, manipulation or other treatment or correction by manual or mechanical means of structural imbalance or subluxation in the human body. Chiropractic visits will be reviewed to determine whether they were medically necessary after the first 5 visits in each calendar year. Upon review, we will not pay for any visits that are determined to be not Medically Necessary.
- (u) **Sterilization** procedures. Reversal of elective sterilization is not covered.
- (v) **Surgical dressings**, splints, casts and other devices used in the reduction of fractures and dislocations.
- (w) Coverage of **Well Newborn Nursery/Physician Care**.

Charges for Routine Nursery Care. Routine well newborn nursery care is care while the newborn is Hospital-confined after birth and includes room, board and other normal care for which a Hospital makes a charge.

This coverage is only provided if the newborn child is an eligible Dependent and a parent (1) is a Covered Person who was covered under the Plan at the time of the birth, or (2) enrolls himself or herself (as well as the newborn child if required) in accordance with the Special Enrollment provisions with coverage effective as of the date of birth.

The benefit is limited to nursery care for the newborn child while Hospital confined as a result of the child's birth.

Charges for covered routine nursery care will be applied toward the Plan of the newborn child.

Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Charges for Routine Physician Care. The benefit is limited to the charges made by a Physician for the newborn child while Hospital confined as a result of the child's birth.

Charges for covered routine Physician care will be applied toward the Plan of the newborn child.

- (x) Diagnostic x-rays.

COST MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Cost Management Services Phone Number

BlueShield of Northeastern New York
518-220-4600 or Out of Area 800-888-1238

Please refer to the Employee ID card for the Cost Management Services phone number.

The patient or family member must call this number to receive certification of certain Cost Management Services. This call must be made at least n/a in advance of services being rendered or within n/a after an emergency.

Any reduced reimbursement due to failure to follow cost management procedures will not accrue toward the 100% maximum out-of-pocket payment.

UTILIZATION REVIEW

Utilization review is a program designed to help insure that all Covered Persons receive necessary and appropriate health care while avoiding unnecessary expenses.

The program consists of:

- (a) Precertification of the Medical Necessity for the following non-emergency services before Medical and/or Surgical services are provided:
 - Inpatient Admission
 - Inpatient Substance Abuse / Mental Disorder treatments
 - Skilled Nursing Facility stays
 - Home Health Care
 - Capsular Endoscopy
 - Septoplasty
 - Radiology (MRI, MRA, PET Scans, Nuclear Cardiology)
 - Other services –The above services may be subject to change. Notify the Customer Service area for additional information before receiving services.
- (b) Retrospective review of the Medical Necessity of the listed services provided on an emergency basis;
- (c) Concurrent review, based on the admitting diagnosis, of the listed services requested by the attending Physician; and
- (d) Certification of services and planning for discharge from a Medical Care Facility or cessation of medical treatment.

The purpose of the program is to determine what charges may be eligible for payment by the Plan. This program is not designed to be the practice of medicine or to be a substitute for the medical judgment of the attending Physician or other health care provider.

If a particular course of treatment or medical service is not certified, it means that either the Plan will not pay for the charges or the Plan will not consider that course of treatment as appropriate for the maximum reimbursement under the Plan. The patient is urged to find out why there is a discrepancy between what was requested and what was certified before incurring charges.

The attending Physician does not have to obtain precertification from the Plan for prescribing a maternity length of stay that is 48 hours or less for a vaginal delivery or 96 hours or less for a cesarean delivery.

In order to maximize Plan reimbursements, please read the following provisions carefully.

Here's how the program works.

Precertification. Before a Covered Person enters a Medical Care Facility on a non-emergency basis or receives other listed medical services, the utilization review administrator will, in conjunction with the attending Physician, certify the care as appropriate for Plan reimbursement. A non-emergency stay in a Medical Care Facility is one that can be scheduled in advance.

The utilization review program is set in motion by a telephone call from the Covered Person. Contact the utilization review administrator at the telephone number on your ID card before services are scheduled to be rendered with the following information:

- The name of the patient and relationship to the covered Employee
- The name, Social Security number and address of the covered Employee
- The name of the Employer
- The name and telephone number of the attending Physician
- The name of the Medical Care Facility, proposed date of admission, and proposed length of stay
- The diagnosis and/or type of surgery
- The proposed rendering of listed medical services

If there is an **emergency** admission to the Medical Care Facility, the patient, patient's family member, Medical Care Facility or attending Physician must contact the utilization review administrator immediately after the admission.

The utilization review administrator will determine the number of days of Medical Care Facility confinement or use of other listed medical services authorized for payment. **Failure to follow this procedure may reduce reimbursement received from the Plan.**

Concurrent review, discharge planning. Concurrent review of a course of treatment and discharge planning from a Medical Care Facility are parts of the utilization review program. The utilization review administrator will monitor the Covered Person's Medical Care Facility stay or use of other medical services and coordinate with the attending Physician, Medical Care Facilities and Covered Person either the scheduled release or an extension of the Medical Care Facility stay or extension or cessation of the use of other medical services.

If the attending Physician feels that it is Medically Necessary for a Covered Person to receive additional services or to stay in the Medical Care Facility for a greater length of time than has been precertified, the attending Physician must request the additional services or days.

SECOND AND/OR THIRD OPINION PROGRAM

Certain surgical procedures are performed either inappropriately or unnecessarily. In some cases, surgery is only one of several treatment options. In other cases, surgery will not help the condition.

In order to prevent unnecessary or potentially harmful surgical treatments, the second and/or third opinion program fulfills the dual purpose of protecting the health of the Plan's Covered Persons and protecting the financial integrity of the Plan.

Benefits will be provided for a second (and third, if necessary) opinion consultation to determine the Medical Necessity of an elective surgical procedure. An elective surgical procedure is one that can be scheduled in advance; that is, it is not an emergency or of a life-threatening nature. Benefits for the second (and third, if necessary) opinion will be paid as any other Sickness.

The patient may choose any board-certified specialist who is not an associate of the attending Physician and who is affiliated in the appropriate specialty.

While any surgical treatment is allowed a second opinion, the following procedures are ones for which surgery is often performed when other treatments are available.

Appendectomy	Hernia surgery	Spinal surgery
Cataract surgery	Hysterectomy	Surgery to knee, shoulder, elbow or toe
Cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal)	Mastectomy surgery	Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
Deviated septum (nose surgery)	Prostate surgery	Tympanotomy (inner ear)
Hemorrhoidectomy	Salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of tubes/ovaries)	Varicose vein ligation

Before a Covered Person has a surgery which would require an inpatient hospital stay, Covered Person must contact the utilization review administrator at:

BlueShield of Northeastern New York
Local 518-220-4600 or Out of Area 800-888-1238, **the number listed on the Employee's ID card**

PREADMISSION TESTING SERVICE

The Medical Benefits percentage payable will be for diagnostic lab tests and x-ray exams when:

- (1) performed on an outpatient basis within seven days before a Hospital confinement;
- (2) related to the condition which causes the confinement; and
- (3) performed in place of tests while Hospital confined.

Covered charges for this testing will be payable at 100% for In-Network services and 80% subject to deductible for Out-of-Network services even if tests show the condition requires medical treatment prior to Hospital confinement or the Hospital confinement is not required.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Management. The Plan may elect, in its sole discretion, when acting on a basis that precludes individual selection, to provide alternative benefits that are otherwise excluded under the Plan. The alternative benefits, called "Case Management," shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the Plan's determination to provide the benefits in one instance shall not obligate the Plan to provide the same or similar alternative benefits for the same or any other Covered Person, nor shall it be deemed to waive the right of the Plan to strictly enforce the provisions of the Plan.

A case manager consults with the patient, the family and the attending Physician in order to develop a plan of care for approval by the patient's attending Physician and the patient. This plan of care may include some or all of the following:

- personal support to the patient;
- contacting the family to offer assistance and support;
- monitoring Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility;
- determining alternative care options; and
- assisting in obtaining any necessary equipment and services.

Case Management occurs when this alternate benefit will be beneficial to both the patient and the Plan.

The case manager will coordinate and implement the Case Management program by providing guidance and information on available resources and suggesting the most appropriate treatment plan. The Plan Administrator, attending Physician, patient and patient's family must all agree to the alternate treatment plan.

Once agreement has been reached, the Plan Administrator will direct the Plan to reimburse for Medically Necessary expenses as stated in the treatment plan, even if these expenses normally would not be paid by the Plan.

Note: Case Management is a voluntary service. There are no reductions of benefits or penalties if the patient and family choose not to participate.

Each treatment plan is individually tailored to a specific patient and should not be seen as appropriate or recommended for any other patient, even one with the same diagnosis.

DEFINED TERMS

The following terms have special meanings and when used in this Plan will be capitalized.

Active Employee is an Employee who is on the regular payroll of the Employer and who has begun to perform the duties of his or her job with the Employer on a full-time basis.

Ambulatory Surgical Center is a licensed facility that is used mainly for performing outpatient surgery, has a staff of Physicians, has continuous Physician and nursing care by registered nurses (R.N.s) and does not provide for overnight stays.

Birthing Center means any freestanding health facility, place, professional office or institution which is not a Hospital or in a Hospital, where births occur in a home-like atmosphere. This facility must be licensed and operated in accordance with the laws pertaining to Birthing Centers in the jurisdiction where the facility is located.

The Birthing Center must provide facilities for obstetrical delivery and short-term recovery after delivery; provide care under the full-time supervision of a Physician and either a registered nurse (R.N.) or a licensed nurse-midwife; and have a written agreement with a Hospital in the same locality for immediate acceptance of patients who develop complications or require pre- or post-delivery confinement.

Calendar Year means January 1st through December 31st of the same year.

COBRA means the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended.

Covered Charge(s) means those Medically Necessary services or supplies that are covered under this Plan.

Covered Person is an Employee, Retiree or Dependent who is covered under this Plan.

Creditable Coverage includes most health coverage, such as coverage under a group health plan (including COBRA continuation coverage), HMO membership, an individual health insurance policy, Medicaid, Medicare or public health plans.

Creditable Coverage does not include coverage consisting solely of dental or vision benefits.

Creditable Coverage does not include coverage that was in place before a significant break of coverage of more than 63 days. With respect to the Trade Act of 2002, when determining whether a significant break in coverage has occurred, the period between the trade related coverage loss and the start of special second COBRA election period under the Trade Act, does not count.

Custodial Care is care (including room and board needed to provide that care) that is given principally for personal hygiene or for assistance in daily activities and can, according to generally accepted medical standards, be performed by persons who have no medical training. Examples of Custodial Care are help in walking and getting out of bed; assistance in bathing, dressing, feeding; or supervision over medication which could normally be self-administered.

Durable Medical Equipment means equipment which (a) can withstand repeated use, (b) is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, (c) generally is not useful to a person in the absence of an Illness or Injury and (d) is appropriate for use in the home.

Employee means a person who is an Active, regular Employee of the Employer, regularly scheduled to work for the Employer in an Employee/Employer relationship.

Employer is City of Troy.

Enrollment Date is the first day of coverage or, if there is a Waiting Period, the first day of the Waiting Period.

ERISA is the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

Experimental and/or Investigational means services, supplies, care and treatment which does not constitute accepted medical practice properly within the range of appropriate medical practice under the standards of the case and by the standards of a reasonably substantial, qualified, responsible, relevant segment of the medical community or government oversight agencies at the time services were rendered.

The Plan Administrator must make an independent evaluation of the experimental/nonexperimental standings of specific technologies. The Plan Administrator shall be guided by a reasonable interpretation of Plan provisions. The decisions shall be made in good faith and rendered following a detailed factual background investigation of the claim and the proposed treatment. The decision of the Plan Administrator will be final and binding on the Plan. The Plan Administrator will be guided by the following principles:

- (1) if the drug or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time the drug or device is furnished; or
- (2) if the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure, or the patient informed consent document utilized with the drug, device, treatment or procedure, was reviewed and approved by the treating facility's Institutional Review Board or other body serving a similar function, or if federal law requires such review or approval; or
- (3) if Reliable Evidence shows that the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is the subject of on-going phase I or phase II clinical trials, is the research, experimental, study or Investigational arm of on-going phase III clinical trials, or is otherwise under study to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis; or
- (4) if Reliable Evidence shows that the prevailing opinion among experts regarding the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is that further studies or clinical trials are necessary to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis.

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

Drugs are considered Experimental if they are not commercially available for purchase and/or they are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for general use.

Family Unit is the covered Employee or Retiree and the family members who are covered as Dependents under the Plan.

Genetic Information means information about genes, gene products and inherited characteristics that may derive from an individual or a family member. This includes information regarding carrier status and information derived from laboratory tests that identify mutations in specific genes or chromosomes, physical medical examinations, family histories and direct analysis of genes or chromosomes.

Home Health Care Agency is an organization that meets all of these tests: its main function is to provide Home Health Care Services and Supplies; it is federally certified as a Home Health Care Agency; and it is licensed by the state in which it is located, if licensing is required.

Home Health Care Plan must meet these tests: it must be a formal written plan made by the patient's attending Physician which is reviewed at least every 30 days; it must state the diagnosis; it must certify that the Home Health Care is in place of Hospital confinement; and it must specify the type and extent of Home Health Care required for the treatment of the patient.

Home Health Care Services and Supplies include: part-time or intermittent nursing care by or under the supervision of a registered nurse (R.N.); part-time or intermittent home health aide services provided through a Home Health Care Agency (this does not include general housekeeping services); physical, occupational and speech therapy; medical supplies; and laboratory services by or on behalf of the Hospital.

Hospice Agency is an organization where its main function is to provide Hospice Care Services and Supplies and it is licensed by the state in which it is located, if licensing is required.

Hospice Care Plan is a plan of terminal patient care that is established and conducted by a Hospice Agency and supervised by a Physician.

Hospice Care Services and Supplies are those provided through a Hospice Agency and under a Hospice Care Plan and include inpatient care in a Hospice Unit or other licensed facility, home care, and family counseling during the bereavement period.

Hospice Unit is a facility or separate Hospital Unit, that provides treatment under a Hospice Care Plan and admits at least two unrelated persons who are expected to die within six months.

Hospital is an institution which is engaged primarily in providing medical care and treatment of sick and injured persons on an inpatient basis at the patient's expense and which fully meets these tests: it is accredited as a Hospital by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or the American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program; it is approved by Medicare as a Hospital; it maintains diagnostic and therapeutic facilities on the premises for surgical and medical diagnosis and treatment of sick and injured persons by or under the supervision of a staff of Physicians; it continuously provides on the premises 24-hour-a-day nursing services by or under the supervision of registered nurses (R.N.s); and it is operated continuously with organized facilities for operative surgery on the premises.

The definition of "Hospital" shall be expanded to include the following:

- A facility operating legally as a psychiatric Hospital or residential treatment facility for mental health and licensed as such by the state in which the facility operates.
- A facility operating primarily for the treatment of Substance Abuse if it meets these tests: maintains permanent and full-time facilities for bed care and full-time confinement of at least 15 resident patients; has a Physician in regular attendance; continuously provides 24-hour a day nursing service by a registered nurse (R.N.); has a full-time psychiatrist or psychologist on the staff; and is primarily engaged in providing diagnostic and therapeutic services and facilities for treatment of Substance Abuse.

Illness means a bodily disorder, disease, physical sickness or Mental Disorder. Illness includes Pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or complications of Pregnancy.

Infertility means incapable of producing offspring.

Injury means an accidental physical Injury to the body caused by unexpected external means.

Intensive Care Unit is defined as a separate, clearly designated service area which is maintained within a Hospital solely for the care and treatment of patients who are critically ill. This also includes what is referred to as a "coronary care unit" or an "acute care unit." It has: facilities for special nursing care not available in regular rooms and wards of the Hospital; special life saving equipment which is immediately available at all times; at least two beds for the accommodation of the critically ill; and at least one registered nurse (R.N.) in continuous and constant attendance 24 hours a day.

Late Enrollee means a Plan Participant who enrolls under the Plan other than during the first 31-day period in which the individual is eligible to enroll under the Plan or during a Special Enrollment Period.

Legal Guardian means a person recognized by a court of law as having the duty of taking care of the person and managing the property and rights of a minor child.

Lifetime is a word that appears in this Plan in reference to benefit maximums and limitations. Lifetime is understood to mean while covered under this Plan. Under no circumstances does Lifetime mean during the lifetime of the Covered Person.

Medical Care Facility means a Hospital, a facility that treats one or more specific ailments or any type of Skilled Nursing Facility.

Medical Emergency means a sudden onset of a condition with acute symptoms requiring immediate medical care and includes such conditions as heart attacks, cardiovascular accidents, poisonings, loss of consciousness or respiration, convulsions or other such acute medical conditions.

Medically Necessary care and treatment is recommended or approved by a Physician; is consistent with the patient's condition or accepted standards of good medical practice; is medically proven to be effective treatment of the condition; is not performed mainly for the convenience of the patient or provider of medical services; is not conducted for research purposes; and is the most appropriate level of services which can be safely provided to the patient.

All of these criteria must be met; merely because a Physician recommends or approves certain care does not mean that it is Medically Necessary.

The Plan Administrator has the discretionary authority to decide whether care or treatment is Medically Necessary.

Medicare is the Health Insurance For The Aged and Disabled program under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

Mental Disorder means any disease or condition, regardless of whether the cause is organic, that is classified as a Mental Disorder in the current edition of International Classification of Diseases, published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or is listed in the current edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association.

Morbid Obesity is a diagnosed condition in which the body weight exceeds the medically recommended weight by either 100 pounds or is twice the medically recommended weight for a person of the same height, age and mobility as the Covered Person.

No-Fault Auto Insurance is the basic reparations provision of a law providing for payments without determining fault in connection with automobile accidents.

Outpatient Care and/or Services is treatment including services, supplies and medicines provided and used at a Hospital under the direction of a Physician to a person not admitted as a registered bed patient; or services rendered in a Physician's office, laboratory or X-ray facility, an Ambulatory Surgical Center, or the patient's home.

Physician means a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Optometrist (O.D.), Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.M.), Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.), Audiologist, Certified Nurse Anesthetist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Professional Physical Therapist, Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), Midwife, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Psychiatrist, Psychologist (Ph.D.), Speech Language Pathologist and any other practitioner of the healing arts who is licensed and regulated by a state or federal agency and is acting within the scope of his or her license.

Plan means City of Troy, which is a benefits plan for certain Employees of City of Troy and is described in this document.

Plan Participant is any Employee, Retiree or Dependent who is covered under this Plan.

Plan Year is the 12-month period beginning on either the effective date of the Plan or on the day following the end of the first Plan Year which is a short Plan Year.

Pregnancy is childbirth and conditions associated with Pregnancy, including complications.

Prescription Drug means any of the following: a Food and Drug Administration-approved drug or medicine which, under federal law, is required to bear the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription"; injectable insulin; hypodermic needles or syringes, but only when dispensed upon a written prescription of a licensed Physician. Such drug must be Medically Necessary in the treatment of a Sickness or Injury, however, these services are not included under this Plan.

Retired Employee is a former Active Employee of the Employer who was retired while employed by the Employer under the formal written plan of the Employer and elects to contribute to the Plan the contribution required from the Retired Employee.

Sickness is a person's Illness, disease or Pregnancy (including complications).

Skilled Nursing Facility is a facility that fully meets all of these tests:

- (1) It is licensed to provide professional nursing services on an inpatient basis to persons convalescing from Injury or Sickness. The service must be rendered by a registered nurse (R.N.) or by a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) under the direction of a registered nurse. Services to help restore patients to self-care in essential daily living activities must be provided.
- (2) Its services are provided for compensation and under the full-time supervision of a Physician.
- (3) It provides 24 hour per day nursing services by licensed nurses, under the direction of a full-time registered nurse.
- (4) It maintains a complete medical record on each patient.
- (5) It has an effective utilization review plan.
- (6) It is not, other than incidentally, a place for rest, the aged, drug addicts, alcoholics, mental retardates, Custodial or educational care or care of Mental Disorders.
- (7) It is approved and licensed by Medicare.

This term also applies to charges incurred in a facility referring to itself as an extended care facility, convalescent nursing home, rehabilitation hospital, long-term acute care facility or any other similar nomenclature.

Spinal Manipulation/Chiropractic Care means skeletal adjustments, manipulation or other treatment in connection with the detection and correction by manual or mechanical means of structural imbalance or subluxation in the human body. Such treatment is done by a Physician to remove nerve interference resulting from, or related to, distortion, misalignment or subluxation of, or in, the vertebral column.

Substance Abuse is regular excessive compulsive drinking of alcohol and/or physical habitual dependence on drugs. This does not include dependence on tobacco and ordinary caffeine-containing drinks.

Total Disability (Totally Disabled) means: In the case of a Dependent child, the complete inability as a result of Injury or Sickness to perform the normal activities of a person of like age and sex in good health.

Usual and Reasonable Charge is a charge which is not higher than the usual charge made by the provider of the care or supply and does not exceed the usual charge made by most providers of like service in the same area. This test will consider the nature and severity of the condition being treated. It will also consider medical complications or unusual circumstances that require more time, skill or experience. The Plan will reimburse the actual charge billed if it is less than fee schedule. Under this Plan, Providers are paid up to fee schedule which is based on the Providers Agreement with us as a "Preferred Provider."

PLAN EXCLUSIONS

For all Medical Benefits shown in the Schedule of Benefits, a charge for the following is not covered:

1. **Complications of non-covered treatments.** Care, services or treatment required as a result of complications from a treatment not covered under the Plan are not covered.
2. **Cosmetic Surgery.** We will not pay for any services in connection with elective cosmetic surgery which is primarily intended to improve your appearance. We will, however, provide coverage for services in connection with reconstructive surgery when such service is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from trauma, infection or other diseases of the part of the body involved and those services are otherwise covered under this Plan. We will also provide coverage for reconstructive surgery because of congenital disease or anomaly of a child covered under this Plan which has resulted in a functional defect if those services are otherwise covered under this Plan.

We will provide coverage for surgical services including all stages of reconstructive surgery in which a mastectomy has been performed including reconstructive surgical procedures on the unaffected breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.

3. **Court Ordered Services.** We will not pay for any court ordered services unless they are Medically Necessary and except as pursuant to Section Eleven, the care is provided by a Preferred Physician or Provider.
4. **Custodial care.** Services or supplies provided mainly as a rest cure, maintenance or Custodial Care.
5. **Diagnostic Studies.** Except as otherwise provided in this Plan, we will not pay for any Hospital stay or any portion of a Hospital stay, which is primarily for diagnostic purposes. This exclusion applies to a Hospital stay or a portion of a Hospital stay during which the services you receive are primarily for diagnostic x-rays, laboratory tests or other types of diagnostic studies
6. **Educational or vocational testing.** Services for educational or vocational testing or training.
7. **Excess charges.** The part of an expense for care and treatment of an Injury or Sickness that is in excess of the Usual and Reasonable Charge.
8. **Exercise programs.** Exercise programs for treatment of any condition, except for Physician-supervised cardiac rehabilitation, occupational or physical therapy covered by this Plan.
9. **Experimental or not Medically Necessary.** Care and treatment that is either Experimental/Investigational or not Medically Necessary.
10. **Eye care.** Radial keratotomy or other eye surgery to correct refractive disorders. This exclusion does not apply to aphakic patients and soft lenses or sclera shells intended for use as corneal bandages or as may be covered under the well adult or well child sections of this Plan.
11. **Foot care.** Treatment of weak, strained, flat, unstable or unbalanced feet, metatarsalgia or bunions (except open cutting operations), and treatment of corns, calluses or toenails (unless needed in treatment of a metabolic or peripheral-vascular disease).
12. **Free Care.** We will not pay for any care if the care is furnished to you without charge or would normally be furnished to you without charge. This exclusion will also apply if the care would have been furnished to you without charge if you were not covered under this Plan or under any other insurance. We will not pay for services performed by a member of your immediate family.
13. **Foreign travel.** Care, treatment or supplies out of the U.S. if travel is for the sole purpose of obtaining medical services.

14. **Government coverage.** Care, treatment or supplies furnished by a program or agency funded by any government. This does not apply to Medicaid or when otherwise prohibited by law.. We will reduce our payments under this Plan by the amount you are eligible to receive for the same services under Medicare or under any other federal, state, or local government program, except that we will pay for services covered under this Plan even though you are eligible for Medicaid. If you are eligible for Medicare benefits, you will receive the benefits of this Plan reduced by any benefits available under Medicare. This applies even if you fail to enroll in Medicare or do not claim the benefits available under Medicare. You must enroll for coverage under both Part A and Part B of Medicare, and must inform us of your eligibility for Medicare. However, we will not reduce our payments under this Plan if the provisions of Paragraphs A, B or C below apply to you.
 - A. **Eligibility For Medicare By Reason Of Age.** If you are eligible for coverage under Medicare by reason of age, our payments under this Plan will not be reduced if the person to whom this Plan is issued is an active employee of the group which arranged for coverage under this Plan. Also, the benefits of an active employee's spouse will not be reduced if the spouse is eligible for coverage under Medicare by reason of age. The employer which arranged for coverage under this Plan must be an employer which is subject to the provisions of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA), as amended. This special provision applies only to persons at least age 65. This special provision does not apply if the person to whom this Plan is issued is a retired employee of the group which arranged for coverage under this Plan.
 - B. **Eligibility For Medicare By Reason Of Disability.** If you are eligible for coverage under Medicare by reason of disability, our payments under this Plan will not be reduced if the person to whom this Plan is issued is an active employee of the group which arranged for coverage under this Plan. This special provision applies to the person to whom this Plan is issued if disabled and eligible for Medicare, and to that person's spouse if disabled and eligible for Medicare, and to any other covered dependent of that person if disabled and eligible for Medicare. The group which arranged for coverage under this Plan must be a Large Group Health Plan as defined in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (OBRA). Generally, a Large Group Health Plan is a plan that covers employees of an employer with at least 100 employees. This special provision does not apply if the person to whom this Plan is issued is a retired employee of the group which arranged for coverage under this Plan. This special provision does not apply to a person who is eligible for Medicare by reason of end-stage renal disease.
 - C. **Eligibility For Medicare By Reason Of End-Stage Renal Disease.** If you are eligible for Medicare by reason of end-stage renal disease, our payment under this Plan will not be reduced during the period of time that Medicare is the secondary payor as set forth in the Medicare Law.
15. **Hair loss.** Care and treatment for hair loss including wigs, hair transplants or any drug that promises hair growth, whether or not prescribed by a Physician.
16. **Hospital employees.** Professional services billed by a Physician or nurse who is an employee of a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility and paid by the Hospital or facility for the service.
17. **Illegal acts.** Charges for services received as a result of Injury or Sickness occurring directly or indirectly, as a result of a Serious Illegal Act, or a riot or public disturbance. For purposes of this exclusion, the term "Serious Illegal Act" shall mean any act or series of acts that, if prosecuted as a criminal offense, a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of one year could be imposed. It is not necessary that criminal charges be filed, or, if filed, that a conviction result, or that a sentence of imprisonment for a term in excess of one year be imposed for this exclusion to apply. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is not required. This exclusion does not apply if the Injury or Sickness resulted from an act of domestic violence or a medical (including both physical and mental health) condition.
18. **Marital or pre-marital counseling.** Care and treatment for marital or pre-marital counseling.
19. **Methadone Maintenance.** We will not pay for services or supplies in connection with the methadone

maintenance programs unless, in our sole discretion, we determine they are Medically Necessary.

20. **Military Service Connected Disabilities.** We will not provide benefits for any service in connection with any military service connected disability if the Veterans Administration has the responsibility to provide the service or care.
21. **No charge.** Care and treatment for which there would not have been a charge if no coverage had been in force.
22. **Non-compliance.** All charges in connection with treatments or medications where the patient either is in non-compliance with or is discharged from a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility against medical advice.
23. **Non-emergency Hospital admissions.** Care and treatment billed by a Hospital for non-Medical Emergency admissions.
24. **No-Fault Automobile Insurance.** We will not pay for any service or care if benefits are recoverable or have been recovered by mandatory no-fault automobile insurance until you have used up all the benefits under the mandatory no-fault policy. This exclusion applies even if you do not make a proper or timely claim for the benefits available to you under any available mandatory no-fault policy.

This Plan will provide coverage when you have exceeded the maximum benefits for mandatory no-fault. Should you be denied benefits under the no-fault policy because it has a deductible, we will provide coverage for services in this Contract.

25. **No obligation to pay.** Charges incurred for which the Plan has no legal obligation to pay.
26. **No Physician recommendation.** Care, treatment, services or supplies not recommended and approved by a Physician; or treatment, services or supplies when the Covered Person is not under the regular care of a Physician. Regular care means ongoing medical supervision or treatment which is appropriate care for the Injury or Sickness.
27. **Non-Acute Hospital Or Medically Unnecessary Care.** We will not pay for a Hospital stay or portion of a Hospital stay during which you do not receive Acute Hospital Care or during which you receive care which is not Medically Necessary. If we deny coverage for these reasons, you may be entitled to an Appeal.
28. **Not specified as covered.** Non-traditional medical services, treatments and supplies which are not specified as covered under this Plan.
29. **Obesity.** Care and treatment of obesity, weight loss or dietary control whether or not it is, in any case, a part of the treatment plan for another Sickness. Specifically excluded are charges for bariatric surgery, including but not limited to, gastric bypass, stapling and intestinal bypass, and lap band surgery, including reversals. Medically Necessary non-surgical charges for Morbid Obesity will be covered.
30. **Occupational.** Care and treatment of an Injury or Sickness that is occupational -- that is, arises from work for wage or profit including self-employment.
31. **Organ Transplant Searches, Screenings or Donations.** We will not pay costs relating to searches or screenings for donors of organs to be transplanted. We will not pay for any services if you are donating an organ for transplantation to a person not covered by this Plan.
32. **Personal comfort items.** Personal comfort items or other equipment, such as, but not limited to, air conditioners, air-purification units, humidifiers, electric heating units, orthopedic mattresses, blood pressure instruments, scales, elastic bandages or stockings, nonprescription drugs and medicines, and first-aid supplies and nonhospital adjustable beds.
33. **Plan design excludes.** Charges excluded by the Plan design as mentioned in this document.

34. **Prescription drugs.** Except as otherwise included in this Plan, we will not pay for prescription drugs.
35. **Relative giving services.** Professional services performed by a person who ordinarily resides in the Covered Person's home or is related to the Covered Person as a Spouse, parent, child, brother or sister, whether the relationship is by blood or exists in law.
36. **Replacement braces.** Replacement of braces of the leg, arm, back, neck, or artificial arms or legs, unless there is sufficient change in the Covered Person's physical condition to make the original device no longer functional.
37. **Reversal of Voluntary Sterilization.** We will not pay for any services, supplies or care for or related to the reversal of a voluntary sterilization.
38. **Routine care.** Except as otherwise provided in this Plan, charges for routine examinations, screening examinations, evaluation procedures, preventive medical care, or treatment or services not directly related to the diagnosis or treatment of a specific Injury, Sickness or Pregnancy-related condition which is known or reasonably suspected, unless such care is specifically covered in the Schedule of Benefits.
39. **Services before or after coverage.** Care, treatment or supplies for which a charge was incurred before a person was Covered under this Plan or after coverage ceased under this Plan.
40. **Services Maintained By An Employer Or School.** We will not pay for any service or care furnished by a medical department, clinic, or other similar service maintained by your employer or school.
41. **Services Furnished Pursuant To A Referral Prohibited By State Law.** We will not pay for clinical laboratory services, x-ray or imaging services, or pharmacy services furnished by any provider pursuant to a referral prohibited by §238-a of the New York State Public Health Law. Generally, §238-a prohibits physicians and other health care practitioners from making referrals for clinical laboratory services, x-ray and imaging services, and pharmacy services to a provider or facility in which the referring physician or practitioner or an immediate family member has a financial interest or relationship.
42. **Sex changes.** Care, services or treatment for non-congenital transsexualism, gender dysphoria or sexual reassignment or change. This exclusion includes medications, implants, hormone therapy, surgery, medical or psychiatric treatment.
43. **Sleep disorders.** Care and treatment for sleep disorders unless deemed Medically Necessary.
44. **Smoking cessation.** Care and treatment for smoking cessation programs, including smoking deterrent patches, unless Medically Necessary due to a severe active lung illness such as emphysema or asthma.
45. **Temporomandibular Joint Syndrome.** All diagnostic and treatment services related to the treatment of jaw joint problems including temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome.
46. **Travel or accommodations.** Charges for travel or accommodations, whether or not recommended by a Physician, except for ambulance charges as defined as a Covered Charge.
47. **War.** Any loss that is due to a declared or undeclared act of war.
48. **Workers' Compensation.** We will not pay for any care for any injury, condition or disease if payment is or may be available to you under a Workers' Compensation Law or similar legislation. We will not make any payments if you do not claim the benefits you are, or would have been, entitled to receive under the Workers' Compensation Law. We will not make payments if you do not receive benefits because a proper or timely claim for the benefits available to you under the Workers' Compensation Law was not submitted or you fail to appear at a Workers' Compensation Hearing. Also, we will not make any payments even if you bring a lawsuit against the person who caused your injury or condition and even if you receive money from that lawsuit and you have repaid the Hospital and other medical expenses you received payment for under the Workers' Compensation Law or similar legislation.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

Benefits under this Plan shall be paid only if the Plan Administrator decides in its discretion that a Covered Person is entitled to them.

When a Covered Person has a Claim to submit for payment that person must:

- (1) Obtain a Claim form from the Personnel Office or the Plan Administrator.
- (2) Complete the Employee portion of the form. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.
- (3) Have the Physician complete the provider's portion of the form.
- (4) For Plan reimbursements, attach bills for services rendered. ALL BILLS MUST SHOW:
 - Name of Plan
 - Employee's name
 - Name of patient
 - Name, address, telephone number of the provider of care
 - Diagnosis
 - Type of services rendered, with diagnosis and/or procedure codes
 - Date of services
 - Charges
- (5) Send the above to the Claims Administrator at this address:

BlueShield of Northeastern New York
30 Century Hill Drive
Latham, New York 12110
1-800-888-1238

WHEN CLAIMS SHOULD BE FILED

Claims should be filed with the Claims Administrator within 365 days of the date charges for the service were incurred. Benefits are based on the Plan's provisions at the time the charges were incurred. Claims filed later than that date may be declined or reduced unless:

- (a) it's not reasonably possible to submit the claim in that time; and
- (b) the claim is submitted within one year from the date incurred. This one year period will not apply when the person is not legally capable of submitting the claim.

The Claims Administrator will determine if enough information has been submitted to enable proper consideration of the claim. If not, more information may be requested from the claimant. The Plan reserves the right to have a Plan Participant seek a second medical opinion.

CLAIMS PROCEDURE

Following is a description of how the Plan processes Claims for benefits. A Claim is defined as any request for a Plan benefit, made by a claimant or by a representative of a claimant, that complies with the Plan's reasonable procedure for making benefit Claims. The times listed are maximum times only. A period of time begins at the time the Claim is filed. Decisions will be made within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the circumstances. "Days" means calendar days.

There are different kinds of Claims and each one has a specific timetable for either approval, payment, request for further information, or denial of the Claim. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the Plan Administrator.

The definitions of the types of Claims are:

Urgent Care Claim

A Claim involving Urgent Care is any Claim for medical care or treatment where using the timetable for a non-urgent care determination could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant; or the ability of the claimant to regain maximum function; or in the opinion of the attending or consulting Physician, would subject the claimant to severe pain that could not be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the Claim.

A Physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition may determine if a Claim is one involving Urgent Care. If there is no such Physician, an individual acting on behalf of the Plan applying the judgment of a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine may make the determination.

If there is an adverse benefit determination on a Claim involving Urgent Care, a request for an expedited appeal may be submitted orally or in writing by the claimant. All necessary information, including the Plan's benefit determination on review, may be transmitted between the Plan and the claimant by telephone, facsimile, or other similarly expeditious method.

Pre-Service Claim

A Pre-Service Claim means any Claim for a benefit under this Plan where the Plan conditions receipt of the benefit, in whole or in part, on approval in advance of obtaining medical care. These are, for example, Claims subject to pre-certification or mandatory second opinions. Please see the Cost Management section of this booklet for further information about Pre-Service Claims.

In the case of a Pre-Service Claim, the following timetable applies:
following timetable applies:

Notification to claimant of benefit determination	15 days
Extension due to matters beyond the control of the Plan	15 days
Insufficient information on the Claim:	
Notification of	15 days
Response by claimant	45 days

Notification, orally or in writing, of failure to follow the Plan's procedures for filing a Claim	15 days
Ongoing courses of treatment:	
Reduction or termination before the end of the treatment	15 days
Request to extend course of treatment	15 days
Review of adverse benefit determination	15 days per benefit appeal
Reduction or termination before the end of the treatment	15 days
Request to extend course of treatment	15 days

Post-Service Claim

A Post-Service Claim means any Claim for a Plan benefit that is not a Claim involving Urgent Care or a Pre-Service Claim; in other words, a Claim that is a request for payment under the Plan for covered medical services already received by the claimant.

In the case of a Post-Service Claim, the following timetable applies:

Notification to claimant of benefit determination	30 days
Extension due to matters beyond the control of the Plan	30 days
Extension due to insufficient information on the Claim	30 days
Response by claimant following notice of insufficient information	45 days
Review of adverse benefit determination	60 days per benefit appeal

Notice to claimant of adverse benefit determinations

Except with Urgent Care Claims, when the notification may be oral followed by written or electronic notification within two days of the oral notification, the Plan Administrator shall provide written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination. The notice will state, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant:

- (1) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (2) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination was based.
- (3) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (4) A description of the Plan's review procedures, incorporating any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the Plan, and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under section 502 of ERISA following an adverse benefit determination on review.

- (5) A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim. "You and your Plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U. S. Department of Labor Office."
- (6) If the adverse benefit determination was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.
- (7) If the adverse benefit determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational treatment or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, will be provided. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such explanation will be provided free of charge, upon request.

Appeals

When a claimant receives an adverse benefit determination, the claimant has 180 days following receipt of the notification in which to appeal the decision. A claimant may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim. If the claimant so requests, he or she will be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.

The period of time within which a benefit determination on review is required to be made shall begin at the time an appeal is filed in accordance with the procedures of the Plan. This timing is without regard to whether all the necessary information accompanies the filing.

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a Claim if it:

- (1) was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- (2) was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the benefit determination, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- (3) demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that benefit determinations are made in accordance with Plan documents and Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to all claimants; or
- (4) constituted a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied treatment option or benefit.

The review shall take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the Claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination. The review will not afford deference to the initial adverse benefit determination and will be conducted by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse determination nor a subordinate of that individual.

If the determination was based on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a particular treatment, drug, or other item is Experimental, Investigational, or not Medically Necessary or appropriate, the fiduciary shall consult with a health care professional who was not involved in the original benefit determination. This health care professional will have appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment. Additionally, medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with the initial determination will be identified.

Voluntary appeals, including voluntary arbitration

During voluntary dispute resolution, any statute of limitations or other defense based on timeliness is tolled during the time any voluntary appeal is pending.

The Plan waives any right to assert that a claimant has failed to exhaust administrative remedies because he or she did not elect to submit a benefit dispute to the voluntary appeal provided by the Plan. A claimant may elect a voluntary appeal after exhaustion of appeals of an adverse benefit determination as explained in the section above, entitled, "Appeals." However, this voluntary appeal may be conducted as one of the two appeals available to the claimant.

The Plan will provide to the claimant, at no cost and upon request, sufficient information about the voluntary appeal to enable the claimant to make an informed judgment about whether to submit a benefit dispute to the voluntary level of appeal. This information will include a statement that the decision will have no effect on the claimant's rights to any other benefits under the Plan; will list the rules of the appeal; state the claimant's right to representation; enumerate the process for selecting the decision maker; and give circumstances, if any, that may affect the impartiality of the decision maker.

No fees or costs will be imposed on the claimant as part of the voluntary level of appeal, and the claimant will be told this.

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

1. **When You Have Other Health Benefits.** It is not unusual to find yourself covered by two or more health insurance contracts, plans or policies ("policy" or "policies") providing similar benefits both issued through or to groups. When that is the case and you receive an item of service which would be covered by all the policies, we will coordinate benefit payments with any payment made under the other policies. One company will pay its full benefit as a primary benefit. The other company will pay secondary benefits if necessary to cover your expenses. This prevents duplicate payments and overpayments. The following are considered to be a health insurance policy:
 - A. Any group remittance, group, or blanket insurance policy; including HMO and other prepaid group coverage; except that blanket school accident coverages or such policies offered to substantially similar groups (e.g., Boy Scouts, Youth Groups) shall not be considered a health insurance policy.
 - B. Any self-insured or non-insured plan, or any other plan arranged through any employer; trustee; union; employer organization or employee benefit organization.
 - C. Any Blue Cross, Blue Shield or other service type group plan or group remittance subscriber contract
 - D. Any coverage under governmental programs, or any coverage required or provided by statute. However, Medicaid and any plan whose benefits are, by law, excess to those of any private insurance plan or other non-governmental plan shall not be considered health insurance policies; or,
 - E. Medical benefits coverage in group and individual mandatory automobile traditional "fault" type contracts.

2. **Rules to Determine Payment.** In order to determine which policy is primary certain rules have been established. The first of the rules listed below which applies shall determine which policy shall be primary:
 - A. If the other policy does not have a provision similar to this one, then it will be primary.
 - B. If you are covered under one policy as an employee and you are only covered as a dependent under the other policy, the policy which covers you as an employee will be primary.
 - C. Subject to the provisions in Paragraphs "1" and "2" below, if you are covered as a child under both policies, the policy of the parent whose birthday (month and date) falls earlier in the year is primary. If both parents have the same birthday, the policy which covered the parent longer is primary.
 1. If the other policy does not have the rule described immediately above, but instead has a rule based on gender of a parent and, as a result, the policies do not agree on which shall be primary, the policy under which you are the dependent of a male will be primary.
 2. There are special rules for a child of separated or divorced parents. If you parents are separated or divorced, benefits are determined in this order:
 - first, the policy of the parent with custody of the child;
 - then, the policy of the spouse of the parent with custody of the child;
 - finally, the policy of the parent not having custody of the child.

However, if the terms of a court decree state the order of responsibility and the entity obligated to pay or provide the benefits of the policy of that parent has actual knowledge of the court decree, that policy shall be primary.

- D. If you are covered under one of the policies as an active employee, neither laid-off nor retired, or as the dependent of such an active employee, and you are covered as a laid-off or retired employee or a laid-off or retired employee's dependent under the other policy, the policy covering you as an active employee will be primary. However, if the other policy does not have this rule in its coordination of benefits provision, and as a result this Plan and the other policy do not agree on which shall be primary, this rule shall be ignored.
- E. If none of the above applies, then the policy which has covered you for the longest time will be primary.

The above rules apply whether or not you actually make claim under both policies.

- 3. **Payment of the Benefits When This Plan is Secondary.** When this Plan is secondary, the benefits of this Plan will be reduced so that the total benefits payable under the other policy and under this Plan do not exceed the amount we would have paid if we were primary.
- 4. **Right To Receive and Release Necessary Information.** We have the right to release or obtain information, which we believe necessary to carry out the purpose of this section. We will not notify you or obtain your consent before releasing or obtaining information except as required by applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. We will not be legally responsible to you or anyone else for releasing or obtaining this information. You must furnish to us any information which we request. If you do not furnish the information to us, we have the right to deny payments.
- 5. **Payments to Others.** We may make payment, in our sole discretion, to any other person, insurance company or organization the amount which it paid for your covered services and which we decide we should have paid. These payments are the same as benefits paid and they satisfy our obligation to you under this Plan.
- 6. **Our Right to Recover Overpayment.** In some cases, we may have made payment to you even though you had coverage under another policy. Under these circumstances, it will be necessary for you to refund to us the amount by which we should have reduced the payment we made. We also have the right to recover the overpayment from the other health benefits program if we have not already received payment from that other program. You must sign any document which we feel is needed to help us recover any overpayment

THIRD PARTY RECOVERY PROVISION

RIGHT OF SUBROGATION AND REFUND

When this provision applies. The Covered Person may incur medical or dental charges due to Injuries which may be caused by the act or omission of a Third Party or a Third Party may be responsible for payment. In such circumstances, the Covered Person may have a claim against that Third Party, or insurer, for payment of the medical or dental charges. Accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan any rights the Covered Person may have to Recover payments from any Third Party or insurer. This Subrogation right allows the Plan to pursue any claim which the Covered Person has against any Third Party, or insurer, whether or not the Covered Person chooses to pursue that claim. The Plan may make a claim directly against the Third Party or insurer, but in any event, the Plan has a lien on any amount Recovered by the Covered Person whether or not designated as payment for medical expenses. This lien shall remain in effect until the Plan is repaid in full.

The payment for benefits received by a Covered Person under the Plan shall be made in accordance with the assignment of rights by or on behalf of the Covered Person as required by Medicaid.

In any case in which the Plan has a legal liability to make payments for benefits received by a Covered Person, to the extent that payment has been made through Medicaid, the payment for benefits under the Plan shall be made in accordance with any state law that has provided that the state has acquired the rights of the Covered Person to the payments of those benefits.

The Covered Person:

- (1) automatically assigns to the Plan his or her rights against any Third Party or insurer when this provision applies; and
- (2) must repay to the Plan the benefits paid on his or her behalf out of the Recovery made from the Third Party or insurer.

Amount subject to Subrogation or Refund. The Covered Person agrees to recognize the Plan's right to Subrogation and reimbursement. These rights provide the Plan with a 100%, first dollar priority over any and all Recoveries and funds paid by a Third Party to a Covered Person relative to the Injury or Sickness, including a priority over any claim for non-medical or dental charges, attorney fees, or other costs and expenses. Accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan any and all rights the Covered Person may have to recover payments from any Responsible Third Party. Further, accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan the Covered Person's Third Party Claims.

Notwithstanding its priority to funds, the Plan's Subrogation and Refund rights, as well as the rights assigned to it, are limited to the extent to which the Plan has made, or will make, payments for medical or dental charges as well as any costs and fees associated with the enforcement of its rights under the Plan. The Plan reserves the right to be reimbursed for its court costs and attorneys' fees if the Plan needs to file suit in order to Recover payment for medical or dental expenses from the Covered Person. Also, the Plan's right to Subrogation still applies if the Recovery received by the Covered Person is less than the claimed damage, and, as a result, the claimant is not made whole.

When a right of Recovery exists, the Covered Person will execute and deliver all required instruments and papers as well as doing whatever else is needed to secure the Plan's right of Subrogation as a condition to having the Plan make payments. In addition, the Covered Person will do nothing to prejudice the right of the Plan to Subrogate.

Conditions Precedent to Coverage. The Plan shall have no obligation whatsoever to pay medical or dental benefits to a Covered Person if a Covered Person refuses to cooperate with the Plan's reimbursement and Subrogation rights or refuses to execute and deliver such papers as the Plan may require in furtherance of its reimbursement and Subrogation rights. Further, in the event the Covered Person is a minor, the Plan shall have no obligation to pay any medical or dental benefits incurred on account of Injury or Sickness caused by a responsible Third Party until after the Covered Person or his authorized legal representative obtains valid court recognition and approval of the Plan's

100%, first dollar reimbursement and Subrogation rights on all Recoveries, as well as approval for the execution of any papers necessary for the enforcement thereof, as described herein.

Defined terms: "Covered Person" means anyone covered under the Plan, including minor dependents.

"Recover," "Recovered," "Recovery" or "Recoveries" means all monies paid to the Covered Person by way of judgment, settlement, or otherwise to compensate for all losses caused by the Injury or Sickness, whether or not said losses reflect medical or dental charges covered by the Plan. "Recoveries" further includes, but is not limited to, recoveries for medical or dental expenses, attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, pain and suffering, loss of consortium, wrongful death, lost wages and any other recovery of any form of damages or compensation whatsoever.

"Refund" means repayment to the Plan for medical or dental benefits that it has paid toward care and treatment of the Injury or Sickness.

"Subrogation" means the Plan's right to pursue and place a lien upon the Covered Person's claims for medical or dental charges against the other person.

"Third Party" means any Third Party including another person or a business entity.

Recovery from another plan under which the Covered Person is covered. This right of Refund also applies when a Covered Person Recovers under an uninsured or underinsured motorist plan (which will be treated as Third Party coverage when reimbursement or Subrogation is in order), homeowner's plan, renter's plan, medical malpractice plan or any liability plan.

Rights of Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator has a right to request reports on and approve of all settlements.

CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain Employees and their families covered under City of Troy (the Plan) will be entitled to the opportunity to elect a temporary extension of health coverage (called "COBRA continuation coverage") where coverage under the Plan would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan Participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law.

The Plan Administrator is City of Troy, City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5, Troy, New York, 12180, 518-279-7122. The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Plan Administrator or its designee to Plan Participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA.

What is COBRA continuation coverage? COBRA continuation coverage is the temporary extension of group health plan coverage that must be offered to certain Plan Participants and their eligible family members (called "Qualified Beneficiaries") at group rates. The right to COBRA continuation coverage is triggered by the occurrence of a life event that results in the loss of coverage under the terms of the Plan (the "Qualifying Event"). The coverage must be identical to the Plan coverage that the Qualified Beneficiary had immediately before the Qualifying Event, or if the coverage has been changed, the coverage must be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated active employees who have not experienced a Qualifying Event (in other words, similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries).

Who can become a Qualified Beneficiary? In general, a Qualified Beneficiary can be:

- (1) Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under a Plan by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the Spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the Plan coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.
- (2) Any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, and any individual who is covered by the Plan as an alternate recipient under a qualified medical support order. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the Plan coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.
- (3) A covered Employee who retired on or before the date of substantial elimination of Plan coverage which is the result of a bankruptcy proceeding under Title 11 of the U.S. Code with respect to the Employer, as is the Spouse, surviving Spouse or Dependent child of such a covered Employee if, on the day before the bankruptcy Qualifying Event, the Spouse, surviving Spouse or Dependent child was a beneficiary under the Plan.

The term "covered Employee" includes not only common-law employees (whether part-time or full-time) but also any individual who is provided coverage under the Plan due to his or her performance of services for the employer sponsoring the Plan (e.g., self-employed individuals, independent contractor, or corporate director). However, this provision does not establish eligibility of these individuals. Eligibility for Plan Coverage shall be determined in accordance with Plan Eligibility provisions.

An individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary if the individual's status as a covered Employee is attributable to a period in which the individual was a nonresident alien who received from the individual's Employer no earned income that

constituted income from sources within the United States. If, on account of the preceding reason, an individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary, then a Spouse or Dependent child of the individual will also not be considered a Qualified Beneficiary by virtue of the relationship to the individual. A domestic partner is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage.

What is a Qualifying Event? A Qualifying Event is any of the following if the Plan provided that the Plan participant would lose coverage (i.e.: cease to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event) in the absence of COBRA continuation coverage:

- (1) The death of a covered Employee.
- (2) The termination (other than by reason of the Employee's gross misconduct), or reduction of hours, of a covered Employee's employment.
- (3) The divorce or legal separation of a covered Employee from the Employee's Spouse. If the Employee reduces or eliminates the Employee's Spouse's Plan coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the Spouse's coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.
- (4) A covered Employee's enrollment in any part of the Medicare program.
- (5) A Dependent child's ceasing to satisfy the Plan's requirements for a Dependent child (for example, attainment of the maximum age for dependency under the Plan).
- (6) A proceeding in bankruptcy under Title 11 of the U.S. Code with respect to an Employer from whose employment a covered Employee retired at any time.

If the Qualifying Event causes the covered Employee, or the covered Spouse or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, to cease to be covered under the Plan under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event (or in the case of the bankruptcy of the Employer, any substantial elimination of coverage under the Plan occurring within 12 months before or after the date the bankruptcy proceeding commences), the persons losing such coverage become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA if all the other conditions of COBRA are also met. For example, any increase in contribution that must be paid by a covered Employee, or the Spouse, or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, for coverage under the Plan that results from the occurrence of one of the events listed above is a loss of coverage.

The taking of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") does not constitute a Qualifying Event. A Qualifying Event will occur, however, if an Employee does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave and all other COBRA continuation coverage conditions are present. If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Plan provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost.) Note that the covered Employee and family members will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage even if they failed to pay the employee portion of premiums for coverage under the Plan during the FMLA leave.

What factors should be considered when determining to elect COBRA continuation coverage? You should take into account that a failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your rights under federal law. First, you can lose the right to avoid having pre-existing condition exclusions applied by other group health plans if there is more than a 63-day gap in health coverage and election of COBRA continuation coverage may help you avoid such a gap. Second, if you do not elect COBRA continuation coverage and pay the appropriate premiums for the maximum time available to you, you will lose the right to convert to an individual health insurance policy, which does not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions. Finally, you should take into account that you have special enrollment rights under federal law (HIPAA). You have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for

which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your Spouse's employer) within 30 days after Plan coverage ends due to a Qualifying Event listed above. You will also have the same special right at the end of COBRA continuation coverage if you get COBRA continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

What is the procedure for obtaining COBRA continuation coverage? The Plan has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

What is the election period and how long must it last? The election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan. The election period must begin not later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before the date that is 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of her or his right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

Note: If a covered employee who has been terminated or experienced a reduction of hours qualifies for a trade readjustment allowance or alternative trade adjustment assistance under a federal law called the Trade Act of 2002, and the employee and his or her covered dependents have not elected COBRA coverage within the normal election period, a second opportunity to elect COBRA coverage will be made available for themselves and certain family members, but only within a limited period of 60 days or less and only during the six months immediately after their group health plan coverage ended. Any person who qualifies or thinks that he and/or his family members may qualify for assistance under this special provision should contact the Plan Administrator for further information.

The Trade Act of 2002 also created a new tax credit for certain TAA-eligible individuals and for certain retired employees who are receiving pension payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (eligible individuals). Under the new tax provisions, eligible individuals can either take a tax credit or get advance payment of 65% of premiums paid for qualified health insurance, including continuation coverage. If you have questions about these new tax provisions, you may call the Health Coverage Tax Credit Consumer Contact Center toll-free at 1-866-628-4282. TTD/TTY callers may call toll-free at 1-866-626-4282. More information about the Trade Act is also available at www.doleta.gov/tradeact.

Is a covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary responsible for informing the Plan Administrator of the occurrence of a Qualifying Event? The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator or its designee has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The employer (if the employer is not the Plan Administrator) will notify the Plan Administrator of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

- (1) the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment,
- (2) death of the employee,
- (3) commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer, or
- (4) enrollment of the employee in any part of Medicare.

IMPORTANT:

For the other Qualifying Events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you or someone on your behalf must notify the Plan Administrator or its designee in writing within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs, using the procedures specified below. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator or its designee during the 60-day notice period, any spouse or dependent child who loses coverage will not be offered the option to elect continuation coverage. You must send this notice to the Plan Sponsor.

NOTICE PROCEDURES:

Any notice that you provide must be ***in writing***. Oral notice, including notice by telephone, is not acceptable. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the person, department or firm listed below, at the following address:

City of Troy
City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5
Troy, New York 12180

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan or plans** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(es) of the Qualified Beneficiary(ies)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include a **copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Be aware that there are other notice requirements in other contexts, for example, in order to qualify for a disability extension.

Once the Plan Administrator or its designee receives *timely notice* that a Qualifying Event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each Qualified Beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage for their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. For each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date that plan coverage would otherwise have been lost. If you or your spouse or dependent children do not elect continuation coverage within the 60-day election period described above, the right to elect continuation coverage will be lost.

Is a waiver before the end of the election period effective to end a Qualified Beneficiary's election rights? If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee, as applicable.

Is COBRA coverage available if a Qualified Beneficiary has other group health plan coverage or Medicare? Qualified beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage may do so even if they are covered under another group health plan or are entitled to Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA is elected. However, a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA, he or she becomes entitled to Medicare or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage (but only after any applicable preexisting condition exclusions of that other plan have been exhausted or satisfied).

When may a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage be terminated? During the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary may waive COBRA continuation coverage. Except for an interruption of coverage in connection with a waiver, COBRA continuation coverage that has been elected for a Qualified Beneficiary must extend for at least the period beginning on the date of the Qualifying Event and ending not before the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) The last day of the applicable maximum coverage period.
- (2) The first day for which Timely Payment is not made to the Plan with respect to the Qualified Beneficiary.

- (3) The date upon which the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan (including a successor plan) to any employee.
- (4) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes covered under any other Plan that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition, other than such an exclusion or limitation that does not apply to, or is satisfied by, the Qualified Beneficiary.
- (5) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first enrolls in the Medicare program (either part A or part B, whichever occurs earlier).
- (6) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary entitled to a disability extension, the later of:
 - (a) (i) 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event, or (ii) the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date of a final determination under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act that the disabled Qualified Beneficiary whose disability resulted in the Qualified Beneficiary's entitlement to the disability extension is no longer disabled, whichever is earlier; or
 - (b) the end of the maximum coverage period that applies to the Qualified Beneficiary without regard to the disability extension.

The Plan can terminate for cause the coverage of a Qualified Beneficiary on the same basis that the Plan terminates for cause the coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries, for example, for the submission of a fraudulent claim.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

What are the maximum coverage periods for COBRA continuation coverage? The maximum coverage periods are based on the type of the Qualifying Event and the status of the Qualified Beneficiary, as shown below:

- (1) In the case of a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period ends 18 months after the Qualifying Event if there is not a disability extension and 29 months after the Qualifying Event if there is a disability extension.
- (2) In the case of a covered Employee's enrollment in the Medicare program before experiencing a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period for Qualified Beneficiaries other than the covered Employee ends on the later of:
 - (a) 36 months after the date the covered Employee becomes enrolled in the Medicare program; or
 - (b) 18 months (or 29 months, if there is a disability extension) after the date of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment.
- (3) In the case of a bankruptcy Qualifying Event, the maximum coverage period for a Qualified Beneficiary who is the covered retiree ends on the date of the retiree's death. The maximum coverage period for a Qualified Beneficiary who is the covered Spouse, surviving Spouse or Dependent child of the retiree ends on the earlier of the Qualified Beneficiary's death or 36 months after the death of the retiree.
- (4) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary who is a child born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, the maximum coverage period is the

maximum coverage period applicable to the Qualifying Event giving rise to the period of COBRA continuation coverage during which the child was born or placed for adoption.

- (5) In the case of any other Qualifying Event than that described above, the maximum coverage period ends 36 months after the Qualifying Event.

Under what circumstances can the maximum coverage period be expanded? If a Qualifying Event that gives rise to an 18-month or 29-month maximum coverage period is followed, within that 18- or 29-month period, by a second Qualifying Event that gives rise to a 36-months maximum coverage period, the original period is expanded to 36 months, but only for individuals who are Qualified Beneficiaries at the time of and with respect to both Qualifying Events. In no circumstance can the COBRA maximum coverage period be expanded to more than 36 months after the date of the first Qualifying Event. The Plan Administrator must be notified of the second Qualifying Event within 60 days of the second Qualifying Event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Sponsor in accordance with the procedures above.

How does a Qualified Beneficiary become entitled to a disability extension? A disability extension will be granted if an individual (whether or not the covered Employee) who is a Qualified Beneficiary in connection with the Qualifying Event that is a termination or reduction of hours of a covered Employee's employment, is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. To qualify for the disability extension, the Qualified Beneficiary must also provide the Plan Administrator with notice of the disability determination on a date that is both within 60 days after the date of the determination and before the end of the original 18-month maximum coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Sponsor in accordance with the procedures above.

Does the Plan require payment for COBRA continuation coverage? For any period of COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage. Qualified beneficiaries will pay up to 102% of the applicable premium and up to 150% of the applicable premium for any expanded period of COBRA continuation coverage covering a disabled Qualified Beneficiary due to a disability extension. The Plan will terminate a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage as of the first day of any period for which timely payment is not made.

Must the Plan allow payment for COBRA continuation coverage to be made in monthly installments? Yes. The Plan is also permitted to allow for payment at other intervals.

What is Timely Payment for payment for COBRA continuation coverage? Timely Payment means a payment made no later than 30 days after the first day of the coverage period. Payment that is made to the Plan by a later date is also considered Timely Payment if either under the terms of the Plan, covered employees or Qualified Beneficiaries are allowed until that later date to pay for their coverage for the period or under the terms of an arrangement between the Employer and the entity that provides Plan benefits on the Employer's behalf, the Employer is allowed until that later date to pay for coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries for the period.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the Plan does not require payment for any period of COBRA continuation coverage for a Qualified Beneficiary earlier than 45 days after the date on which the election of COBRA continuation coverage is made for that Qualified Beneficiary. Payment is considered made on the date on which it is postmarked to the Plan.

If Timely Payment is made to the Plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Plan requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Plan's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Plan notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of \$50 or 10% of the required amount.

Must a qualified beneficiary be given the right to enroll in a conversion health plan at the end of the maximum coverage period for COBRA continuation coverage? If a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage under a group health plan ends as a result of the expiration of the applicable maximum coverage period, the Plan will, during the 180-day period that ends on that expiration date, provide the Qualified Beneficiary with the option of

enrolling under a conversion health plan if such an option is otherwise generally available to similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries under the Plan. If such a conversion option is not otherwise generally available, it need not be made available to Qualified Beneficiaries.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Plan Sponsor. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website at www.dol.gov/ebsa.

KEEP YOUR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PLAN ADMINISTRATION

PLAN ADMINISTRATOR. City of Troy is the benefit plan of City of Troy, the Plan Administrator, also called the Plan Sponsor. It is to be administered by the Plan Administrator in accordance with the provisions of ERISA. An individual may be appointed by City of Troy to be Plan Administrator and serve at the convenience of the Employer. If the Plan Administrator resigns, dies or is otherwise removed from the position, City of Troy shall appoint a new Plan Administrator as soon as reasonably possible.

The Plan Administrator shall administer this Plan in accordance with its terms and establish its policies, interpretations, practices, and procedures. It is the express intent of this Plan that the Plan Administrator shall have maximum legal discretionary authority to construe and interpret the terms and provisions of the Plan, to make determinations regarding issues which relate to eligibility for benefits, to decide disputes which may arise relative to a Plan Participant's rights, and to decide questions of Plan interpretation and those of fact relating to the Plan. The decisions of the Plan Administrator will be final and binding on all interested parties.

Service of legal process may be made upon the Plan Administrator.

DUTIES OF THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR.

- (1) To administer the Plan in accordance with its terms.
- (2) To interpret the Plan, including the right to remedy possible ambiguities, inconsistencies or omissions.
- (3) To decide disputes which may arise relative to a Plan Participant's rights.
- (4) To prescribe procedures for filing a claim for benefits and to review claim denials.
- (5) To keep and maintain the Plan documents and all other records pertaining to the Plan.
- (6) To appoint a Claims Administrator to pay claims.
- (7) To perform all necessary reporting as required by ERISA.
- (8) To establish and communicate procedures to determine whether a medical child support order is qualified under ERISA Sec. 609.
- (9) To delegate to any person or entity such powers, duties and responsibilities as it deems appropriate.

PLAN ADMINISTRATOR COMPENSATION. The Plan Administrator serves **without** compensation; however, all expenses for plan administration, including compensation for hired services, will be paid by the Plan.

FIDUCIARY. A fiduciary exercises discretionary authority or control over management of the Plan or the disposition of its assets, renders investment advice to the Plan or has discretionary authority or responsibility in the administration of the Plan.

FIDUCIARY DUTIES. A fiduciary must carry out his or her duties and responsibilities for the purpose of providing benefits to the Employees and their Dependent(s), and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan. These are duties which must be carried out:

- (1) with care, skill, prudence and diligence under the given circumstances that a prudent person, acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters, would use in a similar situation;
- (2) by diversifying the investments of the Plan so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so; and
- (3) in accordance with the Plan documents to the extent that they agree with ERISA.

THE NAMED FIDUCIARY. A "named fiduciary" is the one named in the Plan. A named fiduciary can appoint others to carry out fiduciary responsibilities (other than as a trustee) under the Plan. These other persons become fiduciaries themselves and are responsible for their acts under the Plan. To the extent that the named fiduciary allocates its responsibility to other persons, the named fiduciary shall not be liable for any act or omission of such person unless either:

- (1) the named fiduciary has violated its stated duties under ERISA in appointing the fiduciary, establishing the procedures to appoint the fiduciary or continuing either the appointment or the procedures; or
- (2) the named fiduciary breached its fiduciary responsibility under Section 405(a) of ERISA.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT A FIDUCIARY. A Claims Administrator is **not** a fiduciary under the Plan by virtue of paying claims in accordance with the Plan's rules as established by the Plan Administrator.

COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA PRIVACY STANDARDS. Certain members of the Employer's workforce perform services in connection with administration of the Plan. In order to perform these services, it is necessary for these employees from time to time to have access to Protected Health Information (as defined below).

Under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (45 CFR Part 164, the "Privacy Standards"), these employees are permitted to have such access only if the Plan is amended in accordance with the Privacy Standards.

Therefore, the following provisions apply:

- (1) **General.** The Plan shall not disclose Protected Health Information to any member of the Employer's workforce unless each of the conditions set out in this HIPAA Privacy section is met. "Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set out in the Privacy Standards but generally shall mean individually identifiable health information about the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual, including information about treatment or payment for treatment.
- (2) **Permitted Uses and Disclosures.** Protected Health Information disclosed to members of the Employer's workforce shall be used or disclosed by them only for purposes of Plan administrative functions. The Plan's administrative functions shall include all Plan payment and health care operations. The terms "payment" and "health care operations" shall have the same definitions as set out in the Privacy Standards, but the term "payment" generally shall mean activities taken with respect to payment of premiums or contributions, or to determine or fulfill Plan responsibilities with respect to coverage, provision of benefits, or reimbursement for health care. "Health care operations" generally shall mean activities on behalf of the Plan that are related to quality assessment; evaluation, training or accreditation of health care providers; underwriting, premium rating and other functions related to obtaining or renewing an insurance contract, including stop-loss insurance; medical review; legal services or auditing functions; or business planning, management and general administrative activities.
- (3) **Authorized Employees.** The Plan shall disclose Protected Health Information only to members of the Employer's workforce who are designated and are authorized to receive such Protected Health Information, and only to the extent and in the minimum amount necessary for these persons to perform duties with respect to the Plan. For purposes of this HIPAA Privacy section, "members of the Employer's workforce" shall refer to all employees and other persons under the control of the Employer.
 - (a) **Updates Required.** The Employer shall amend this document promptly with respect to any changes in the members of its workforce who are authorized to receive Protected Health Information.
 - (b) **Use and Disclosure Restricted.** An authorized member of the Employer's workforce who receives Protected Health Information shall use or disclose the Protected Health Information only to the extent necessary to perform his or her duties with respect to the Plan.

- (c) **Resolution of Issues of Noncompliance.** In the event that any member of the Employer's workforce uses or discloses Protected Health Information other than as permitted by the Privacy Standards, the incident shall be reported to the privacy official. The privacy official shall take appropriate action, including:
 - (i) Investigation of the incident to determine whether the breach occurred inadvertently, through negligence, or deliberately; whether there is a pattern of breaches; and the degree of harm caused by the breach;
 - (ii) Applying appropriate sanctions against the persons causing the breach, which, depending upon the nature of the breach, may include, oral or written reprimand, additional training, or termination of employment;
 - (iii) Mitigating any harm caused by the breach, to the extent practicable; and
 - (iv) Documentation of the incident and all actions taken to resolve the issue and mitigate any damages.

- (4) **Certification of Employer.** The Employer must provide certification to the Plan that it agrees to:
 - (a) Not use or further disclose the Protected Health Information other than as permitted or required by the Plan documents or as required by law;
 - (b) Ensure that any agent or subcontractor, to whom it provides Protected Health Information received from the Plan, agrees to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Employer with respect to such information;
 - (c) Not use or disclose Protected Health Information for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the Employer;
 - (d) Report to the Plan any use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information of which it becomes aware that is inconsistent with the uses or disclosures permitted by this Amendment, or required by law;
 - (e) Make available Protected Health Information to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.524 of the Privacy Standards;
 - (f) Make available Protected Health Information for amendment by individual Plan members and incorporate any amendments to Protected Health Information in accordance with Section 164.526 of the Privacy Standards;
 - (g) Make available the Protected Health Information required to provide any accounting of disclosures to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.528 of the Privacy Standards;
 - (h) Make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information received from the Plan available to the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining compliance by the Plan with the Privacy Standards;
 - (i) If feasible, return or destroy all Protected Health Information received from the Plan that the Employer still maintains in any form, and retain no copies of such information when no longer needed for the purpose of which disclosure was made, except that, if such return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information unfeasible; and
 - (j) Ensure the adequate separation between the Plan and member of the Employer's workforce, as required by Section 164.504(f)(2)(iii) of the Privacy Standards.

The following members of City of Troy's workforce are designated as authorized to receive Protected Health Information from City of Troy ("the Plan") in order to perform their duties with respect to the Plan: Nancy Matthews.

COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA ELECTRONIC SECURITY STANDARDS. Under the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (45 CFR Part 164.300 et. seq., the "Security Standards"), the Plan documents must be amended to reflect certain obligations required of the Employer.

Therefore, the following provisions apply:

- (1) The Employer agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Electronic Protected Health Information that the Employer creates, maintains or transmits on behalf of the Plan. "Electronic Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set out in the Security Standards, but generally shall mean Protected Health Information that is transmitted by or maintained in electronic media.
- (2) The Employer shall ensure that any agent or subcontractor to whom it provides Electronic Protected Health Information shall agree, in writing, to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect the Electronic Protected Health Information.
- (3) The Employer shall ensure that reasonable and appropriate security measures are implemented to comply with the conditions and requirements set forth in Compliance With HIPAA Privacy Standards provisions (3) Authorized Employees and (4) Certification of Employers described above.

FUNDING THE PLAN AND PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

The cost of the Plan is funded as follows:

For Employee and Dependent Coverage: Funding is derived from the funds of the Employer and contributions made by the covered Employees.

The level of any Employee contributions will be set by the Plan Administrator. These Employee contributions will be used in funding the cost of the Plan as soon as practicable after they have been received from the Employee or withheld from the Employee's pay through payroll deduction.

Benefits are paid directly from the Plan through the Claims Administrator.

PLAN IS NOT AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

The Plan is not to be construed as a contract for or of employment.

CLERICAL ERROR

Any clerical error by the Plan Administrator or an agent of the Plan Administrator in keeping pertinent records or a delay in making any changes will not invalidate coverage otherwise validly in force or continue coverage validly terminated. An equitable adjustment of contributions will be made when the error or delay is discovered.

If, due to a clerical error, an overpayment occurs in a Plan reimbursement amount, the Plan retains a contractual right to the overpayment. The person or institution receiving the overpayment will be required to return the incorrect amount of money. In the case of a Plan Participant, if it is requested, the amount of overpayment will be deducted from future benefits payable.

AMENDING AND TERMINATING THE PLAN

If the Plan is terminated, the rights of the Plan Participants are limited to expenses incurred before termination.

The Employer intends to maintain this Plan indefinitely; however, it reserves the right, at any time, to amend, suspend or terminate the Plan in whole or in part. This includes amending the benefits under the Plan or the Trust agreement (if any).

CERTAIN PLAN PARTICIPANTS RIGHTS UNDER ERISA

Plan Participants in this Plan are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA specifies that all Plan Participants shall be entitled to:

Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office, all Plan documents and copies of all documents governing the Plan, including a copy of the latest annual report (form 5500 series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Obtain copies of all Plan documents and other Plan information upon written request to the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

Continue health care coverage for a Plan Participant, Spouse, or other dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of a Qualifying Event. Employees or dependents may have to pay for such coverage.

Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the Plan or the rules governing COBRA continuation coverage rights.

Reduction or elimination of exclusionary periods of coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions under this group health Plan, if an Employee or dependent has Creditable Coverage from another plan. The Employee or dependent should be provided a certificate of Creditable Coverage, free of charge, from the group health plan or health insurance issuer when coverage is lost under the plan, when a person becomes entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, when COBRA continuation coverage ceases, if a person requests it before losing coverage, or if a person requests it up to 24 months after losing coverage. Without evidence of Creditable Coverage, a Plan Participant may be subject to a Pre-Existing Conditions exclusion for 11 months (18 months for Late Enrollees) after the Enrollment Date of coverage.

If a Plan Participant's claim for a benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, the participant has a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps a Plan Participant can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if a Plan Participant requests a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and does not receive them within 30 days, he or she may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and to pay the Plan Participant up to \$110 a day until he or she receives the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan Administrator. If the Plan Participant has a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, the participant may file suit in state or federal court.

In addition, if a Plan Participant disagrees with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, he or she may file suit in federal court.

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes obligations upon the individuals who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The individuals who operate the Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of the Plan Participants and their beneficiaries. No one, including the Employer or any other person, may fire a Plan Participant or otherwise discriminate against a Plan Participant in any way to prevent the Plan Participant from obtaining benefits under the Plan or from exercising his or her rights under ERISA.

If it should happen that the Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if a Plan Participant is discriminated against for asserting his or her rights, he or she may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or may file suit in a

federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If the Plan Participant is successful, the court may order the person sued to pay these costs and fees. If the Plan Participant loses, the court may order him or her to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds the claim or suit to be frivolous.

If the Plan Participant has any questions about the Plan, he or she should contact the Plan Administrator. If the Plan Participant has any questions about this statement or his or her rights under ERISA, including COBRA or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, that Plan Participant should contact either the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) or visit the EBSA website at www.dol.gov/ebsa/. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.)

GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

TYPE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Plan is a self-funded group health Plan and the administration is provided through a Third Party Claims Administrator. The funding for the benefits is derived from the funds of the Employer and contributions made by covered Employees. The Plan is not insured.

PLAN NAME

City of Troy

PLAN NUMBER: 501

TAX ID NUMBER: 14-6002472

PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

PLAN YEAR ENDS: December 31

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

City of Troy
City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5
Troy, New York 12180
518-279-7122

PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

City of Troy
City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5
Troy, New York 12180
518-279-7122

NAMED FIDUCIARY

City of Troy
City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5
Troy, New York 12180

AGENT FOR SERVICE OF LEGAL PROCESS

City of Troy Corporation Counsel
City of Troy
City Hall Offices, 433 River Street, Suite 5
Troy, New York 12180

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

BlueShield of Northeastern New York
30 Century Hill Drive
Latham, New York 12110
1-800-888-1238

BY THIS AGREEMENT, City of Troy is hereby adopted as shown.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument is executed for City of Troy on or as of the day and year first below written.

By _____
City of Troy

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____