

# **The University of Puget Sound**

**Dental Optima™**

**Base Plan**

1003592

## INTRODUCTION

This plan is self-funded by The University of Puget Sound, which means that The University of Puget Sound is financially responsible for the payment of plan benefits. The University of Puget Sound ("the Group") has the final discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and construe the terms of the plan.

The University of Puget Sound has contracted with Premera Blue Cross, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, to perform administrative duties under the plan, including the processing of claims. The University of Puget Sound has delegated to us the discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe the terms used in this plan to the extent stated in our administrative services contract with the Group. Premera Blue Cross doesn't insure this plan. In this booklet Premera Blue Cross is called the "Claims Administrator." This booklet replaces any other benefit booklet you may have.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet will help you get the most out of your benefits. Every section contains important information, but the ones below may be particularly useful:

- **Who Is Eligible For Coverage?** — eligibility requirements for this dental plan
- **What Do I Need To Know Before I Get Care?**— important information about the requirements of your dental coverage, including selecting a dental care provider, benefit maximums and any applicable calendar year deductibles
- **What Are My Benefits?** — what is covered and the percentage you pay under this dental plan
- **Exclusions** — benefits that are limited and services not covered under this dental plan
- **How Do I File A Claim?** — step-by-step instructions for claims submissions
- **Complaints and Appeals** — processes to follow if you want to file a complaint or an appeal
- **Definitions** — terms that have specific meanings under this plan. Example: "You" and "your" refer to members under this plan. "We," "us" and "our" refer to Premera Blue Cross.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You'll find our contact information on the back cover of this booklet. Please call or write Customer Service for help with:

- Questions about benefits or claims
- Questions or complaints about care you receive
- Changes of address or other personal information

You can also get benefit, eligibility and claim information through our Interactive Voice Response system when you call.

### **Online information about this plan is at your fingertips whenever you need it**

You can use our Web site to:

- Locate a dental care provider near you
- Get details about the types of expenses you're responsible for and this plan's benefit maximums
- Check the status of your claims
- Visit our health information resource to learn about diseases, medications, and more

Group Name: The University of Puget Sound

Effective Date: January 1, 2022

Group Number: 1003592

Plan: Dental Optima

Certificate Form Number: 10035920122DA

## Discrimination is Against the Law

Premera Blue Cross (Premera) complies with applicable Federal and Washington state civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Premera does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Premera provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats). Premera provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator. If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, you can file a grievance with: Civil Rights Coordinator — Complaints and Appeals, PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111, Toll free: 855-332-4535, Fax: 425-918-5592, TTY: 711, Email [AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com](mailto:AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com). You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, electronically through the Office of the Insurance Commissioner Complaint Portal available at <https://www.insurance.wa.gov/file-complaint-or-check-your-complaint-status>, or by phone at 800-562-6900, 360-586-0241 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <https://fortress.wa.gov/oic/online/services/cc/pub/complaintinformation.aspx>.

## Language Assistance

**ATENCIÓN:** si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**注意:** 如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711)。

**CHÚ Ý:** Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**주의:** 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711) 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

**ВНИМАНИЕ:** Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 800-722-1471 (телетайп: 711).

**PAUNAWA:** Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**УВАГА!** Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, ви можете звернутися до безкоштовної служби мовної підтримки.

Телефонуйте за номером 800-722-1471 (телетайп: 711).

**ប្រយ័ត្ន:** បើសិនជាអ្នកនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ, សេវាជំនួយភ្នែកភាសា ដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ គឺអាចមានសំរាប់អ្នក។ ចូរ ទូរស័ព្ទ 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711)។

**注意事項:** 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。800-722-1471 (TTY:711) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

**ማሳሰቢያ:** የሚናገሩት ቋንቋ አማርኛ ከሆነ የትርጉም አርዳታ ድርጅቶች፣ በነጻ ሊግኙዎት ተዘጋጅተዋል። ወደ ሚክላው ቁጥር ይደውሉ 800-722-1471 (መስማት ለተሳናቸው: 711)።

**XIYEEFFANNAA:** Afaan dubbattu Oroomiffa, tajaajjila gargaarsa afaanii, kanfaltiidhaan ala, ni argama. Bilbilaa 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ملحوظة:** إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 800-722-1471 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 711).

**பிரபாந் திடு:** நே துமீ ப்நாச்சி வேலதே தே, தா் தாநா தீச்ச் சதாதிதா் தேவா துதாடே லதீ மூதத துபலவய தீ. 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711) 'தே வால வதே.

**ACHTUNG:** Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ໂປດອຸບ:** ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ATANSYON:** Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ATTENTION:** Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 800-722-1471 (ATS: 711).

**UWAGA:** Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ATENÇÃO:** Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**ATTENZIONE:** In caso la lingua parlata sia l'italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Chiamare il numero 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711).

**توجہ:** اگر بہ زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می باشد. با 800-722-1471 (TTY: 711) تماس بگیرید.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONTACT THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR .....</b>	<b>(SEE BACK COVER OF THIS BOOKLET)</b>
<b>WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I GET CARE? .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Alternative Benefits .....	1
Requesting An Estimate Of Benefits.....	1
Dental Benefit Maximum .....	1
Network Providers.....	2
Non-Network Providers .....	2
<b>WHAT ARE MY BENEFITS? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Benefit Percentages (coinsurance).....	2
Description Of Covered Services .....	2
Class I - Diagnostic And Preventive Services.....	2
<b>EXCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Basic Services.....	3
<b>WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER COVERAGE? .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Coordinating Benefits With Other Dental Care Plans .....	7
Subrogation And Reimbursement.....	9
Uninsured And Underinsured Motorist/Personal Injury Protection Coverage.....	10
<b>WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE? .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Subscriber Eligibility .....	10
Dependent Eligibility.....	10
<b>WHEN DOES COVERAGE BEGIN? .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Enrollment .....	10
Special Enrollment .....	11
Open Enrollment .....	12
Changes In Coverage .....	12
Plan Transfers.....	12
<b>WHEN WILL MY COVERAGE END? .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Events That End Coverage.....	13
<b>HOW DO I CONTINUE COVERAGE? .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Continued Coverage For A Disabled Child .....	13
Leave Of Absence.....	13
Labor Dispute.....	13
Continuation Under USERRA .....	14
COBRA.....	14
<b>HOW DO I FILE A CLAIM? .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
What You Can Appeal.....	18

Appeals .....	18
How To Submit An Appeal.....	18
What Happens If You Have Ongoing Care .....	19
What Happens If It's Urgent.....	19
Once Premera Decides.....	19
<b>OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLAN.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ERISA PLAN DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
What Are My Rights Under ERISA? .....	22
<b>DEFINITIONS.....</b>	<b>23</b>

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I GET CARE?

The covered services under this dental plan are classified as Diagnostic and Preventive, Basic, and Major. The lists of services that relate to each type are outlined in the following pages under "Description of Covered Services". These services are covered once all of the following requirements are met. It's important to understand all of these requirements so you can make the most of your dental benefits.

Benefits are available for the services described in this plan that are furnished for a covered dental condition. "Covered dental condition" means a covered member's illness, injury or disease, or a dependent child's congenital malformation. Such services must meet all of the following requirements:

- They must be dentally necessary (see definition of "Dentally Necessary")
- They must be named in this plan as covered
- They must be furnished by a licensed dentist (D.M.D. or D.D.S.) or dentist. Services may also be provided by a dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist, or other individual such as a Registered Nurse (R.N.) or an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (A.R.N.P.) performing within the scope of his or her license or certification, as allowed by law. (These providers are referred to as "dental care providers.")
- They must not be excluded from coverage under this benefit

At times we may need to review diagnostic materials such as dental x-rays to determine your available benefits. These materials will be requested directly from your dental care provider. If we're unable to obtain necessary materials, the plan will provide benefits only for those dental services we can verify as covered.

Coverage under this dental plan is based on allowed amounts for dentally necessary covered services. The percentage of the allowed amount you're responsible for is called coinsurance. Please see the "Definitions" section in this booklet for a detailed explanation of "allowed amount."

### Alternative Benefits

To determine benefits available under this plan, we consider alternative procedures or services with different fees that are consistent with acceptable standards of dental practice. In all cases where there's an alternative course of treatment that's less costly, the plan will only provide benefits for the treatment with the lesser fee. If you and your dental care provider choose a more costly treatment, you're responsible for the additional charges beyond those for the less costly alternative treatment.

### Requesting An Estimate Of Benefits

An estimate of benefits verifies, for the dental care provider and yourself, your eligibility and benefits. Because we consider alternative treatment at the time we review the estimate, our review may result in a lower cost of treatment and additional services under this benefit. It may also clarify, before services are rendered, treatment that isn't covered in whole or in part. This can protect you from unexpected out-of-pocket expenses.

An estimate of benefits isn't required in order for you to receive your dental benefits. However, we suggest that your dental care provider submit an estimate to us for any proposed dental services in which you are concerned about your out-of-pocket expenses.

Our estimate of benefits shouldn't be considered a guarantee of payment. Payment of any service will be based on your eligibility and benefits available at the time services are rendered.

### Coinsurance

As used in this plan, "coinsurance" is a defined percentage of allowed amounts for covered services and supplies you receive. The percentage you're responsible for, not including any applicable calendar year deductibles, is called "coinsurance."

### Dental Benefit Maximum

The maximum amount of dental benefits available to any one member in a calendar year is \$500. The maximum does not apply to services and supplies for treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders covered under this plan. The dental benefit maximum applies only to Basic and Major services. Benefits for Diagnostic and Preventive services do not accrue to the dental maximum.

Covered dental services requiring multiple treatment dates are considered incurred on the date the services are completed. This is known as the seat date. Amounts paid for such procedures will be applied to the dental benefit maximum based on the incurred date.

## Network Providers

This dental plan utilizes the Dental Choice network of providers.

**Important Note:** You're entitled to receive a provider directory automatically, without charge.

For the most current information on participating Dental Choice providers, please refer to our Web site or contact Customer Service. You'll find this information on the back cover of this booklet.

This plan is designed to cover all dental care providers at the same benefit level. However, the Group has made use of our contracts with local providers and with a nationwide network of Dental Choice providers who can provide preventive and specialty dental care services. When you receive services from Dental Choice providers, your claims will be submitted directly to us, and available benefits will be paid directly to the dental care provider. Dental Choice providers agree to accept our "allowed amount" (please see the "Definitions" section in this booklet) as payment in full. You're responsible only for any applicable calendar year deductible, coinsurance, amounts that are in excess of stated benefit maximums, and charges for non-covered services.

## Non-Network Providers

If you decide not to use a Dental Choice provider, you may choose any dental care provider. If you receive services from non-network dental care providers, you're responsible for amounts above the allowed amount in addition to any applicable calendar year deductible, coinsurance, amounts that are in excess of stated benefit maximums, and charges for non-covered services. Amounts that are in excess of the allowed amount don't accrue toward your calendar year deductible if one applies.

You may be required to submit the dental claim yourself if your dental care provider doesn't do this for you. Please see the "How Do I File A Claim?" section in this booklet for instructions on submitting claims for reimbursement.

## WHAT ARE MY BENEFITS?

### BENEFIT PERCENTAGES (COINSURANCE)

After you satisfy the required calendar year deductible if one applies, you pay the following coinsurance per calendar year, up to the dental benefit maximum. This dental plan only covers Diagnostic and Preventive services. In this section you'll find a description of the services included.

- Diagnostic and Preventive Services .....0%

### DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES

#### Diagnostic And Preventive Services

- Routine, comprehensive, periodic oral evaluations are limited to two per calendar year. Professional consultations, periodontal evaluations and other office visits apply to this limit.
- Problem focused (including emergency) oral evaluations and re-evaluations. Please see the "Definitions" section for the definition of a Dental Emergency
- Prophylaxis (cleaning, scaling, and polishing of teeth) is limited to 2 per calendar year
- Topical application of fluoride is covered for members under the age of 19 and is limited to two treatments per calendar year.
- Dental x-rays include:
  - Bitewing x-rays limited to one set (up to 4 images) per calendar year
  - Either a panoramic x-ray or comparable cone beam or a complete full mouth series of x-rays, once every 36 consecutive months
  - Periapical x-rays
  - Occlusal x-rays
- Space maintainers
- Sealants, for members under the age of 19, are limited to use on permanent molars only. Replacements limited to once every 24 consecutive months.
- Oral pathology laboratory services, not including the removal of tissue sample, are covered when directly related to teeth and gums.

## EXCLUSIONS

In addition to services listed as not covered under *Description of Covered Services*, this section lists the services that are either limited or not covered by this plan Amounts Over the Allowed Amount

Costs over the allowed amount as defined by this plan, including services from a non-contracted provider.

### Basic Services

- Emergency oral examinations. (Please see the “Definitions” section for the definition of a Dental Emergency.)
- Simple extractions
- Fillings, consisting of amalgam or composite resins
- Non-surgical treatment of periodontal and other diseases of the gums and tissues of the mouth:
  - Periodontal scaling and root planing and sub-gingival curettage is limited to once per quadrant every 2 calendar years.
  - Periodontal maintenance, as a follow-up to active periodontal treatment, including removal of bacterial flora, sub-gingival scaling, polishing, periodontal evaluation and review of oral hygiene.
- Recementing of crowns, inlays, bridgework and dentures
- Emergency palliative treatment.
- General anesthesia in a dental care provider’s office, when dentally necessary. This includes members who are under the age of 7 or are disabled physically or developmentally.

### Benefits from Other Sources

Services that are covered by other insurance or coverage, such as:

- Motor vehicle medical or motor vehicle no-fault
- Any type of no-fault coverage, such as Personal Injury Protection (PIP), Medical Payment coverage or Medical Premises coverage
- Any type of liability insurance, such as homeowners’ coverage or commercial liability coverage
- Any type of excess coverage
- Boat coverage
- School or athletic coverage

### Benefits That Have Been Exhausted

Services in excess of benefit limitations or maximums of this plan

### Broken or Missed Appointments

### Charges For Records or Reports

Charges from providers for supplying records or reports not requested by Premera for utilization review

### Comfort or Convenience

This plan does not cover:

- Personal services or items like meals for guests while hospitalized, long-distance phone, radio or TV, personal grooming, and babysitting.
- Normal living needs, such as food, clothes, housekeeping and transport.
- Meal or dietary assistance, including “Meals on Wheels”

### Complications

- This plan does not cover complications of a non-covered service, including follow-up services or effects of those services.

### Cosmetic Services

- Drugs, services, or supplies for cosmetic services
- Treatment of congenital malformations that are not listed as covered.



## **Counseling, Education and Training**

Counseling, education or training in the absence of illness, including:

- Job help and outreach
- Social or fitness counseling
- Acting as a tutor, helping a member with schoolwork, acting as an educational or other aide for a member while the member is at school, or providing services that are part of a school's individual education program or should otherwise be provided by school staff
- Private school or boarding school tuition

## **Court-Ordered Services**

Services that you must get to avoid being tried, sentenced or losing the right to drive when they are not medically necessary.

## **Dental Services Received From A:**

- Dental or medical department maintained for employees by or on behalf of an employer; or
- Mutual benefit association, labor union, trustee, or similar person or group.

## **Dietary Services**

Dietary planning for the control of dental caries, oral hygiene instruction and training in preventive dental care.

## **Experimental Or Investigational Services**

Experimental or investigative services or supplies. This plan also does not cover any complications or effects of such services.

## **Extra Or Replacement Items**

Extra dentures or other appliances, including replacements due to loss or theft.

## **Facility Charges**

Hospital and ambulatory surgical center care for dental procedures.

## **Family Members Or Volunteers**

Services that you provide to yourself. It also does not cover a provider who is:

- Your spouse, mother, father, child, brother or sister
- Your mother, father, child, brother or sister by marriage
- Your stepmother, stepfather, stepchild, stepbrother or stepsister
- Your grandmother, grandfather, grandchild or the spouse of one of these people
- A volunteer

## **Government Facilities**

This plan does not cover services provided by a non-contracted state or federal facility that are not emergency care unless required by law or regulation

## **Home-Use Products**

Services and supplies that are normally intended for home use such as take-home fluoride, toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste.

## **Illegal Acts and Terrorism**

Illness or injury you get while committing a felony, an act of terrorism, or an act of riot or revolt

## **Increase Of Vertical Dimension**

Any service to increase or alter the vertical dimension.

## **Major Restorative Dental Services**

Services, supplies or prosthetics as determined by us to fall under the major service category including, but not limited to;

- Initial placement of inlays, onlays, laboratory-processed labial veneers, and crowns for decayed or fractured teeth
- Surgical extractions
- Replacement inlays, onlays, laboratory-processed labial veneers and crowns
- Initial placement of dentures
- Initial placement of fixed bridgework (including inlays, onlays and crowns to form abutments)
- Replacement dentures and fixed bridgework
- Relining and rebasing of dentures
- Tooth build-ups for onlays and crowns, including bridge abutments
- Implants and implant related services
- Osseous surgery, which includes gingivectomy, gingivoplasty, and gingival flap procedures
- Endodontic (root canal) treatment

## **Military Service And War**

Illness or injury that is caused by or arises from:

- Acts of war, such as armed invasion, no matter if war has been declared or not
- Services in the armed forces of any country. This includes the air force, army, coast guard, marines, national guard or navy. It also includes any related civilian forces or units.

## **Multiple Providers**

Services provided by more than one dental care provider for the same dental procedure.

## **Non-Standard Techniques**

Other than standard techniques used in the making of restorations or prosthetic appliances, such as personalized restorations.

## **Non-Treatment Charges**

- Charges for provider travel time
- Transporting a member in place of a parent or other family member, or accompanying the member to appointments or other activities outside the home, such as medical appointments or shopping. Doing housework or chores for the member or helping the member do housework or chores.
- Arrangements in which the provider lives with the member

## **Non-Treatment Facilities, Institutions or Programs**

- Institutional care
- Housing
- Incarceration
- Programs from facilities that are not licensed to provide treatment for covered conditions. Examples are prisons, nursing homes and juvenile detention facilities.

## **Not Covered Under This Plan**

- Services that aren't listed in this booklet as covered or that are directly related to any condition, service or supply that isn't covered under this plan.
- Services received or ordered when this plan isn't in effect, or when you aren't covered under this plan (including services and supplies started before your effective date or after the date coverage ends), except for Major services and root canals that:
  - Were started after your effective date and before the date your coverage ended under this plan; and
  - Were completed within 30 days after the date your coverage ended under this plan.

## **Orthodontia Services**

Orthodontia, including casts, models, x-rays, photographs, examinations, appliances, braces and retainers. This exclusion doesn't apply to extractions incidental to orthodontic services.

## **Orthognathic Surgery**

Procedures to lengthen or shorten the jaw (orthognathic surgery), regardless of the origin of the condition that makes the procedure necessary

## **Outside The Scope Of A Provider's License Or Certification**

Services or supplies that are outside the scope of the provider's license or certification, or that are furnished by a provider that isn't licensed or certified by the state in which the services or supplies were received.

## **Prescription Drugs**

Any prescription drugs or medicines. This includes vitamins, food supplements, and patient management drugs, such as premedication, sedation and nitrous oxide.

## **Provider's Licensing or Certification**

This plan does not cover services that the provider's license or certification does not allow him or her to perform. It also does not cover a provider that does not have the license or certification that the state requires.

## **Serious Adverse Events and Never Events**

Members and this plan are not responsible for payment of services provided by in-network providers for serious adverse events, never events and resulting follow-up care. Serious adverse events and never events are medical errors that are specific to a nationally-published list. They are identified by specific diagnoses codes, procedure codes and specific present-on-admission indicator codes. In-Network providers may not bill members for these services and members are held harmless.

Serious Adverse Event means a hospital injury caused by medical management (rather than an underlying disease) that prolonged the hospitalization, and/or produces a disability at the time of discharge.

Never Events means events that should never occur, such as a surgery on the wrong patient, a surgery on the wrong body part or wrong surgery.

Not all medical errors are defined as serious adverse events or never events. You can obtain a list of serious adverse events and never events by contacting us at the number listed in the front of this booklet or on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Web page at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

## **Services or Supplies for which You Do Not Legally Have to Pay**

Services and supplies for which no charge is made, for which none would have been made if this plan were not in effect, or for which you are not legally required to pay.

## **Services or Supplies Not Dentally Necessary**

Services that are not dentally necessary

## **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Disorders**

Any dental services or supplies connected with the diagnosis or treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, including any direct or indirect complications and after effects thereof.

## **Testing And Treatment Services**

Testing and treatment for mercury sensitivity or that are allergy-related.

## **Work-Related Conditions**

Any illness, condition or injury arising out of or in the course of employment, for which the member is entitled to receive benefits, whether or not a proper and timely claim for such benefits has been made under:

- Occupational coverage required or voluntarily obtained by the employer;
- State or federal workers' compensation acts; or
- Any legislative act providing compensation for work-related illness or injury.

However, this exclusion doesn't apply to owners, partners or executive officers who are full-time employees of the Group if they're exempt from the above laws and if the Group doesn't furnish them with workers' compensation coverage. They'll be covered under this plan for conditions arising solely from their occupations with the Group. Coverage is subject to the other terms and limitations of this plan.

# WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER COVERAGE?

## COORDINATING BENEFITS WITH OTHER DENTAL CARE PLANS

You may also be covered under one or more other group or individual plans, such as one sponsored by your spouse's employer. This plan includes a "coordination of benefits" feature to handle such situations.

All of the benefits of this plan are subject to coordination of benefits. However, please note that benefits provided under this plan for allowable dental expenses will be coordinated separately from allowable medical expenses.

If you have other coverage besides this plan, we recommend that you send your claims to the primary plan first. In that way, the proper coordinated benefits may be most quickly determined and paid.

### Definitions Applicable To Coordination Of Benefits

To understand coordination of benefits, it's important to know the meaning of the following terms:

- **Allowable Medical Expense** means the usual, customary and reasonable charge for any medically necessary health care service or supply provided by a licensed medical professional when the service or supply is covered at least in part under this plan. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services or supplies rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered or supply provided shall be considered an allowable expense.
- **Allowable Dental Expense** means the usual, customary and reasonable charge for any dentally necessary service or supply provided by a licensed dental professional when the service or supply is covered at least in part under this plan. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services or supplies rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered or supply provided shall be considered an allowable expense.
- **Claim Determination Period** means a calendar year.
- **Custodial parent** is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than half of the calendar year, excluding any temporary visitation.
- **Medical Plan** means all of the following types of health care coverage, even if they don't have their own coordination provisions:
  - Group, individual or blanket disability insurance policies and health care service contractor and health maintenance organization group or individual agreements issued by insurers, health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations
  - Labor-management trusteed plans, labor organization plans, employer organization plans or employee benefit organization plans
  - Government programs that provide benefits for their own civilian employees or their dependents
  - Group coverage required or provided by any law, including Medicare. This doesn't include workers' compensation
  - Group student coverage that's sponsored by a school or other educational institution and includes medical benefits for illness or disease
- **Dental Plan** means all of the following types of dental care coverage, even if they don't have their own coordination provisions:
  - Group, individual or blanket disability insurance policies and health care service contractor and health maintenance organization group or individual agreements issued by insurers, health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations
  - Labor-management trusteed plans, labor organization plans, employer organization plans or employee benefit organization plans
  - Government programs that provide benefits for their own civilian employees or their dependents

Each contract or other arrangement for coverage described above is a separate plan. We'll coordinate benefits for allowable medical expenses separately from allowable dental expenses, as separate plans.

### Effect On Benefits

An important part of coordinating benefits is determining the order in which the plans provide benefits. One plan is responsible for providing benefits first. This is called the "primary" plan. The primary plan provides its full benefits as if there were no other plans involved. The other plans then become "secondary." When this plan is

secondary, it will reduce its benefits for each claim so that the benefits from all medical plans aren't more than the allowable medical expense for that claim and the benefits from all dental plans aren't more than the allowable dental expense for that claim.

We will coordinate benefits when you have other health care coverage that is primary over this plan. Coordination of benefits applies whether or not a claim is filed with the primary coverage.

### **Primary And Secondary Rules**

Certain governmental plans, such as Medicaid and TRICARE, are always secondary by law. Except as required by law, Medicare supplement plans and other plans that don't coordinate benefits at all must pay as if they were primary.

A plan that doesn't have a COB provision that complies with this plan's rules is primary to this plan unless the rules of both plans make this plan primary. The exception is group coverage that supplements a package of benefits provided by the same group. Such coverage can be excess to the rest of that group's plan. An example is coverage paired with a closed panel plan to provide out-of-network benefits.

The first of the rules below to apply decides which plan is primary. If you have more than one secondary plan, the rules below also decide the order of the secondary plans to each other.

**Non-Dependent Or Dependent** The plan that doesn't cover you as a dependent is primary to a plan that does. However, if you have Medicare, and federal law makes Medicare secondary to your dependent coverage and primary to the plan that doesn't cover you as a dependent, then the order is reversed.

**Dependent Children** Unless a court decree states otherwise, the rules below apply:

- **Birthdate rule** When the parents are married or living together, whether or not they were ever married, the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the year is primary. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that has covered the parent the longest is primary.
- When the parents are divorced, separated or not living together, whether or not they were ever married:
  - If a court decree makes one parent responsible for the child's health care expenses or coverage, that plan is primary. This rule and the court decree rules below apply to calendar years starting after the plan is given notice of the court decree. If the parent who is responsible has no health coverage for the dependent, but that parent's spouse does, that spouse's plan is primary. This rule and the court decree rules below apply to calendar years starting after the plan is given notice of the court decree.
  - If a court decree assigns one parent primary financial responsibility for the child but doesn't mention responsibility for health care expenses, the plan of the parent with financial responsibility is primary.
  - If a court decree makes both parents responsible for the child's health care expenses or coverage, the birthday rule determines which plan is primary.
  - If a court decree requires joint custody without making one parent responsible for the child's health care expenses or coverage, the birthday rule determines which plan is primary.
  - If there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the child's expenses or coverage, the rules below apply:
    - The plan covering the custodial parent, first
    - The plan covering the spouse of the custodial parent, second
    - The plan covering the non-custodial parent, third
    - The plan covering the spouse of the non-custodial parent, last
    - If a child is covered by individuals other than parents or stepparents, the above rules apply as if those individuals were the parents.

**Retired Or Laid-Off Employee** The plan that covers you as an active employee (an employee who is neither laid off nor retired) is primary to a plan covering you as a retired or laid-off employee. The same is true if you are covered as both a dependent of an active employee and a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee.

**Continuation Coverage** If you have coverage under COBRA or other continuation law, that coverage is secondary to coverage that isn't through COBRA or other continuation law.

**Please Note:** The retiree/layoff and continuation rules don't apply when both plans don't have the rule or when the "non-dependent or dependent" rule can decide which of the plans is primary.

**Length Of Coverage** The plan that covered you longer is primary to the plan that didn't cover you as long. If we do not have your start date under the other plan, we will use the employee's hire date with the other group instead. We will compare that hire date to the date your coverage started under this plan to find out which plan covered you for the longest time.

If none of the rules above apply, the plans must share the allowable expenses equally.

### **Right Of Recovery/Facility Of Payment**

The plan has the right to recover any payments that are greater than those required by the coordination of benefits provisions from one or more of the following: the persons the plan paid or for whom the plan paid, providers of service, insurance companies, service plans or other organizations. If a payment that should have been made under this plan was made by another plan, the plan also has the right to pay directly to another plan any amount that the plan should have paid. Such payment will be considered a benefit under this plan and will meet the plan's obligations to the extent of that payment.

### **SUBROGATION AND REIMBURSEMENT**

If the plan makes claims payment on your behalf for injury or illness for which another party is liable, or for which uninsured/underinsured motorist (UIM) or personal injury protection (PIP) insurance exists, the plan is entitled to be repaid for those payments out of any recovery from that liable party. The liable party is also known as the "third party" because it's a party other than you or the plan. This party includes a UIM carrier because it stands in the shoes of a third party tortfeasor and because the plan excludes coverage for such benefits.

**Definitions** The following terms have specific meanings in this section:

- **Subrogation** means we may collect, on behalf of the plan, directly from third parties to the extent the plan has paid on your behalf for illnesses or injury caused by the third party.
- **Reimbursement** means that you are obligated to repay any monies advanced by the plan from amounts received on your claim.
- **Restitution** means all equitable rights of recovery that the plan has to the monies advanced under your plan. Because the plan has paid for your illness or injuries, the plan is entitled to recover those expenses.

The plan is entitled to the proceeds of any settlement or judgment that results in a recovery from a third party, up to the amount of benefits the plan paid for the condition, whether or not you have been made whole prior to the plan's recovery. The plan's right to recover exists regardless of whether it is based on subrogation, reimbursement or restitution. This right allows the plan to pursue any claim against any third party or insurer, whether or not you choose to pursue that claim. The plan's rights and priority are limited to the extent the plan has made or will make benefit payments for the injury or illness, but do extend to any costs that result from the enforcement of its rights.

The plan's first priority right of reimbursement will not be reduced due to a member's own negligence; or due to a member not being made whole; or due to attorney's fees and costs.

In recovering benefits provided on behalf of the plan, we may at the Group's election hire an attorney or have the plan be represented by your attorney. We will not pay for any legal costs incurred by you or on your behalf, and you will not be required to pay any portion of the costs incurred by the plan or the Group or on their behalf. If you retain an attorney or other agent to represent you in the matter, you must require that legal representative to reimburse the plan directly from the settlement or recovery. Before accepting any settlement on your claim against a third party, you or your legal representative must notify us in writing of any terms or conditions offered in a settlement, and you or your legal representative must notify the third party of the plan's interest in the settlement established by this provision. You also must cooperate with us in recovering amounts paid by the plan on your behalf. If you or your legal representative fail to cooperate fully with us in the recovery of benefits the plan has paid as described above, you are responsible for reimbursing the plan for such benefits.

You or your legal representative must, within 14 business days of receiving a request from the plan, provide all information and sign and return all documents necessary to exercise the plan's right under this provision.

To the extent that you recover from any available third party source, you agree to hold any recovered fund in trust or in a segregated account until the plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights are fully determined.

**Agreement To Arbitrate** Any disputes that arise as part of this provision will be resolved by arbitration. Both you and the plan will be bound by the decision of the arbitration proceedings.

Disputes will be resolved by a single arbitrator. Either party may demand arbitration by serving notice of the demand on the other party. Each party will bear its own costs and share equally in the fees of the arbitrator. Arbitration proceedings pursuant to this provision shall take place in King County, Washington.

This agreement to arbitrate will begin on the effective date of the plan, and will continue until any dispute regarding this plan's subrogation or reimbursement is resolved.

## **UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST/PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE**

The plan has the right to be reimbursed for benefits provided, but only to the extent that benefits are also paid for such services and supplies under the terms of a motor vehicle uninsured motorist and/or underinsured motorist (UIM) policy, personal injury protection (PIP) or similar type of insurance or contract.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE?**

This section of your booklet describes who is eligible for coverage.

### **SUBSCRIBER ELIGIBILITY**

To be a subscriber under this plan, an employee must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be an active employee of the Group who is:
  - Paid on a regular basis through the Group's payroll system,
  - Reported by the Group for Social Security purpose; or
  - Be scheduled to work at least a half-time appointment as defined in the Group's plan document, or who is a full-time, one semester visiting facility member.

### **DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY**

To be a dependent under this plan, the family member must be:

- The lawful spouse of the subscriber, unless legally separated.
- The domestic partner of the subscriber. All rights and benefits afforded to a "spouse" under this plan will also be afforded to an eligible domestic partner. In determining benefits for domestic partners and their children under this plan, the term "establishment of the domestic partnership" shall be used in place of "marriage," the term "termination of the domestic partnership" shall be used in place of "legal separation" and "divorce."

**Please Note:** Domestic Partnerships that are **not** documented in a state registry must meet all requirements stated in the signed "Affidavit of Domestic Partnership."

- A dependent child who is under 26 years of age. An eligible child is one of the following:
  - A natural offspring of either or both the subscriber or spouse;
  - A legally adopted child of either or both the subscriber or spouse;
  - A child placed with the subscriber for the purpose of legal adoption in accordance with state law. "Placed" for adoption means assumption and retention by the subscriber of a legal obligation for total or partial support of a child in anticipation of adoption of such child; or
  - A legal ward of the subscriber or spouse. There must be a court order signed by a judge, which grants guardianship of the child to the subscriber or spouse as of a specific date. When the court order terminates or expires, the child is no longer an eligible child.

## **WHEN DOES COVERAGE BEGIN?**

### **ENROLLMENT**

Enrollment is timely when we receive the completed enrollment application and required subscription charges within 60 days of the date the employee becomes an "eligible employee" as defined in the "Who Is Eligible For Coverage?" section.

When enrollment is timely, coverage for the employee and enrolled dependents will become effective on the first of the next month that coincides with or next follows the latest of the applicable dates below.

**The Group may require coverage for some classes of employees to start on the actual applicable date below, as stated on its Group Master Application. Please contact the Group for information.**

- The employee's date of hire

- The date the employee enters a class of employees to which the Group offers coverage under this plan
- The next day following the date the probationary period ends, if one is required by the Group

If we don't receive the enrollment application within 60 days of the date you became eligible, none of the dates above apply. Please see "Open Enrollment" and "Special Enrollment" later in this section.

### **New Dependents Due To Marriage After The Subscriber's Effective Date**

When we receive the completed enrollment application and any required subscription charges within 60 days after the marriage, coverage will become effective on the first of the month following the date of marriage. If we don't receive the enrollment application within 60 days of marriage, please see the "Open Enrollment" provision later in this section.

### **Newborn Children**

- An enrollment application isn't required for natural newborn children when subscription charges being paid already include coverage for dependent children, but we may request additional information if necessary to establish eligibility of the dependent child. Coverage becomes effective for natural newborn children on the date of birth.
- When subscription charges being paid don't already include coverage for dependent children, a completed enrollment application and any required subscription charges must be submitted to us within 60 days following birth. Coverage becomes effective from the date of birth. If we don't receive the enrollment application within 60 days of birth, please see the "Open Enrollment" provision later in this section.

### **Adoptive Children**

- An enrollment application isn't required for adoptive children placed with the subscriber when subscription charges being paid already include coverage for dependent children, but we may request additional information if necessary to establish eligibility of the dependent child. Coverage becomes effective for adoptive children on the date of placement with the subscriber.
- When subscription charges being paid don't already include coverage for dependent children, a completed enrollment application and any required subscription charges must be submitted to us by the Group within 60 days following the date of placement with the subscriber. Coverage becomes effective from the date of placement. If we don't receive the enrollment application within 60 days of the date of placement with the subscriber, please see the "Open Enrollment" provision later in this section.

Dependent children under the age of 2 are exempt from enrolling in the dental plan. The subscriber may choose to enroll children under the age of 2 if enrolling within 60 days of the date of birth or adoption, or during the group's open enrollment.

### **Legal Guardianship**

When we receive the completed enrollment application, any required subscription charges, and a copy of the guardianship papers within 60 days of the date legal guardianship began with the subscriber, coverage for an otherwise eligible child will begin on the date legal guardianship began. If we don't receive the enrollment application within 60 days of the date legal guardianship began, please see the "Open Enrollment" provision later in this section.

### **Medical Child Support Orders**

When we receive the completed enrollment application within 60 days of the date of the medical child support order, coverage for an otherwise eligible child that's required under the order will become effective on the date of the order. Otherwise, coverage will become effective on the first of the month following the date we receive the application for coverage. The enrollment application may be submitted by the subscriber, the child's custodial parent, a state agency administering Medicaid or the state child support enforcement agency. When subscription charges being paid don't already include coverage for dependent children, such charges will begin from the child's effective date. Please contact your Group for detailed procedures.

## **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT**

The plan allows employees and dependents who didn't enroll when they were first eligible or at the plan's last open enrollment period to enroll outside the plan's annual open enrollment period only in the cases listed below. If we don't receive a completed enrollment application within the time limits stated below, please see the "Open Enrollment" provision later in this section.



Coverage will start on the first of the month following the date we receive the application for coverage. In order to be enrolled, the applicant may be required to give us proof of special enrollment rights.

### **Involuntary Loss Of Other Coverage**

If an employee and/or dependent doesn't enroll in this plan or another plan sponsored by the Group when first eligible because they aren't required to do so, that employee and/or dependent may later enroll in this plan outside of the annual open enrollment period if each of the following requirements is met:

- The employee and/or dependent was covered under group health coverage or a health insurance plan at the time coverage under the Group's plan is offered
- The employee and/or dependent's coverage under the other group health coverage or health insurance plan ended as a result of one of the following:
  - Loss of eligibility for coverage for reasons including, but not limited to legal separation, divorce, death, termination of employment, the reduction in the number of hours of employment
  - Termination of employer contributions toward such coverage
  - The employee and/or dependent was covered under COBRA at the time coverage under this plan was previously offered and COBRA coverage has been exhausted

An eligible employee who qualifies as stated above may also enroll all eligible dependents. When only an eligible dependent qualifies for special enrollment, but the eligible employee isn't enrolled in any of the Group's plans or is enrolled in a different plan sponsored by the Group, the employee is also allowed to enroll in this plan in order for the dependent to enroll.

We must receive the completed enrollment application and any required subscription charges from the Group within 30 days of the date such other coverage ended.

### **Subscriber And Dependent Special Enrollment**

An eligible employee and otherwise eligible dependents who previously elected not to enroll in any of the employer's group health plans when such coverage was previously offered, may enroll in this plan at the same time a newly acquired dependent is enrolled under "Enrollment" in the case of marriage, birth or adoption. The eligible employee may also choose to enroll without enrolling any eligible dependents.

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

If you're not enrolled when you first become eligible, or as allowed under the "Special Enrollment" section, you can't be enrolled until the Group's next open enrollment period. An open enrollment period occurs once a year unless determined otherwise by the Group. During this period, eligible employees and their dependents can enroll for coverage under this plan.

If the Group offers multiple dental care plans and you're enrolled under one of the Group's other dental care plans, enrollment for coverage under this plan can only be made during the Group's open enrollment period.

### **CHANGES IN COVERAGE**

No rights are vested under this plan. Its terms, benefits and limitations may be changed by us at any time. Changes to this plan will apply as of the date the change becomes effective to all members and to eligible employees and dependents who become covered under this plan after the date the change becomes effective.

### **PLAN TRANSFERS**

Subscribers (with their enrolled dependents) may be allowed to transfer to this dental plan from another dental plan offered by the Group. Transfers also occur if the Group replaces another dental plan with this plan. All transfers to this plan must occur during open enrollment or on another date set by the Group.

When you transfer from the Group's other dental plan, and there's no lapse in your coverage, the following provisions that apply to this plan will be reduced to the extent they were satisfied and/or credited under the prior plan:

- Calendar year deductible, if applicable.
- Benefit maximums
- Lifetime maximums

## **WHEN WILL MY COVERAGE END?**

### **EVENTS THAT END COVERAGE**

Coverage will end without notice on the last day of the monthly period for which subscription charges have been paid in which one of these events occurs:

- For the subscriber and dependents when:
  - The next monthly subscription charge isn't paid when due or within the grace period;
  - The subscriber dies or is otherwise no longer eligible as a subscriber; or
  - In the case of a collectively bargained plan, the employer fails to meet the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement or to employ employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement.
- For a spouse when his or her marriage to the subscriber is annulled, or when he or she becomes legally separated or divorced from the subscriber.
- For a child when he or she no longer meets the requirements for dependent coverage shown in the "Who Is Eligible For Coverage?" section.

The subscriber must promptly notify the Group when an enrolled family member is no longer eligible to be enrolled as a dependent under this plan.

### **PLAN TERMINATION**

No rights are vested under this plan. The Group is not required to keep the plan in force for any length of time. The Group reserves the right to change or terminate this plan, in whole or in part, at any time with no liability. Plan changes are made as described in "Changes In Coverage" in this booklet. If the plan were to be terminated, you would only have a right to benefits for covered care you receive before the plan's end date.

## **HOW DO I CONTINUE COVERAGE?**

### **CONTINUED COVERAGE FOR A DISABLED CHILD**

Coverage may continue beyond the limiting age (shown under "Dependent Eligibility") for a dependent child who can't support himself or herself because of a developmental or physical disability. The child will continue to be eligible if **all** the following are met:

- The child became disabled before reaching the limiting age
- The child is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and is chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance
- The subscriber is covered under this plan
- The child's subscription charges, if any, continue to be paid
- Within 31 days of the child reaching the limiting age, the subscriber furnishes the Group with a Request for Certification of Handicapped Dependent form. The Group must approve the request for certification for coverage to continue.
- The subscriber provides us with proof of the child's disability and dependent status when requested. Proof won't be requested more often than once a year after the 2-year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Coverage for a subscriber and enrolled dependents may be continued for up to 90 days, or as otherwise required by law, when the employer grants the subscriber a leave of absence and subscription charges continue to be paid.

The leave of absence period counts toward the maximum COBRA continuation period, except as prohibited by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

### **LABOR DISPUTE**

A subscriber may pay subscription charges through the Group to keep coverage in effect for up to 6 months in the event of suspension of compensation due to a lockout, strike or other labor dispute.

The 6-month labor dispute period counts toward the maximum COBRA continuation period.

## CONTINUATION UNDER USERRA

The Uniformed Services Employment And Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects the job rights (including enrollment rights on employer-provided health care coverage) of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service. If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military. Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are re-employed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g. pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

Contact your employer for information on USERRA rights and requirements. You may also contact the U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-4-USA-DOL or visit its Web site at [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets). An online guide to USERRA can be viewed at [www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra](http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra).

## COBRA

When group coverage is lost because of a "qualifying event" as outlined in this section, federal laws and regulations known as "COBRA" require the Group to offer qualified members an election to continue their group coverage for a limited time. Under COBRA, a qualified member must apply for COBRA coverage within a certain time period and may also have to pay a monthly charge for it.

The plan will provide qualified members with COBRA coverage when COBRA's enrollment and payment requirements are met. But, coverage is provided only to the extent that COBRA requires and is subject to the other terms and limitations of this plan. The Group, **not us**, is responsible for all notifications and other duties assigned by COBRA to the "plan administrator" within COBRA's time limits.

The following summary of COBRA coverage is taken from COBRA. Members' rights to this coverage and obligations under COBRA automatically change with further amendments of COBRA by Congress or interpretations of COBRA by the courts and federal regulatory agencies.

### Qualifying Events And Length Of Coverage

Please contact the Group immediately when one of the following qualifying events occurs. The continuation periods listed extend from the date of the qualifying event.

**Please Note:** Covered domestic partners and their children have the same rights to COBRA coverage as covered spouses and their children.

- The Group must offer the subscriber and covered dependents an election to continue coverage for up to 18 consecutive months if their coverage is lost because of 1 of 2 qualifying events:

- **The subscriber's work hours are reduced.**
- **The subscriber's employment terminates, except for discharge due to actions defined by the Group as gross misconduct.**

However, if one of the events listed above follows the covered employee's entitlement to Medicare by less than 18 months, the Group must offer the covered spouse and children an election to continue coverage for up to 36 months starting from the date of the Medicare entitlement.

- COBRA coverage can be extended if a member who lost coverage due to a reduction in hours or termination of employment is determined to be disabled under Title II (OASDI) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social Security Act at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA coverage. In such cases, all family members who elected COBRA may continue coverage for up to a total of 29 consecutive months from the date of the reduction in hours or termination.
- The Group must offer the covered spouse or children an election to continue coverage for up to 36 consecutive months if their coverage is lost because of 1 of 4 qualifying events:
  - **The subscriber dies.**
  - **The subscriber and spouse legally separate or divorce.**
  - **The subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare.**
  - **A child loses eligibility for dependent coverage.**

In addition, the occurrence of one of these events during the 18-month period described above can extend that period for a continuing dependent. This happens only if the event would have caused a similar dependent who wasn't on COBRA coverage to lose coverage under this plan. The extended period will end no later than 36 months from the date of the first qualifying event.

- **The Group must offer the retired subscriber and covered dependents an election to continue their retiree coverage if that coverage is lost because the Group filed for bankruptcy.** COBRA also considers coverage to have been lost due to this qualifying event if the retiree group coverage was substantially eliminated at any time between 1 year before the bankruptcy proceeding commenced and 1 year after it commenced.

Under this qualifying event, the retired subscriber may continue coverage for up to the rest of his or her life. The retired subscriber's covered spouse and children may continue for up to 36 months after the retired subscriber's death or until they lose eligibility as dependents, whichever occurs first. (If the retired subscriber died before the bankruptcy, but his or her spouse is still covered under this plan when the bankruptcy filing occurred, that surviving spouse may continue coverage for up to the rest of his or her life.)

## Conditions Of COBRA Coverage

For COBRA coverage to become effective, all of the following requirements must be met:

### You Must Give Notice Of Some Qualifying Events

The plan will offer COBRA coverage only after the Group receives timely notice that a qualifying event has occurred.

The subscriber or affected dependent must notify the Group in the event of a divorce, legal separation, child's loss of eligibility as a dependent, or any second qualifying event which occurs within the 18-month period as described in "Qualifying Events And Lengths Of Coverage." The subscriber or affected dependent must also notify the Group if the Social Security Administration determines that the subscriber or dependent was disabled on any of the first 60 days of COBRA coverage. You also have the right to appoint someone to give the Group this notice for you.

### If the required notice isn't given or is late, the qualified member loses the right to COBRA coverage.

Except as described below for disability notices, the subscriber or affected dependent has 60 days in which to give notice to the Group. The notice period starts on the date shown below.

- For determinations of disability, the notice period starts on the **later** of: 1) the date of the subscriber's termination or reduction in hours; 2) the date the qualified member would lose coverage as the result of one of these events; or 3) date of the disability determination. **Please note: Determinations that a qualified member is disabled must be given to the Group before the 18-month continuation period ends. This means that the subscriber or qualified member might not have the full 60 days in which to give the notice.** Please include a copy of the determination with your notice to the Group.

Note: The subscriber or affected dependent must also notify the Group if a qualified member is deemed by the Social Security Administration to no longer be disabled. See "When COBRA Coverage Ends."

- For the other events above, the 60-day notice period starts on the **later** of: 1) the date of the qualifying event, or 2) the date the qualified member would lose coverage as a result of the event.

**Important Note: The Group must tell you where to direct your notice and any other procedures that you must follow. If the Group informs you of its notice procedures after the notice period start date above for your qualifying event, the notice period will not start until the date you're informed by the Group.**

The Group must notify qualified members of their rights under COBRA. If the Group has named a third party as its plan administrator, the plan administrator is responsible to notify members on behalf of the group. In such cases, the Group has 30 days in which to notify its plan administrator of a subscriber's termination of employment, reduction in hours, death, Medicare entitlement, or loss of retiree coverage because the Group filed for bankruptcy. The plan administrator then has 14 days after it receives notice of a qualifying event from the Group (or from a qualified member as stated above) in which to notify qualified members of their COBRA rights.

If the Group itself is the plan administrator, it has more than 14 days in which to give notice for certain qualifying events. The Group must furnish the notice required because of a subscriber's termination of employment, reduction in hours, death, Medicare entitlement, or loss of retiree coverage because the Group filed for bankruptcy no later than 44 days after the **later** of 1) the date of the qualifying event, or 2) the date coverage would end in the absence of COBRA. For all other qualifying events, the 14-day notice time limit applies.

### You Must Enroll And Pay On Time

- You must elect COBRA coverage no more than 60 days after the **later** of 1) the date coverage was to end because of the qualifying event, or 2) the date you were notified of your right to elect COBRA coverage. You may be eligible for a second COBRA election period if you qualify under section 201 of the Federal Trade Act of

2002. Please contact the Group or your bargaining representative for more information if you believe this may apply to you.

Each qualified member will have an independent right to elect COBRA coverage. Subscribers may elect COBRA coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA coverage on behalf of their children.

- You must send your first subscription charge payment to the Group no more than 45 days after the date you elected COBRA coverage.
- Subsequent payments must also be paid to the Group.

### **Adding Family Members**

Eligible family members may be added after the continuation period begins, but only as allowed under "Special Enrollment" or "Open Enrollment" in the "When Does Coverage Begin?" section. With one exception, family members added after COBRA begins aren't eligible for further coverage if they later have a qualifying event or if they are determined to be disabled as described under "Qualifying Events And Lengths Of Coverage" earlier in this COBRA section. The exception is that a child born to or placed for adoption with a covered employee while the covered employee is on COBRA has the same COBRA rights as family members on coverage at the time of the original qualifying event. The child will be covered for the duration of the covered employee's initial 18-month COBRA period, unless a second qualifying event occurs which extends the child's coverage. COBRA coverage is subject to all other terms and limitations of this plan.

### **Keep The Group Informed Of Address Changes**

In order to protect your rights under COBRA, you should keep the Group informed of any address changes. It's a good idea to keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Group.

### **When COBRA Coverage Ends**

COBRA coverage will end on the last day for which subscription charges have been paid in the monthly period in which the first of the following occurs:

- The applicable continuation period expires.
- The next monthly subscription charge isn't paid when due or within the 30-day COBRA grace period.
- When coverage is extended from 18 to 29 months due to disability (see "Qualifying Events And Lengths Of Coverage" in this section), COBRA coverage beyond 18 months ends if there's a final determination that a qualified member is no longer disabled under the Social Security Act. However, coverage won't end on the date shown above, but on the last day for which subscription charges have been paid in the first month that begins more than 30 days after the date of the determination. The subscriber or affected dependent must provide the Group with a copy of the Social Security Administration's determination within 30 days after the **later** of: 1) the date of the determination, or 2) the date on which the subscriber or affected dependent was informed that this notice should be provided and given procedures to follow.
- You become covered under another group dental care plan after the date you elect COBRA coverage. However, if the new plan contains an exclusion or limitation for a pre-existing condition, coverage doesn't end for this reason until the exclusion or limitation no longer applies.
- You become entitled to Medicare after the date you elect COBRA coverage.  
(This doesn't apply to retirees and their dependents who are continuing retiree coverage as a result of a bankruptcy filing.)
- The Group ceases to offer group health care coverage to any employee.

### **If You Have Questions**

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

## HOW DO I FILE A CLAIM?

Many providers will submit their bills to us directly. However, if you need to submit a claim to us, follow these simple steps:

### Step 1

Complete a Subscriber Claim Form. A separate Subscriber Claim Form is necessary for each patient and each provider. You can order extra Subscriber Claim Forms by calling Customer Service.

### Step 2

Attach the itemized bill. The itemized bill must contain all of the following information:

- Names of the subscriber and the member who incurred the expense
- Identification numbers for both the subscriber and the Group (these are shown on the subscriber's identification card)
- Name, address, and IRS tax identification number of the provider
- Information about other insurance coverage
- American Dental Association (ADA) Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure codes for each service
- Dates of service and itemized charges for each service rendered
- If the services rendered are for treatment of an injury, the date, time, location and a brief description of the event

### Step 3

Check that all required information is complete. Bills received won't be considered to be claims until all necessary information is included.

### Step 4

Sign the Subscriber Claim Form in the space provided.

### Step 5

Mail your claims to us at the mailing address shown on the back cover of this booklet.

### Timely Filing

You should submit all claims within 90 days of the date of service or within 30 days after the service is completed. We must receive claims:

- Within 365 days of discharge for hospital or other medical facility expenses, or within 365 days of the date the expenses were incurred for any other services or supplies.
- For members who have Medicare, within 90 days of the process date shown on the Explanation of Medicare Benefits, whichever is greater.

The plan won't provide benefits for claims we receive after the later of these 2 dates, nor will the plan provide benefits for claims that were denied by Medicare because they were received past Medicare's submission deadline.

### Special Notice About Claims Procedure

We'll make every effort to process your claims as quickly as possible. We'll tell you if this plan won't cover all or part of the claim no later than 30 days after we first receive it. This notice will be in writing. We can extend the time limit by up to 15 days if it's decided that more time is needed due to matters beyond our control. We'll let you know before the 30-day time limit ends if we need more time. If we need more information from you or your provider in order to decide your claim, we'll ask for that information in our notice and allow you or your provider at least 45 days to send us the information. In such cases, the time it takes to get the information to us doesn't count toward the decision deadline. Once we receive the information we need, we have 15 days in which to give you our decision.

If your claim was denied, in whole or in part, our written notice will include:

- The reasons for the denial and a reference to the provisions of this plan on which it's based
- A description of any additional information needed to reconsider the claim and why that information is needed
- A statement that you have the right to appeal our decision
- A description of the plan's complaint and appeal processes

If there were clinical reasons for the denial, you'll receive a letter from our dental department stating these reasons.

At any time, you have the right to appoint someone to pursue the claim on your behalf. This can be a dentist, lawyer, or a friend or relative. You must notify us in writing and give us the name, address and telephone number where your appointee can be reached.

If a claim for benefits or an appeal is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, or not processed within the time shown in this plan, you may file a suit in a state or federal court.

## COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

We know healthcare doesn't always work perfectly. Our goal is to listen, take care of you, and make it simple. If it doesn't go the way you expect, you have two options:

- **Complaint** – is when you are not satisfied with customer service or with the quality of or access to medical care. You can call customer service if you have a complaint. We may ask you to send the details in writing. We will send a written response within 30 days.
- **Appeal** – is a request to review a specific decision we have made.

### WHAT YOU CAN APPEAL

<b>Claims</b>	Payment	Benefits or charges were not applied correctly, including a limit or restriction on otherwise covered benefits.
	Denied	Coverage of your service, supply, device or prescription was denied or partially denied. This includes estimates of benefits.
<b>Enrollment canceled or not issued</b>	No Coverage	You are not eligible to enroll or stay in the plan

These are examples of adverse benefit determinations. Please see **Definitions** for more information.

The rest of this section will explain the appeal process. If you still have questions, please call Customer Service.

### APPEALS

You have the right to two levels of appeals:

Appeal Level	What it means	Deadline to appeal
<b>Level 1</b>	This is your first appeal. Premera will review your appeal.	180 days from the date you were notified of our decision.
<b>Level 2</b>	If we deny your Level 1 appeal, you can appeal a second time. Premera will review your appeal.	60 days from the date you were notified of our Level 1 appeal decision.

### HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL

Here are your options for submitting an appeal:

- Submit an appeal form – go to **premera.com** to access our appeal form. You have the option of attaching additional documentation and a written statement.
- Call Customer Service to submit your appeal. See your Premera ID card for the phone number.
- Write to us at the address listed on the back of this booklet.

Submit supporting documentation. This may include chart notes, medical records, or a letter from your doctor.

Within 72 hours, we will confirm in writing that we have received your request.

If you need help filling out an appeal, or would like a copy of the appeals process, please call Customer Service. If you would like to review the information used for your appeal, please call Customer Service. The information will be sent as soon as possible and free of charge.

## **Choose Someone To Appeal For You**

Choose someone, including your doctor, to appeal on your behalf. **To choose someone else, complete a Member Appeal Form with Authorization located on [premera.com](https://premera.com).** We can't release your information without this form. You do not need an authorization if your provider is contracted with Premera.

## **Appeal Response Time Limits**

We'll review your appeal and send a decision within the time limits below. The timeframes are based on what the appeal is about.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU HAVE ONGOING CARE**

Ongoing care is continuous treatment you are currently receiving.

If you appeal a decision that affects ongoing care because we've determined the care is no longer dentally necessary, the plan will continue to cover your care during the appeal period. This continued coverage during the appeal period does not mean that the care is approved. If our decision is upheld, you must repay all amounts the plan paid for ongoing care during the appeal review.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF IT'S URGENT**

If your condition is urgent, you will get our response sooner. Please see the table above. Urgent appeals are only available for services you are currently receiving or have not yet received.

Examples of urgent situations are:

- Your life or health is in serious danger, or a delay in treatment would cause you to be in severe pain that you cannot bear, as determined by our medical professionals or your treating physician
- You are requesting coverage for inpatient or emergency care that you are currently receiving

## **ONCE PREMERA DECIDES**

The decision on your appeal ends the plan's appeal process. However, you may have other steps you can take under state or federal law, such as filing a lawsuit.

## **OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLAN**

This section tells you about how this plan is administered. It also includes information about federal and state requirements we and the Group must follow and other information that must be provided.

### **Conformity With The Law**

If any provision of the plan or any amendment is deemed to be in conflict with applicable state or federal laws or regulations, upon discovery of such conflict the plan will be administered in conformance with the requirements of such laws and regulations as of their effective date.

### **Evidence Of Dental Necessity**

We have the right to require proof of dental necessity for any services or supplies you receive before benefits under this plan. You or your dental care providers may submit this proof. No benefits will be available if the proof isn't provided or acceptable to the plan.

### **Intentionally False Or Misleading Statements**

If this plan's benefits are paid in error due to any intentionally false or misleading statements, the plan is entitled to recover these amounts. See the "Right Of Recovery" section.

If you make any intentionally false or misleading statements on any application or enrollment form that affects your acceptability for coverage, as directed by the Group:

- Deny your claim;
- Reduce the amount of benefits provided for your claim; or
- Rescind your coverage under this plan. (Rescind means to cancel coverage back to its effective date as if it had never existed at all.)

### **Member Cooperation**

You're under a duty to cooperate with us and the Group in a timely and appropriate manner in our administration of benefits. You're also under a duty to cooperate with us and the Group in the event of a lawsuit.



## **Notice Of Information Use And Disclosure**

We may collect, use or disclose certain information about you. This protected personal information (PPI) may include dental information, or personal data such as your address, telephone number or Social Security number. We may receive this information from or release it to dental care providers, insurance companies or other sources.

This information is collected, used or disclosed for conducting routine business operations such as:

- Underwriting and determining your eligibility for benefits and paying claims
- Coordinating benefits with other dental care plans
- Conducting care management, case management or quality reviews
- Fulfilling other legal obligations that are specified under the plan and our administrative service contract with the Group

This information may also be collected, used or disclosed as required or permitted by law.

To safeguard your privacy, we take care to ensure that your information remains confidential by having a company confidentiality policy and by requiring all employees to sign it.

If a disclosure of PPI isn't related to a routine business function, we remove anything that could be used to easily identify you or we obtain your prior written authorization.

You have the right to request inspection and /or amendment of records retained by us that contain your PPI. Please contact our Customer Service Department and ask that a representative mail a request form to you.

## **Notice Of Other Coverage**

As a condition of receiving benefits under this plan, you must notify us of:

- Any legal action or claim against another party for a condition or injury for which the plan provides benefits, and the name and address of that party's insurance carrier
- The name and address of any insurance carrier that provides:
  - Personal injury protection (PIP)
  - Underinsured motorist coverage
  - Uninsured motorist coverage
  - Any other insurance under which you are or may be entitled to recover compensation
- The name of any group or individual insurance plans that cover you

## **Notices**

Any notice we're required to submit to the Group or subscriber will be considered to be delivered if mailed to the Group or subscriber, at the most recent address appearing on our records. We'll use the date of postmark in determining the date of our notification. If you are required to submit notice to us, it will be considered delivered on the postmark date or the date we receive it, if not postmarked.

## **Right Of Recovery**

On behalf of the plan, we have the right to recover amounts the plan paid that exceed the amount for which the plan is liable. Such amounts may be recovered from the subscriber or any other payee, including a provider. Or, such amounts may be deducted from future benefits of the subscriber or any of his or her dependents (even if the original payment wasn't made on that member's behalf) when the future benefits would otherwise have been paid directly to the subscriber or to a provider who doesn't have a contract with us.

## **Right To And Payment Of Benefits**

Benefits of this plan are available only to members. Except as required by law, the plan won't honor any attempted assignment, garnishment or attachment of any right of this plan. In addition, members may not assign a payee for claims, payments or any other rights of this plan. At our option only, we have the right to direct the benefits of this plan to:

- The subscriber
- A provider
- Another health insurance carrier

- The member
- Another party legally entitled under federal or state medical child support laws
- Jointly to any of the above

Payment to any of the above satisfies the plan's obligation as to payment of benefits.

**Venue**

All suits or legal proceedings brought against us, the plan or the Group by you or anyone claiming any right under this plan must be filed:

- Within 3 years of the date the rights or benefits claimed under this plan were denied in writing; and
- In the state of Washington or the state where you reside or are employed.

All suits or legal or arbitration proceedings brought by the plan will be filed within the appropriate statutory period of limitation, and you agree that venue, at the plan's option, will be in King County, the state of Washington.

**ERISA PLAN DESCRIPTION**

The following information has been provided by your Group to meet certain ERISA requirements for the summary plan description.

This plan is an employee welfare benefit plan that's subject to the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). This employee welfare benefit plan is called the "ERISA Plan" in this section. ERISA gives subscribers and dependents the right to a summary describing the ERISA Plan.

**Name Of Plan**

The University of Puget Sound Welfare and Flexible Benefits Plan

**Name And Address Of Employer Or Plan Sponsor**

The University of Puget Sound  
 1500 North Warner St #1064  
 Tacoma, WA 98416

Subscribers and dependents may receive from the plan administrator, upon written request, information as to whether a particular employer or employee organization is a sponsor of the ERISA Plan and, if so, the sponsor's address.

**Employer Identification Number "EIN"**

91-0564961

**Plan Number**

507

**Type Of Plan**

Self-funded employee welfare benefit plan that is a group health plan. The ERISA Plan provides dental benefits.

**Type Of Administration**

Third-party administration by Premera Blue Cross under the terms and conditions of its administrative service contract with the Group. We do not insure this plan

**Name, Address, And Telephone Number Of ERISA Plan Administrator**

The University of Puget Sound  
 1500 North Warner St #1064  
 Tacoma, WA 98416  
 (253) 879-3462

**Agent For Service Of Legal Process**

Secretary of the Corporation

Service of legal process may also be made on a Plan trustee, if any, or the ERISA Plan administrator.

## **Eligibility To Participate In The Plan**

Employees and their dependents are eligible for the benefits of the plan when they meet the eligibility requirements in this booklet, are enrolled as described in this booklet, and all required monthly charges for them are and continue to be paid as required by the Group.

## **Benefits**

The benefit booklet tells you the terms and limitations of each benefit of this plan. You may have lower out-of-pocket costs if you use providers that have signed contracts with us. This booklet explains the provider networks, when applicable. It also tells how benefits are affected if members don't use these providers. The benefit sections of this booklet also explain what part of the cost of covered dental care you must pay.

If you lose your benefit booklet, please contact the Group for a new one.

## **Disqualification, Ineligibility Or Denial, Loss, Forfeiture, Or Suspension Of Any Benefits**

This booklet describes circumstances that may result in disqualification, ineligibility or denial, loss, forfeiture, suspension, reduction, offset or recovery of any benefits for members.

## **Source Of Contributions**

Employees contribute to the cost of coverage for their dependents. Self-payments are also permitted; please see the "How Do I Continue Coverage?" section in this booklet.

## **Funding Medium**

The Group

## **Plan Changes and Termination**

The "Plan Termination" and "Changes In Coverage" portions of this booklet describe the circumstances when this plan may be changed or terminated. No rights are vested under the ERISA Plan. The Group reserves the right to change or terminate its ERISA Plan in whole or in part, at any time, with no liability.

The Group will tell employees if its ERISA Plan is changed or terminated. If the ERISA Plan were to be terminated, members would have a right to benefits only for covered services received before the ERISA Plan's end date.

## **ERISA Plan Year**

The ERISA Plan year ends on each December 31.

## **WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS UNDER ERISA?**

As participants in an employee welfare benefit plan, subscribers have certain rights and protections. This section of this plan explains those rights.

ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

- Examine without charge, at the ERISA Plan administrator's office and at other specified locations (such as work sites and union halls), all documents governing the ERISA Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements. If the ERISA Plan is required to file an annual report with the U.S. Department of Labor, plan participants shall be entitled to examine a copy of its latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- Obtain, upon written request to the ERISA Plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the ERISA Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements and updated summary plan descriptions. If the ERISA Plan is required to file an annual report with the U.S. Department of Labor, plan participants shall be entitled to obtain copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series). The administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- Receive a summary of the ERISA Plan's annual financial report, if ERISA requires the ERISA Plan to file an annual report. The ERISA Plan administrator for such plans is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.
- Continue dental care coverage for yourself, spouse or dependents if there's a loss of coverage under the plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee welfare benefit plan. The people who operate your ERISA Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other plan participants and beneficiaries. (The Group has delegated to us the discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and construe the terms used in the plan to the extent stated in our administrative services contract with the Group.) No one, including your employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the ERISA Plan and don't receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the ERISA Plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the ERISA Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court.

If the ERISA Plan fiduciaries misuse the ERISA Plan's money, or if you're discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you're successful, the court may order the person you sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

**Please Note:** Under ERISA, the ERISA Plan administrator is responsible for furnishing each participant and beneficiary with a copy of the summary plan description.

If you have any questions about your employee welfare benefit plan, you should contact the ERISA Plan administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the ERISA Plan administrator, you should contact either:

- The Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 1111 Third Ave. Suite 860, MIDCOM Tower, Seattle, WA 98101-3212; or
- The Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration at 1-866-444-3272.

## DEFINITIONS

The terms listed in this section have specific meanings under this plan.

### Adverse Benefit Determination

An adverse benefit determination means a decision to deny, reduce, terminate or a failure to provide or to make payment, in whole or in part for services. This includes:

- A member's or applicant's eligibility to be or stay enrolled in this plan or health insurance coverage
- A limitation on otherwise covered benefits
- A clinical review decision
- A decision that a service is experimental, investigative, not medically necessary or appropriate, or not effective

### Allowed amount

The allowed amount shall mean one of the following depending on whether the dental care provider is participating or non-participating:

- **Dental Care Providers Who Have Agreements With Us**

The amount for dentally necessary services and supplies these providers have agreed to accept as payment in full pursuant to the applicable agreement between us and the provider. These providers agree to seek

payment from us when they furnish covered services to you. You'll be responsible only for any applicable calendar year deductibles, coinsurance, charges in excess of the stated benefit maximums, and charges for services and supplies not covered under this plan.

Your liability for any applicable calendar year deductibles, coinsurance and amounts applied toward benefit maximums will be calculated on the basis of the allowed amount.

- **Dental Care Providers Who Don't Have Agreements With Us**

The allowed amount will be the maximum allowed amount as determined by Premera Blue Cross in the area where the services were provided, but in no case higher than the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of provider fees in that geographic area.

When you seek services from dental care providers that don't have agreements with us, your liability is for any amount above the allowed amount, and for any applicable calendar year deductibles, coinsurance, amounts that are in excess of stated benefit maximums and charges for non-covered services and supplies.

We reserve the right to determine the amount allowed for any given service or supply.

## **Calendar Year**

The period of 12 consecutive months that starts each January 1 at 12:01 a.m. and ends on the next December 31 at midnight.

## **Dental Care Provider**

A state-licensed:

- Doctor of Medical Dentistry (D.M.D.)
- Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)

The benefits of this plan are available if professional services are provided by a state-licensed dentist, a dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist, or other individual performing within the scope of his or her license or certification, as allowed by law and this plan's benefits would be payable if the covered service were provided by a "dental care provider" as defined above.

## **Dental Emergency**

A condition requiring prompt or urgent attention due to trauma and/or pain caused by a sudden unexpected injury, acute infection or similar occurrence.

## **Dentally Necessary**

Those covered services and supplies that a dentist, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

- In accordance with generally accepted standards of dental practice
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease
- Not primarily for the convenience of the patient, dentist, or other dental care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease

For those purposes, "generally accepted standards of dental practice" means standards that are based on authoritative dental or scientific literature.

## **Effective Date**

The date on which your coverage under this plan begins. If you re-enroll in this plan after a lapse in coverage, the date that the coverage begins again will be your effective date.

## **Enrollment Date**

For the subscriber and eligible dependents who enroll when the subscriber is first eligible, the enrollment date is the subscriber's date of hire. There is one exception to this rule. If the subscriber was hired into a class of employees to which the Group doesn't provide coverage under this plan, but was later transferred to a class of employees to which the group does provide coverage under this plan, the enrollment date is the date the

subscriber enters the eligible class of employees. (For example, the enrollment date for a seasonal employee who was made permanent after six months would be the date the employee started work as a permanent employee.). For subscribers who don't enroll when first eligible and for dependents added after the subscriber's coverage starts, the enrollment date is the effective date of coverage.

### **Experimental/Investigational Services**

Experimental or investigational services include a treatment, procedure, equipment, drug, drug usage, medical device or supply that meets one or more of the following criteria as determined by us:

- A drug or device that can't be lawfully marketed without the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and hasn't been granted such approval on the date the service is provided.
- The service is subject to oversight by an Institutional Review Board.
- No reliable evidence demonstrates that the service is effective, in clinical diagnosis, evaluation, management, or treatment of the condition.
- The service is the subject of ongoing clinical trials to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, safety or efficacy.
- Evaluation of reliable evidence indicates that additional research is necessary before the service can be classified as equally or more effective than conventional therapies.

Reliable evidence includes, but isn't limited to, reports and articles published in authoritative peer reviewed medical and scientific literature, and assessments and coverage recommendations published by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Technical Evaluation Center (TEC).

### **Group**

The entity that sponsors this self-funded plan.

### **Injury**

Physical harm caused by a sudden event at a specific time and place. It's independent of illness, except for infection of a cut or wound. **Please Note:** An injury doesn't include damage caused by biting or chewing, even if due to a foreign object in food.

### **Member (also called "You" and "Your")**

A person covered under this plan as a subscriber or dependent.

### **Orthodontia**

The branch of dentistry that specializes in the correction of tooth arrangement problems, including poor relationships between the upper and lower teeth (malocclusion).

### **Plan (also called "This Plan" or "The Plan")**

The Group's self-funded plan described in this booklet.

### **Subscriber**

An enrolled employee of the Group. Coverage under this plan is established in the subscriber's name.

### **Subscription Charges**

The monthly rates to be paid by the member that are set by the Group as a condition of the member's coverage under the plan.

### **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Disorders**

TMJ disorders include those disorders that have one or more of the following characteristics: pain in the musculature associated with the temporomandibular joint, internal derangements of the temporomandibular joint, arthritic problems with the temporomandibular joint, or an abnormal range of motion or limitation of motion of the temporomandibular joint.

### **We, Us and Our**

Means Premera Blue Cross.



## Where To Send Claims

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### MAIL YOUR CLAIMS TO

Premera Blue Cross  
P.O. Box 91059  
Seattle, WA 98111-9159

## Customer Service

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### Mailing Address

Premera Blue Cross  
P.O. Box 91059  
Seattle, WA 98111-9159

### Physical Address

7001 220th St. S.W.  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-2124

### Phone Numbers

Local and toll-free number:  
1-800-722-1471

Local and toll-free TTY  
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing:  
1-800-842-5357

## When You Have Ideas

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Premera Blue Cross  
Attn: Customer Assessment Manager  
P.O. Box 91059  
Seattle, WA 98111-9159

## When You Have An Appeal

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Premera Blue Cross  
Attn: Appeals Coordinator  
P.O. Box 91102  
Seattle, WA 98111-9202

## Visit Our Web Site

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