

# Health Care Benefit Program



# STATEWIDE SCHOOLS

---

**Hagerman School District #233**  
Stand Alone Vision for Statewide Schools  
*Effective Date: September 1, 2012*

Amendment Attached

*Benefit Period: January 1 through December 31*

Form #8-017 (09/10) with amends



*An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association*

**AMENDMENTS**

The following amendment has been made to your Statewide School Group Policy effective September 2012. **Please read it carefully.**

The **BENEFITS OUTLINE** shall be amended to reflect the following revisions:

1. The following language shall be added to the **Benefits Outline**:

SPANISH (Español): Para obtener asistencia en Español, llame al (208) 331-7347 or (800) 627-1188.

TAGALOG (Tagalog):Kung kailangan niyo ang tulong sa Tagalog tumawag sa (208) 331-7347 or (800) 627-1188.

CHINESE (中文): 如果需要中文的帮助，请拨打这个号码 (208) 331-7347 or (800) 627-1188.

NAVAJO (Dine): Dinek'ehgo shika at'ohwol ninisingo, kwijigo holne' (208) 331-7347 or (800) 627-1188.

2. The **Vision Care Benefits** shall read as follows:

<b>VISION CARE BENEFITS (VSP OPTION 1)</b>	
<b>For Covered Providers and Services</b>	
<b>Copayment</b>	Insured pays \$25 per eye exam and/or \$25 per Frame and Lenses or Medically Necessary Contact Lenses per Benefit Period
<b>Service Frequency Limitations</b>	Insured may receive one (1) eye exam and/or one (1) pair of Lenses and/or one (1) Frame or one (1) pair of Medically Necessary Contact Lenses (in lieu of eyeglasses) every twelve (12) months.
<b>Payment for Services Rendered:</b>	
<b>Participating VSP Doctor</b>	<p><b>Exam</b> - BCI pays 100% of Maximum Allowance after Copayment</p> <p><b>Prescription Glasses</b>—Basic Lenses and Medically Necessary Contact Lenses are covered in full. Frame allowance of \$105, and 20% off any out-of-pocket expenses.</p> <p><b>Elective Contacts</b>—includes an allowance of \$105 for contact lens exam and materials in place of benefits for Prescribed Lenses and Frames.</p>
<b>Nonparticipating VSP Doctor</b>	Plan I
<b>Professional Fees</b>	
Eye Exam	\$45
<b>Materials—lenses per pair</b>	
Single Vision	\$45
Bifocals, up to	\$65
Trifocals, up to	\$85
Frame, up to	\$47
<b>Contact Lenses— per pair</b>	
<b>Medically Necessary, up to</b>	\$210

3. The following language shall be added to the **Benefits Outline**:

\*The Participating VSP Doctor must verify benefits with VSP prior to rendering services. If that verification does not occur, benefits will be paid as Out-of-Network Services.

The **POLICY** shall be amended to reflect the following revisions:

1. In the **Vision Care Benefits Section**, item **III. A.** shall be amended as follows:

**III. Procedures For Obtaining Covered Services**

**A.** An Insured must contact the Vision Care Services Vendor (VCSV) Participating Provider to make an appointment to receive Covered Services. No preauthorization or special benefit form is required.

The doctor is responsible for verifying eligibility and obtaining the necessary authorization from the VCSV prior to the delivery of service. Each authorization is valid for fifteen (15) days. If that verification does not occur, benefits will be paid as out-of-network.

The **GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION** shall be amended as follows:

1. Item **III.C.** of the General Provisions Section shall now read:

**C.** If the Group fails to pay premiums as agreed in the Eligibility and Enrollment Section, this Policy will terminate without notice at the end of the period for which the last premiums were paid. This Policy does not have a grace period; however, if the Group makes payment of the premiums within thirty (30) days after the due date, BCI will reinstate this Policy as of the due date. No benefits are available during this thirty (30)-day period unless all premiums are properly paid before expiration of the thirty (30)-day period. BCI reserves the right to apply fee of Prime Interest Rate plus two percent (2%) annualized interest on any portion of the balance owed by the Group to BCI that remains unpaid thirty (30) days or more beyond the original due date.

Except as amended, the Master Group Policy and Enrollee Certificate shall remain unchanged.

In witness whereof, BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO HEALTH SERVICE, INC., by its duly authorized officer, has executed this amendment.

Blue Cross of Idaho  
Health Service, Inc.  
PO Box 7408  
Boise, ID 83707



Dennis C. Warren  
*Vice President*  
Account Management

# STAND ALONE VISION FOR STATEWIDE SCHOOLS MASTER GROUP POLICY BENEFITS OUTLINE

This Benefits Outline describes the benefits of this Policy in general terms. It is important to read the Policy in full for specific and detailed information that includes additional exclusions and limitations on benefits. Your manager of employee benefits should be able to help if you have questions.

Throughout this Policy, Blue Cross of Idaho may be referred to as BCI. For Covered Services under the terms of this Policy, Maximum Allowance is the amount established by the Vision Care Services Vendor as the highest level of compensation for a Covered Service. There is more detailed information on how Maximum Allowance is determined and how it affects out-of-state coverage in the Definitions Section.

To locate a Participating Provider in your area, please visit our Web site at [www.bcidaho.com](http://www.bcidaho.com). You may also call our Customer Services Department at 208-331-7347 or 800-627-1188 for assistance in locating a Provider.

## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

EET DENT 11/09

To qualify as an Eligible Employee under this Policy, a person must be and remain a full-time employee, sole proprietor, or partner of the Group who regularly works at least 20 hours per week and is paid on a regular, periodic basis through the Group's payroll system.

*(see the Policy for additional Eligibility and Enrollment provisions)*

## PROBATIONARY PERIOD

PP1B 11/09

The Group will determine if there are certain probationary periods that must be satisfied before a new Eligible Employee can qualify for coverage under this Policy.

**VISION CARE BENEFITS (VSP)**

<p><b>For Covered Providers and Services</b></p> <p><b>Copayment</b></p> <p><b>Service Frequency Limitations</b></p>	<p>Plan I</p> <p>Insured pays \$25 per eye exam and/or \$25 per Frame and Lenses or Medically Necessary Contact Lenses.</p> <p>Insured may receive one (1) eye exam and/or one (1) pair of Lenses and/or one (1) Frame or one (1) pair of Medically Necessary Contact Lenses (in lieu of eyeglasses) every twelve (12) months.</p>
<p><b>Payment for Services Rendered:</b></p>	
<p><b>Participating VSP Doctor</b></p>	<p><b>Exam</b>—BCI pays 100% after Copayment</p> <p><b>Prescription Glasses</b>—Basic Lenses and Medically Necessary Contact Lenses are covered in full. Frame allowance of \$105, and 20% off any out-of-pocket expenses.</p> <p><b>Elective Contacts</b>—includes an allowance of \$105 for contact lens exam and materials in place of benefits for Prescribed Lenses and Frames.</p>
<p><b>Nonparticipating VSP Doctor</b></p> <p><b>Professional Fees</b></p> <p>Eye Exam</p> <p><b>Materials—lenses per pair</b></p> <p>Single Vision</p> <p>Bifocals, up to</p> <p>Trifocals, up to</p> <p>Frame, up to</p> <p><b>Contact Lenses— per pair</b> (evaluation, materials, and fittings only)</p> <p><b>Medically Necessary, up to Maximum Allowance</b></p>	<p>\$45</p> <p>\$45</p> <p>\$65</p> <p>\$85</p> <p>\$47</p> <p>\$105</p> <p>\$210</p>

**Stand Alone Vision  
For Statewide Schools  
Master Group Policy  
And  
Enrollee Certificate**

STAND ALONE VISION FOR  
STATEWIDE SCHOOLS GROUP POLICY

FOR

Hagerman School District #233

Group #10003662

Effective Date: September 1, 2012

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**GROUP APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE..... 1**

**HOW TO SUBMIT CLAIMS..... 2**

**BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS ..... 3**

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE LOCATIONS ..... 3**

**VISION CARE BENEFITS SECTION..... 4**

    Copayment & Limitations..... 4

    Covered Providers..... 4

    Procedures for Obtaining Covered Services..... 4

    Covered Services ..... 4

    Additional Amount of Payment ..... 5

    Exclusions & Limitations ..... 5

**ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT SECTION – Active Employees..... 7**

    Eligibility & Enrollment..... 7

    Leave of Absence ..... 7

    Group Contribution ..... 7

    Miscellaneous Eligibility & Enrollment Provisions..... 7

    Eligible Employees Changing To Other Participating School Districts..... 9

    Retirement .....10

    Qualified Medical Child Support Orders .....10

**ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT SECTION - Retirees .....11**

    Eligibility & Enrollment.....11

    Loss of Eligibility If A Participating School District Cancels .....11

    Payment of Premium & Effective Date.....11

    Qualified Medical Child Support Order.....13

**DEFINITIONS.....15**

**EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS.....19**

    General Exclusions & Limitations .....19

    Preexisting Condition Waiting Period .....20

**GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION .....21**

    Entire Policy - Changes .....21

    Records of Insured Eligibility & Changes in Insured Eligibility .....21

    Premium Charges & Billings .....21

    Eligibility Requirements for School Districts Applying For Participation.....21

    Termination or Modification of This Policy .....21

    Termination or Modification of an Insured’s Coverage Under This Policy .....22

    Benefits After Termination of Coverage.....23

    Contract Between BCI & the Group-Description of Coverage.....24

    Applicable Law.....24

    Notice .....24

    Benefits to Which Insureds are Entitled .....24

    Notice of Claim .....25

    Release & Disclosure of Medical Records & Other Information.....25

    Exclusions of General Damages .....25

    Payment of Benefits.....25

    Insured/Provider Relationship.....25

    Participating Plan.....26

    Coordination of Benefits .....26

    Benefits for Medicare Eligibles Who are Covered Under This Policy.....30

    Indemnity by the Group and BCI.....30

**Incorporated by Reference.....30**  
**Inquiry & Appeals Procedures .....30**  
**Plan Administrator – COBRA & ERISA .....31**  
**Reimbursement of Benefits Paid by Mistake.....32**  
**Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights of BCI.....32**  
**Independent Blue Cross & Blue Shield Plans.....33**  
**Statements .....33**  
**Membership, Voting, Annual Meeting & Participation.....33**  
**Replacement Coverage.....34**  
**Individual Benefits Management.....34**  
**Coverage & Benefits Determination .....34**  
**AMENDMENTS .....35**




## GROUP APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Hagerman School District #233, a Participating School District, called the Group, hereby confirms that it has previously applied for and been furnished coverage by Blue Cross of Idaho Health Service, Inc., called Blue Cross of Idaho.

The Group acknowledges it has received sixty (60) days advance written notice of modification of the Policy as required by General Provision V.A. and that the attached Policy, which has been approved by the Council reflects the modification. The Group agrees to accept this Policy and signifies its acceptance by payment of its September 1, 2012 premium. The Group further agrees that this Policy shall supercede all previous contracts, certificates or agreements issued by Blue Cross of Idaho, but that the group enrollment agreement or master group application, whichever document was previously submitted by the Group, shall continue in force.

Blue Cross of Idaho agrees, in consideration of the group enrollment agreement or master group application and premium payments when due, and subject to all the terms of this Policy, to provide each Member of the Group the benefits of this Policy, beginning on September 1, 2012 and continuing on a month-to-month basis thereafter, unless modified or terminated as provided by this Policy.

This Policy renews on an annual basis. Premium payments are due on a month-to-month basis. The Group's Policy date is September 1 and, unless modified or terminated as provided by this Policy, the Policy will continue to renew each year on the Group's renewal date of September 1.



Dennis C. Warren  
*Vice President*  
Account Management

Blue Cross of Idaho  
September 1, 2012

## HOW TO SUBMIT CLAIMS

An Insured must submit a claim to BCI's designated Vision Care Services Vendor (VCSV), Vision Service Plan (VSP) in order to receive benefits for Covered Services. There are two (2) ways for an Insured to submit a claim:

1. The vision service Provider can file the claim for the Insured. Most Providers will submit a claim on an Insured's behalf if the Insured shows them a BCI identification card and tells them they have coverage through VSP.
2. The Insured can send the claim to VSP.

### To File an Insured's Own Claims

Most In-Network (Participating) vision service Providers will submit a claim for the Insured. If the Insured receives services from an Out-of-Network (Nonparticipating) vision service Provider, the Insured can file the claim directly to VSP. To submit an Out-of-Network claim:

1. The Insured can visit VSP's Web site at [www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com) and sign on under the "Members & Consumers" section. Click on the "Out of Network Reimbursement" link under "My Forms." Once completed, mail the form to VSP at the address listed below.
2. Make a copy of the itemized billing statement, provide the following information, and mail to the address listed below.
  - a. Insured & Patient Name (first and last)
  - b. Patient Date of Birth
  - c. Date of Service
  - d. Address & Phone Number

VSP  
P.O. Box 997105  
Sacramento, CA 95899

For assistance with claims the Insured can call VSP Customer Service at 1-800-877-7195 Monday through Friday 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. MT.

### How the Insured is Notified

If the Insured receives services from an In-Network Provider (Participating), the Provider will provide a statement explaining the cost of the services. If the Insured receives services from an Out-of-Network Provider (Nonparticipating), VSP will provide a statement of costs to the Insured with a reimbursement check.

## BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS

For general information, please contact your local Blue Cross of Idaho office:

### **Boise Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
Customer Services Department  
3000 East Pine Avenue  
Meridian, ID 83642

### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 7408  
Boise, ID 83707  
(208) 363-8755 (Boise Area)  
1-800-289-7929

### **Lewiston Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
1010 17th Street  
Lewiston, ID 83501

### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 1468  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 746-0531

### **Coeur d'Alene Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
2100 Northwest Blvd., Suite 120  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 666-1495

### **Pocatello Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
275 South 5th Avenue, Suite 150  
Pocatello, ID 83201

### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 2578  
Pocatello, ID 83206  
(208) 232-6206

### **Idaho Falls Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
2116 E 25th St.  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 2287  
Idaho Falls, ID 83403  
(208) 522-8813

### **Twin Falls Office**

Blue Cross of Idaho  
1431 N. Fillmore St., Suite 200  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

### *Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 5025  
Twin Falls, ID 83303  
(208) 733-7258

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Idaho Department of Insurance**

Consumer Affairs  
700 W State Street, 3rd Floor  
PO Box 83720  
Boise ID 83720-0043  
1-800-721-3272 or [www.DOI.Idaho.gov](http://www.DOI.Idaho.gov)

## VISION CARE BENEFITS SECTION

This section specifies the benefits an Insured is entitled to receive for the Covered Services described, subject to the other provisions of this Policy.

### I. Copayment and Limitations on Frequency of Services

The Copayment amount and limitations on frequency of services are shown in the Benefits Outline.

### II. Covered Providers

The following are Covered Providers under this section:

- Optometrist (OD)
- Ophthalmologist (MD)

### III. Procedures for Obtaining Covered Services

- A. An Insured must contact the Vision Care Services Vendor (VCSV) Participating Provider to make an appointment to receive Covered Services. No preauthorization or special benefit form is required. The doctor will verify eligibility and obtain the necessary authorization from the VCSV.
- B. Should the Insured obtain services from a Provider who is not a VCSV Participating Provider, the Insured is responsible for making payment in full to the Provider and will be reimbursed by the VCSV in accordance with the benefits available for Covered Services under this section.

### IV. Covered Services

When rendered by a Covered Provider, benefits are provided for the following services:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Eye Examination</p> <p>B. Frame</p> <p>C. Single Vision Lenses</p> | <p>D. Bifocal Lenses</p> <p>E. Trifocal Lenses</p> <p>F. Contact Lenses in place of eyeglasses</p> |
|--|--|

#### A. Eye Examination

A vision examination regardless of its Medical Necessity, including but not limited to, the following services:

(NOTE: Each test may not be indicated for every patient.)

1. **Intermediate Examination**—brief or limited routine check-up or vision survey.
2. **Vision Analysis**—various tests for prescription Lenses.
3. **Tonometry**—measurement of eye tension for glaucoma.
4. **Biomechanics**—examination of the living eye tissue.
5. **Central and/or Peripheral Field Study**—measurement of visual acuity in the central and/or peripheral field of vision.
6. **Dilation**—allows for a better view inside the eye, i.e., optic nerve blood vessels, etc.

#### B. Prescribed Lenses and Frames

When an eye examination indicates that new Lenses or a new Frame or both are necessary for the proper visual health and welfare of an Insured, they will be supplied, together with such professional services as necessary, which include but are not limited to:

1. Prescribing and ordering proper Lenses.
2. Assisting in the selection of a Frame.
3. Verifying the accuracy of the finished Lenses.
4. Proper fitting and adjustment of the eyeglasses.

The VCSV reserves the right to limit the cost of Frames provided by a Participating Provider. The allowance is published periodically by the VCSV to its Participating Providers and is set at a level to cover the majority of Frames in common use. If an Insured wishes to select a more expensive Frame than allowed in this section, the difference in cost is not the responsibility of the VCSV or Blue Cross of Idaho (BCI).

#### C. Contact Lenses

1. **Medically Necessary Contact Lenses**—Contact Lenses are furnished when the Participating Provider receives prior approval from the VCSV for any of the following:
  - a) Following cataract Surgery.
  - b) To correct extreme visual acuity problems that cannot be corrected with eyeglass Lenses.
  - c) Certain conditions of Anisometropia.
  - d) Keratoconus.

When the Participating Provider receives prior approval for such cases, they are fully covered by the VCSV and are in place of the benefits described for Prescribed Lenses and Frames.

Contact Lenses once furnished as described above can be replaced only upon prior authorization by the VCSV.

2. **Elective Contact Lenses**—if an Insured chooses Contact Lenses from a Participating Provider for reasons other than those mentioned above, benefits are provided as follows: The initial basic examination will be covered in full (as described under Eye Examination) and an allowance will be paid toward a contact lens evaluation fee, fitting costs, and materials in place of the benefits described for Prescribed Lenses and Frames. The allowance amount is shown in the Benefits Outline.
3. For Covered Services rendered by a Provider who is not a Participating Provider, a determination of Medically Necessary versus Elective Contact Lenses will be consistent with Participating Provider services. Reimbursement allowances for Medically Necessary and Elective Contact Lenses include a contact lens evaluation fee, fitting costs, and materials and is in place of all other benefits for materials, including eyeglass Lenses and Frame.

## V. **Additional Amount of Payment Provisions**

- A. The Insured will pay the Copayment, if any, to the Participating Provider for Covered Services and will pay for any additional services received not covered by this Policy. The VCSV will pay the Participating Provider directly in accordance with the agreement between the VCSV and the Participating Provider.

Subject to the applicable Copayment(s), the VCSV shall pay or otherwise secure the discharge of the cost of Covered Services rendered by a Participating Provider. A Participating Provider shall not make an additional charge to an Insured for amounts in excess of the VCSV's payment except for Copayments, noncovered services and amounts above the allowance for elective Contact Lenses.

- B. If Covered Services are rendered by a Provider who is not a VCSV Participating Provider:
  1. The Insured is responsible for paying the Provider in full. The Insured will be reimbursed in accordance with the benefits available, if any, as shown in the Benefits Outline.
  2. The Nonparticipating Provider is not obligated to accept the VCSV's payment as payment in full. The VCSV and Blue Cross of Idaho (BCI) are not responsible for the difference, if any, between the VCSV's payment and the actual charge; any such difference is the Insured's responsibility.
  3. Benefits for Covered Services are subject to the same time limits and Copayments as those described for Covered Services received from a Participating Provider. Covered Services obtained from a Nonparticipating Provider are in place of obtaining services from a Participating Provider.
- C. The amounts shown in the Benefits Outline under Payment for Services Rendered by a Nonparticipating Provider are maximums. The actual amount paid in reimbursement to the Insured is either the amount indicated in the Benefits Outline, the amount actually charged, or the amount usually charged by the Provider of such services to his or her private patients, whichever is less.

## VI. **Exclusions and Limitations**

In addition to any other exclusions and limitations of this Policy, the following exclusions and limitations apply to this particular section and throughout the entire Policy, unless otherwise specified:

- A. **Enrollee's Options**

When an Insured selects any of the following options, the VCSV pays the basic cost of the allowed Lenses, and the Insured is responsible for paying the additional costs for the following options:

1. Blended Lenses.
2. Contact Lenses, except as provided in this section.
3. Oversize Lenses.
4. Progressive multi-focal Lenses.
5. Coating of the lens or Lenses.
6. Laminating of the lens or Lenses.
7. A Frame that costs more than the VCSV's allowance.
8. Cosmetic Lenses.
9. Optional cosmetic processes.
10. UV (ultraviolet) protected Lenses.
11. Polycarbonate Lenses (except for Eligible Dependent Children).

**ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT SECTION  
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES**

**I. Eligibility and Enrollment**

All Eligible Employees will have the opportunity to apply for coverage under this Policy. All applications submitted to Blue Cross of Idaho (BCI) by the Group now or in the future, shall be for Eligible Employees or Eligible Dependents only.

**A. Eligible Employee**

Qualifications for eligibility are shown in the Benefits Outline.

**B. Eligible Dependent**

To qualify as an Eligible Dependent, a person must be and remain one (1) of the following:

1. The Enrollee's spouse under a legally valid marriage.
2. The Enrollee's unmarried natural child, stepchild, legally adopted child, child placed with the Enrollee for adoption, or child for whom the Enrollee or the Enrollee's spouse has court-appointed guardianship or custody. The child must be:
  - a) Under the age of twenty-five (25) and must receive more than one-half (1/2) of his or her financial support from the parent; or
  - b) Medically certified as disabled due to mental handicap or retardation or physical handicap *and* financially dependent upon the Enrollee for support, regardless of age.
3. An Enrollee must notify BCI and/or the Group within thirty (30) days when a dependent no longer qualifies as an Eligible Dependent. Coverage for the former Eligible Dependent will terminate the last day of the month in which the change in eligibility occurred.

**II. Leave of Absence**

- A. Enrollees who subsequently fail to fulfill the twenty (20) hour-per-week employment requirement and who have been enrolled for nine (9) months or more, may retain membership and receive benefits defined in this Policy while on a paid, approved leave of absence for a period not to exceed one (1) year; provided the Group continues to pay not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month for each Enrollee and remits the entire premium due with the payment for the other Enrollees. Coverage for an employee on a paid leave of absence in excess of twelve (12) months will be permitted only on an exception basis approved by Blue Cross of Idaho.
- B. Enrollees who fail to fulfill the twenty (20) hour-per-week employment requirement and who have been enrolled for at least one (1) month may retain membership and receive benefits defined in this Policy while on an unpaid, approved leave of absence for a period not to exceed one (1) year. The monthly premium is the sole responsibility of the Enrollee and must be submitted with the Group payment for the other Enrollees.
- C. An unpaid leave of absence may be granted by the Participating School District, provided it does not exceed twelve (12) months, and that the Enrollee intends to return to employment with the Group at the end of the leave of absence.

**III. Group Contribution**

The Group will pay a uniform amount for each classification of employee; i.e., certified/noncertified, but not less than a rate in proportion to full-time employment for each Enrollee from district funds. The balance of the premium will be payroll-deducted from the Enrollee's wage.

**IV. Miscellaneous Eligibility and Enrollment Provisions**

- A. The Group agrees to collect required Enrollee payments through payroll withholding and be responsible for making the required payments to BCI on or before the first of each month. Unless required by state or federal law or unless agreed to in writing by BCI and the Council, the Group agrees not to offer to its employees any other hospital, medical, dental, vision or surgical coverage that is not provided by or through BCI, including but not limited to, coverage under a fee for service/indemnity plan, managed care organization or other similar program or plan, if such coverage is available to the Group from BCI during the twelve (12) month period from September 1 through

August 31 of each year.

- B.** It is understood that no Policy will be issued or renewed unless eighty-five percent (85%) of all Eligible Employees enroll. Employees who certify enrollment under another employer Health Benefit Plan and for whom no cash-in-lieu payment is made are not included in the eighty-five percent (85%) calculation. Should the total enrollment of Eligible Employees fall below the required eighty-five percent (85%) the Policy will be subject to surcharge or discontinued at the next renewal date.

Existing districts that do not meet this criteria must submit to Blue Cross of Idaho a written plan showing how and when compliance will be accomplished. This plan is subject to approval, rejection or modification by Blue Cross of Idaho.

- C.**
1. For an Eligible Employee to enroll himself or herself and any Eligible Dependents for coverage under this Policy (or for an Enrollee to enroll Eligible Dependents for coverage) the Eligible Employee or Enrollee, as the case may be, must complete a BCI application and submit it and any required premiums to BCI.
  2. Except as provided otherwise in this section, the Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Employee or an Eligible Dependent will be the first day of the month following the month of enrollment.
  3. The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Employee and any Eligible Dependents listed on the Eligible Employee's application is the Group's Policy Date if the application is submitted to BCI by the Group on or before the Policy Date.
- D.** BCI will waive the time period applicable to the Preexisting Condition waiting period (set forth in this Policy's Exclusions and Limitations Section) with respect to particular Covered Services for the period of time an Insured was previously covered by Qualifying Previous Coverage that provided benefits with respect to such Covered Services, provided that the Qualifying Previous Coverage was continuous to a date not more than sixty-three (63) days prior to the Enrollment Date under this Policy. This paragraph does not preclude the application of a probationary period applicable to all new employees under this Policy.
- E.**
1. Except as provided otherwise in subparagraphs E2. and 3. below, the initial enrollment period is thirty (30) days for Eligible Employee and Eligible Dependents. The initial enrollment period begins on the date the Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent first becomes eligible for coverage under this Policy.
  2. An Enrollee's newborn Dependent, including adopted newborn children who are placed with the adoptive Enrollee within sixty (60) days of the adopted child's date of birth, are covered under this Policy from and after the date of birth for sixty (60) days.

In order to continue coverage beyond the sixty (60) days outlined above, the Enrollee must complete an enrollment application and submit the required premium within thirty-one (31) days of the date monthly billing is received by the Group and a notice of premium is provided to the Enrollee by the Group.

When a newborn child is added and the monthly premium changes, a full month's premium is required for the child if his or her date of birth falls on the 1st through the 15th day of the month. No premium for the first month is required if the child's date of birth falls on the 16th through the last day of the month.

The Effective Date of coverage will be the date of birth for a newborn natural child or a newborn child adopted or placed for adoption within sixty (60) days of the child's date of birth.

If the date of adoption or the date of placement for adoption of a child is more than sixty (60) days after the child's date of birth, the Effective Date of coverage will be the date of adoption or the date of placement for adoption. In this Policy, 'child' means an individual who has not attained age eighteen (18) years as of the date of the adoption or placement for adoption.



In this Policy, “placed for adoption” means physical placement in the care of the adoptive Enrollee, or in those circumstances in which such physical placement is prevented due to the medical needs of the child requiring placement in a medical facility, it means when the adoptive Enrollee signs an agreement for adoption of the child and signs an agreement assuming financial responsibility for the child.

The Preexisting Condition waiting period (set forth in this Policy’s Exclusions and Limitations Section) does not apply to a newborn natural child or adopted child who is an Eligible Dependent enrolled within these guidelines.

3. The initial enrollment period is sixty (60) days for an Eligible Dependent who becomes eligible because of marriage. The initial enrollment period begins on the date of such marriage. The Effective Date of coverage will be the first day of the month following the month of enrollment.

**F. Late Enrollee**

If an Eligible Employee or an Eligible Dependent does not enroll during the applicable initial enrollment period described in Paragraph E. of this section, the Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent is a Late Enrollee. A Late Enrollee may enroll only during the next scheduled Open Enrollment Period.

**G. Special Enrollment Periods**

An Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent will not be considered a Late Enrollee if:

1. The Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent meets each of the following:
  - a) The individual was covered under Qualifying Previous Coverage at the time of the initial enrollment period.
  - b) The individual lost coverage under Qualifying Previous Coverage as a result of termination of employment or eligibility, the involuntary termination of the Qualifying Previous Coverage.
  - c) The individual requests enrollment within thirty (30) days after termination of the Qualifying Previous Coverage.
2. The individual is employed by an employer that offers multiple Health Benefit Plans and the individual elects a different plan during an open enrollment period.
3. A court has issued a court order requiring that coverage be provided for an Eligible Dependent by an Enrollee under this Policy, and application for enrollment is made within thirty (30) days after issuance of the court order.
4. The individual first becomes eligible.
5. The Eligible Employee and/or Eligible Dependent become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and coverage under this Policy is requested no later than 60 days after the date the Eligible Employee and/or Eligible Dependent is determined to be eligible for such assistance.
6. Coverage under Medicaid or CHIP for an Eligible Employee and/or Eligible Dependent is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for such coverage, and coverage is requested under this Policy no later than 60 days after the date of termination of such coverage.

- H.** Eligible Employees and their enrolled Eligible Dependents who become eligible for retirement benefits by permanently separating from public employment in accordance with Idaho Code Title 59, Chapter 13 shall be continued on their former group's benefit schedule until eligible for Medicare coverage. At the age of sixty-five 65 or when otherwise eligible for Medicare, the Eligible retired Employee or Eligible Dependent shall be converted to the Statewide School Retiree Program, a Blue Cross of Idaho program that supplements Medicare.

**V. Eligible Employees Changing To Other Participating School Districts**

Membership may be continuous for any Eligible Employee who changes employment to another Participating School District. There will be no waiting period for full benefit eligibility if there is no interruption in coverage.

**VI. Retirement**

If an Enrollee separates from public school employment by retirement in accordance with Idaho Code Title 59, Chapter 13, the Enrollee and/or his or her spouse shall be eligible for coverage under the retiree Policy of the Statewide Schools Group Program only if the Enrollee and/or his or her spouse have been continuously enrolled in the active employee Statewide Schools Group Program for the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the Enrollee's retirement. However, a new employee, eligible for retirement and with less than twelve (12) months of employment, who has elected coverage and has been continuously enrolled since their hire date under this plan, shall also be eligible for coverage under the retiree policy.

**VII. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

- A.** If this Policy provides for family coverage, BCI will comply with a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) according to the provisions of Section 609 of ERISA and any other applicable federal or state laws. A medical child support order is any judgment, decree or order (including approval of a settlement agreement) issued by a court of competent jurisdiction that:
1. Provides for child support with respect to a child of an Enrollee under this Policy or provides for health benefit coverage to such a child, is made pursuant to a state domestic relations law (including a community property law) and relates to benefits under this Policy, or
  2. Enforces a law relating to medical child support described in Section 1908 of the Social Security Act with respect to a group health plan.
- B.** A medical child support order meets the requirements of a QMCSO if such order clearly specifies:
1. The name and the last known mailing address (if any) of the Enrollee and the name and mailing address of each child covered by the order.
  2. A reasonable description of the type of coverage to be provided by this Policy to each such child, or the manner in which such type of coverage is to be determined.
  3. The period to which such order applies.
- C.**
1. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a medical child support order, BCI will notify the party who sent the order and each affected child of the receipt and of the criteria by which BCI determines if the medical child support order is a QMCSO. In addition, BCI will send an application to each affected child. The application must be completed by or on behalf of the affected child and promptly returned to BCI. With respect to a medical child support order, affected children may designate a representative for receipt of copies of notices sent to each of them.
  2. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of a medical child support order and a completed application, BCI will determine if the medical child support order is a QMCSO and will notify the Enrollee, the party who sent the order, and each affected child of such determination.
- D.** BCI will make benefit payments to the respective party for reimbursement of eligible expenses paid by an enrolled affected child or by an enrolled affected child's custodial parent, legal guardian, or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

**ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT SECTION  
RETIREES**

**I. Eligibility And Enrollment**

All Eligible Persons will have the opportunity to apply for coverage under this Policy. All applications submitted to Blue Cross of Idaho by the Group now or in the future, shall be for Eligible Persons or Eligible Dependents only.

**A. Eligible Retiree**

1. Eligible Retiree is defined as: A retired employee who was employed by a Participating School District but who has permanently separated from public school employment in accordance with Idaho Code Title 59, Chapter 13.
2. The date the retiree becomes eligible for membership in the Statewide School Retiree Program is on the first day of retirement in accordance with Idaho Code Title 59, Chapter 13, or the day a school district becomes a Participating School District, whichever is later.
3. A Retiree may, upon written request, defer enrollment in the Statewide School Retiree Program until a future date, thus postponing any draw on the unused sick leave account with PERSI.

During the period of deferment the Retiree must maintain continuous group coverage. The eligibility for Statewide School Retiree Program coverage ends should the School District from which the person retires move coverage for active employees to another insurance carrier.

**B. Eligible Dependent**

To qualify as an Eligible Dependent, a person must be and remain one of the following:

1. The Enrollee's spouse under a legally valid marriage.
2. The Enrollee's unmarried natural child, stepchild, legally adopted child, child placed with the Enrollee for adoption, or child for whom the Enrollee or the Enrollee's spouse has court-appointed guardianship or custody. The child must be:
  - a) Under the age of twenty-five (25) and must receive more than one-half (1/2) of his or her financial support from the parent; or
  - b) Medically certified as disabled due to mental handicap or retardation or physical handicap *and* financially dependent upon the Enrollee for support, regardless of age.
3. An Enrollee must notify BCI and/or the Group within thirty (30) days when a dependent no longer qualifies as an Eligible Dependent. Coverage for the former Eligible Dependent will terminate the last day of the month in which the change in eligibility occurred.

**II. Loss Of Eligibility If A Participating School District Cancels**

If the Participating School District through which the retired Member was last employed cancels its Blue Cross of Idaho coverage and leaves the Statewide School Group Program, the retired Member ceases to be an Eligible Retiree on the effective date of the cancellation.

**III. Payment Of Premium And Effective Date**

**A.** All Eligible Retirees will have the opportunity to apply for coverage. In order to be eligible for retiree benefits, the Eligible Retiree must have continuous coverage from their former group's benefit schedule. All applications submitted to Blue Cross of Idaho now or in the future, must be for Eligible Retirees or Eligible Dependents only.

**B.** The premium will be deducted from the Enrollee's sick leave fund to the extent such funds are available. When the sick leave funds are exhausted, the premium shall be deducted from the Enrollee's pension fund to the extent such funds are available.

If there is a sufficient amount of funds in the Enrollee's sick leave and/or pension fund, the Public Employees Retirement System of Idaho agrees to collect required Enrollee payments through withholding from the fund, be responsible for and make the payment to Blue Cross of Idaho on or

before the first of the month during the term of this Policy. If the Enrollee's monthly pension and/or sick leave fund is less than the required payment, the Enrollee shall be responsible for remitting the entire monthly subscription payment to Blue Cross of Idaho on or before the first of the month during the term of this Policy.

- C. For a person who is an Eligible Employee and who applies for Single, Two-Party or Family Coverage on or before the first day he or she first becomes eligible as provided in item I., the Effective Date is either the Participating School District's Policy Date, or the first day of the month after the person first becomes eligible, whichever is earlier. A Enrollee may not add a Dependent who was not enrolled when the Enrollee was an active employee under the Statewide School Group Program, except as provided for Eligible Dependents under paragraph III.F.
- D.
  1. For an Eligible Person to enroll himself or herself and any Eligible Dependents for coverage under this Policy (or for an Enrollee to enroll Eligible Dependents for coverage under this Policy) the Eligible Person or Enrollee, as the case may be, must complete a Blue Cross of Idaho application and submit it and any required premiums to Blue Cross of Idaho.
  2. Except as provided otherwise in this section, the Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Person or an Eligible Dependent will be the first day of the month following the month of enrollment.
  3. The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Person and any Eligible Dependents listed on the Eligible Person's application is the Group's Policy Date if the application is submitted to Blue Cross of Idaho by the Group on or before the Policy Date.
- E. Eligible Retirees and Eligible Dependents shall be continued on this benefits schedule until eligible for Medicare coverage. When first eligible, Retirees and Eligible Dependents must enroll in Medicare (both Part A and Part B) in order to participate in the Statewide School Retiree Program that supplements Medicare.
  1. Except as stated otherwise in subparagraphs E2. and 3. below, the initial enrollment period is thirty (30) days for Eligible Employees and Eligible Dependents. The initial enrollment period begins on the date the Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent first becomes eligible for coverage under this Policy.
  2. An Enrollee's newborn Dependent, including adopted newborn children who are placed with the adoptive Enrollee within sixty (60) days of the adopted child's date of birth, are covered under this Policy from and after the date of birth for sixty (60) days.

In order to continue coverage beyond the sixty (60) days outlined above, the Enrollee must complete an enrollment application and submit the required premium within thirty-one (31) days of the date monthly billing is received by the Group and a notice of premium is provided to the Enrollee by the Group.

When a newborn child is added and the monthly premium changes, a full month's premium is required for the child if his or her date of birth falls on the 1st through the 15th day of the month. No premium for the first month is required if the child's date of birth falls on the 16th through the last day of the month.

The Effective Date of coverage will be the date of birth for a newborn natural child or a newborn child adopted or placed for adoption within sixty (60) days of the child's date of birth.

If the date of adoption or the date of placement for adoption of a child is more than sixty (60) days after the child's date of birth, the Effective Date of coverage will be the date of adoption or the date of placement for adoption. In this Policy, 'child' means an individual who has not attained age eighteen (18) years as of the date of the adoption or placement for adoption. In this Policy, "placed for adoption" means physical placement in the care of the adoptive Enrollee, or in those circumstances in which such physical placement is prevented due to the medical needs of the child requiring placement in a medical facility, it means when the

adoptive Enrollee signs an agreement for adoption of the child and signs an agreement assuming financial responsibility for the child.

The Preexisting Condition waiting period (set forth in this Policy's Exclusions and Limitations Section) does not apply to a newborn natural child or adopted child who is an Eligible Dependent enrolled within these guidelines.

3. The initial enrollment period is sixty (60) days for an Eligible Dependent who becomes eligible because of marriage. The initial enrollment period begins on the date of such marriage. The Effective Date of coverage is the first day of the month following the month of enrollment.

**F. Late Enrollee**

If an Eligible Dependent does not enroll during the applicable initial enrollment period described in Paragraph D. of this section, the Eligible Dependent is a Late Enrollee. A Late Enrollee may enroll only during the next scheduled Open Enrollment Period.

**G. Special Enrollment Periods**

An Eligible Dependent will not be considered a Late Enrollee if:

1. The Eligible Dependent meets each of the following:
  - a) The individual was covered under Qualifying Previous Coverage at the time of the initial enrollment period;
  - b) The individual lost coverage under Qualifying Previous Coverage as a result of termination of employment or eligibility, the involuntary termination of the Qualifying Previous Coverage; and
  - c) The individual requests enrollment within thirty (30) days after termination of the Qualifying Previous Coverage.
2. The individual is employed by an employer that offers multiple Health Benefit Plans and the individual elects a different plan during an open enrollment period.
3. A court has issued a court order requiring that coverage be provided for an Eligible Dependent by an Enrollee under this Policy, and application for enrollment is made within thirty (30) days after issuance of the court order.
4. The individual first becomes eligible.
5. The Eligible Dependent become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and coverage under this Policy is requested no later than 60 days after the date the Eligible Dependent is determined to be eligible for such assistance.
6. Coverage under Medicaid or CHIP for an Eligible Dependent is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for such coverage, and coverage is requested under this Policy no later than 60 days after the date of termination of such coverage.

**IV. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

**A.** If this Policy provides for family coverage, Blue Cross of Idaho shall comply with a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) according to the provisions of Section 609 of ERISA and any other applicable federal or state laws. A medical child support order is any judgment, decree or order (including approval of a settlement agreement) issued by a court of competent jurisdiction that:

1. Provides for child support with respect to a child of an Enrollee under this Policy or provides for health benefit coverage to such a child, is made pursuant to a state domestic relations law (including a community property law) and relates to benefits under this Policy, or
2. Enforces a law relating to medical child support described in Section 1908 of the Social Security Act with respect to a group health plan.

**B.** A medical child support order meets the requirements of a QMCSO if such order clearly specifies:

1. The name and the last known mailing address (if any) of the Enrollee and the name and mailing address of each child covered by the order;
2. A reasonable description of the type of coverage to be provided by this Policy to each such

- child, or the manner in which such type of coverage is to be determined;
  - 3. The period to which such order applies; and
  - 4. Each group health plan to which such order applies.
- C.**
- 1. Within 15 days of receipt of a medical child support order, Blue Cross of Idaho shall notify the party who sent the order and each affected child of such receipt and of the criteria by which Blue Cross of Idaho determines if the medical child support order is a QMCSO. In addition, Blue Cross of Idaho will send an application to each affected child. The application must be completed by or on behalf of the affected child and promptly returned to Blue Cross of Idaho. Each affected child may designate a representative for receipt of copies of notices sent to each affected child with respect to a medical child support order.
  - 2. Within 30 days after receipt of a medical child support order and a completed application, Blue Cross of Idaho shall determine if the medical child support order is a QMCSO and shall notify the Enrollee, the party who sent the order and each affected child of such determination.
- D.** Blue Cross of Idaho shall make benefit payments to the respective party for reimbursement of eligible expenses paid by an enrolled affected child or by an enrolled affected child's custodial parent, legal guardian or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

## DEFINITIONS SECTION

For reference, most terms defined in this section are capitalized throughout this Policy. Other terms may be defined where they appear in this Policy. All Providers listed in this Policy and in the following section must be licensed and/or registered by the state where the services are rendered, unless exempt by federal law, and must be performing within the scope of license in order for the VCSV to provide benefits. Definitions in this Policy shall control over any other definition or interpretation unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

**Accidental Injury**—an objectively demonstrable impairment of bodily function or damage to part of the body caused by trauma from a sudden, unforeseen external force or object, occurring at a reasonably identifiable time and place, and without an Insured's foresight or expectation, which requires medical attention at the time of the accident. The force may be the result of the injured party's actions, but must not be intentionally self-inflicted unless caused by a medical condition or domestic violence. Contact with an external object must be unexpected and unintentional, or the results of force must be unexpected and sudden.

**Adverse Benefit Determination**—any denial, reduction or termination of, or the failure to provide payment for, a benefit for services or ongoing treatment under this Policy.

**Anisometropia**—a condition of unequal refractive state for the two (2) eyes, one (1) eye requiring a different lens correction than the other.

**Benefit Period**—the specified period of time in which an Insured's benefits for incurred Covered Services accumulate toward annual benefit limits and Out-of-pocket Limits.

**Blended Lenses**—bifocals that do not have a visible dividing line.

**Blue Cross of Idaho Health Service, Inc. (Blue Cross of Idaho or BCI)**—a nonprofit mutual insurance company.

**Coated Lenses**—a substance added to a finished lens on one (1) or both surfaces

**Coinsurance**—the percentage of the Maximum Allowance or the actual charge, whichever is less, an Insured is responsible to pay Out-of-pocket for Covered Services after satisfaction of any applicable Copayments.

**Contact Lenses**—ophthalmic corrective Lenses (either glass or plastic, ground or molded). They must be prescribed by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist to be directly fitted to the Insured's eye.

**Cost Effective**— A requested or provided medical service or supply that is Medically Necessary in order to identify or treat an Insured's health condition, illness or injury and that is:

1. Provided in the most cost-appropriate setting consistent with the Insured's clinical condition and the Covered Provider's expertise. For example, when applied to services that can be provided in either an Inpatient hospital setting or Outpatient hospital setting, the Cost Effective setting will generally be the outpatient setting. When applied to services that can be provided in a hospital setting or in a physician office setting, the Cost Effective setting will generally be the physician office setting.
2. Not more costly than an alternative service or supply, including no treatment, and at least as likely to produce an equivalent result for the Insured's condition, Disease, Illness or injury.

**Copayment**—a designated dollar and/or percentage amount, separate from Coinsurance, that an Insured is financially responsible for and must pay to a Provider at the time certain Covered Services are rendered.

**Council**—The Idaho School District Cooperative Service Council, an organization to whom the Master Group Matrix Contract is issued and through which benefits are selected by Participating School Districts.

**Covered Provider**—a Provider specified in this Policy from whom an Insured must receive Covered Services in order to be eligible to receive benefits.

**Covered Service**—when rendered by a Covered Provider, a service, supply, or procedure specified in this Policy for which benefits will be provided to an Insured.

**Disease**—any alteration in the body or any of its organs or parts that interrupts or disturbs the performance of vital functions, thereby causing or threatening pain, weakness, or dysfunction. A Disease can exist with or without an Insured’s awareness of it, and can be of known or unknown cause(s).

**Effective Date**—the date when coverage for an Insured begins under this Policy.

**Eligible Dependent**—a person eligible for enrollment under an Enrollee’s coverage.

**Eligible Employee**—an employee, sole proprietor or partner of a Group who is entitled to apply as an Enrollee.

**Enrollee**—an Eligible Employee who has enrolled for coverage and has satisfied the requirements of the Eligibility and Enrollment Section.

**Enrollment Date**—the date of enrollment of an Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent under this Policy, or if earlier, the first day of the probationary period for such enrollment.

**Family Coverage**—the enrollment of an Enrollee and two (2) or more Eligible Dependents under this Policy.

**Frame**—a standard eyeglass Frame adequate to hold Lenses.

**Group**— a Participating School District.

**Illness**—a deviation from the healthy and normal condition of any bodily function or tissue. An Illness can exist with or without an Insured’s awareness of it, and can be of known or unknown cause(s).

**In-Network Services**—Covered Services provided by a Participating Provider.

**Insured**—an Enrollee or an enrolled Eligible Dependent covered under this Policy.

**Investigational**—any technology (service, supply, procedure, treatment, drug, device, facility, equipment or biological product), which is in a developmental stage or has not been proven to improve health outcomes such as length of life, quality of life, and functional ability. A technology is considered investigational if, as determined by the VCSV, it fails to meet any one of the following criteria:

- The technology must have final approval from the appropriate government regulatory body. This applies to drugs, biological products, devices, and other products/procedures that must have approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or another federal authority before they can be marketed. Interim approval is not sufficient. The condition for which the technology is approved must be the same as that BCI is evaluating.
- The scientific evidence must permit conclusions concerning the effect of the technology on health outcomes. The evidence should consist of current published medical literature and investigations published in peer-reviewed journals. The quality of the studies and consistency of results will be considered. The evidence should demonstrate that the technology can measure or alter physiological changes related to a Disease, injury, Illness, or condition. In addition, there should be evidence that such measurement or alteration affects health outcomes.
- The technology must improve the net health outcome. The technology’s beneficial effects on health outcomes should outweigh any harmful effects on health outcomes.
- The technology must be as beneficial as any established alternatives.
- The technology must show improvement that is attainable outside the investigational setting. Improvements must be demonstrated when used under the usual conditions of medical practice.

If a technology is determined to be investigational, all services specifically associated with the technology, including but not limited to associated procedures, treatments, supplies, devices, equipment, facilities or drugs will also be considered investigational.



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

**Large Employer**—any person, firm, corporation, partnership or association that is actively engaged in business that, on at least 50% of its working days during the preceding calendar year, employed no less than fifty-one (51) Eligible Employees, the majority of whom were employed within Idaho. In determining the number of Eligible Employees, companies that are affiliated companies, or that are eligible to file a combined tax return for purposes of state taxation, shall be considered one (1) employer.

**Lenses**—ophthalmic corrective Lenses (either glass or plastic, ground or molded). They must be prescribed by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist to improve visual acuity or performance and to be fitted to a Frame. Amounts payable are based on a lens blank not more than sixty-one (61) millimeters in diameter, tinted no darker than the equivalent of Pink #1 or #2 and without photosensitive or anti-reflective properties.

**Maximum Allowance**—for Covered Services under the terms of this Policy, Maximum Allowance is the lesser of the billed charge or the amount established as the highest level of compensation for a Covered Service as established by the VCSV.

**Medically Necessary (or Medical Necessity)**—The Covered Service or supply recommended by the treating Covered Provider to identify or treat an Insured's condition, Disease, Illness or Accidental Injury and which is determined by BCI to be:

1. The most appropriate supply or level of service, considering potential benefit and harm to the Insured.
2. Proven to be effective in improving health outcomes;
  - a. For new treatment, effectiveness is determined by peer reviewed scientific evidence;
  - b. For existing treatment, effectiveness is determined first by peer reviewed scientific evidence, then by professional standards, then by expert opinion.
3. Not primarily for the convenience of the Insured or Covered Provider.
4. Cost Effective for this condition.

The fact that a Covered Provider may prescribe, order, recommend, or approve a service or supply does not, in and of itself, necessarily establish that such service or supply is Medically Necessary under this Policy.

The term Medically Necessary as defined and used in this Policy is strictly limited to the application and interpretation of this Policy, and any determination of whether a service is Medically Necessary hereunder is made solely for the purpose of determining whether services rendered are Covered Services.

**Nonparticipating Provider**—a Provider that has not entered into a written agreement with the VCSV regarding payment for Covered Services rendered to an Insured under this policy.

**Ophthalmologist**—a doctor of medicine (M.D.) who is both a medical doctor and a surgeon. The ophthalmologist is licensed to exam, diagnose and treat disorders and diseases of the eye and visual system of the brain, as well as prescribe corrective lenses (glasses or contacts).

**Optometrist**—a person who is licensed and specializes in optometry to examine, measure and treat certain visual defects by means of corrective lenses or other methods that do not require a license as a physician.

**Orthoptics**—the teaching and training process for improvement of visual perception and coordination of the two (2) eyes for efficient and comfortable binocular vision.

**Out-of-Network Services**—any Covered Services rendered by a Nonparticipating Provider.

**Out-of-Pocket Limit**—the amount of Out-of-pocket expenses incurred during one (1) Benefit Period that an Insured is responsible for paying. Eligible Out-of-pocket expenses include only the Insured's Coinsurance for eligible Covered Services.

**Outpatient**—an Insured who receives services or supplies while not an inpatient.

**Participating School District**—an Idaho school district that has made application for coverage herein and has agreed to comply with all the terms and requirements of this Contract.

**Physician**—a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.) licensed to practice medicine.

**Policy**—this Policy, which includes only the Benefits Outline, Group application, individual enrollment applications, Insured identification cards, any written endorsements, riders, amendments, or any other written agreements between BCI and the Group executed by an authorized officer of BCI.

**Policy Date**—the date specified in this Policy when coverage commences for the Group.

**Post-Service Claim**—any claim for a benefit under this Policy that does not require prior authorization before services are rendered.

**Pre-Service Claim**—any claim for a benefit under this Policy that requires prior authorization before services are rendered.

**Provider**—a person or entity that is licensed, where required, to render Covered Services. For the purposes of this Policy, Providers include only Ophthalmologist and Optometrists

**Retired Person (also referred to as "Retiree")**—a former employee of a Participating School District who has separated from public school employment by retirement in accordance with Idaho Code Title 59, Chapter 13.

**Single Coverage**—the enrollment of only the Enrollee under this Policy.

**Statewide School Group Program**—the insurance program for the group of Participating School Districts who provide benefits for Eligible Employees and Eligible Retirees by selecting benefit options provided in the Master Group Matrix Contract. It includes a Benefit Summary for active employees and Retirees under the age of 65.

**Surgery**—within the scope of a Provider's license, the performance of:

1. Generally accepted operative and cutting procedures.
2. Invasive procedures using specialized instruments.
3. Customary preoperative and postoperative care.

**Tinted Lenses**—Lenses that have an additional substance added to produce constant tint.

**Totally Disabled (or Total Disability)**—as certified in writing by an attending Physician, a condition resulting from Disease, Illness or Accidental Injury causing:

1. An Enrollee's inability to perform the principal duties of the regular employment or occupation for which the Enrollee is or becomes qualified through education, training, or experience; and the Enrollee is not in fact engaged in any work profession, or avocation for fees, gain, or profit; or
2. An enrolled Eligible Dependent to be so disabled and impaired as to be unable to engage in the normal activities of an individual of the same age and gender.

**Two-Party Coverage**—the enrollment of the Enrollee and one (1) Eligible Dependent under this Policy.

**Vision Care Services Vendor (VCSV)**—an entity contracting with BCI to provide Vision Care Services to its Insureds.

## EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS SECTION

The following exclusions and limitations apply to the entire Policy, unless otherwise specifically listed as a Covered Service in this Policy.

### **I. General Exclusions and Limitations**

There are no benefits for services, supplies, drugs or other charges that are:

- A.** Not Medically Necessary.
- B.** In excess of the Maximum Allowance.
- C.** Not prescribed by or upon the direction of a Physician or other professional Provider; or which are furnished by any individuals or facilities other than Physicians, and other Providers.
- D.** Investigational in nature.
- E.** Provided for any condition, Disease, Illness or Accidental Injury to the extent that the Insured is entitled to benefits under occupational coverage, obtained or provided by or through the employer under state or federal Workers' Compensation Acts or under Employer Liability Acts or other laws providing compensation for work-related injuries or conditions. This exclusion applies whether or not the Insured claims such benefits or compensation or recovers losses from a third party.
- F.** Provided or paid for by any federal governmental entity or unit except when payment under this Policy is expressly required by federal law, or provided or paid for by any state or local governmental entity or unit where its charges therefore would vary, or are or would be affected by the existence of coverage under this Policy.
- G.** Provided for any condition, Accidental Injury, Disease or Illness suffered as a result of any act of war or any war, declared or undeclared.
- H.** Furnished by a Provider who is related to the Insured by blood or marriage and who ordinarily dwells in the Insured's household.
- I.** Received from a vision, or medical department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, a mutual benefit association, labor union, trust or similar person or group.
- J.** Rendered prior to the Insured's Effective Date
- K.** For telephone consultations, and all computer or Internet communications; for failure to keep a scheduled visit or appointment; for completion of a claim form; or for personal mileage, transportation, food or lodging expenses or for mileage, transportation, food or lodging expenses billed by a Physician or other Professional Provider.
- L.** For the treatment of injuries sustained while committing a felony, voluntarily taking part in a riot, or while engaging in an illegal act or occupation, unless such injuries are a result of a medical condition or domestic violence.
- M.** For treatment or other health care of any Insured in connection with an Illness, Disease, Accidental Injury or other condition which would otherwise entitle the Insured to Covered Services under this Policy, if and to the extent those benefits are payable to or due the Insured under any medical payments provision, no fault provision, uninsured motorist provision, underinsured motorist provision, or other first party or no fault provision of any automobile, homeowner's, or other similar policy of insurance, contract, or underwriting plan.

In the event Blue Cross of Idaho (BCI) for any reason makes payment for or otherwise provides benefits excluded by the above provisions, it shall succeed to the rights of payment or reimbursement of the compensated Provider, the Insured, and the Insured's heirs and personal representative against

all insurers, underwriters, self-insurers or other such obligors contractually liable or obliged to the Insured, or his or her estate for such services, supplies, drugs or other charges so provided by BCI in connection with such Illness, Disease, Accidental Injury or other condition.

- N. Any services or supplies for which an Insured would have no legal obligation to pay in the absence of coverage under this Policy or any similar coverage; or for which no charge or a different charge is usually made in the absence of insurance coverage.
- O. Provided to a person enrolled as an Eligible Dependent, but who no longer qualifies as an Eligible Dependent due to a change in eligibility status that occurred after enrollment.
- P. Provided outside the United States, which if had been provided in the United States, would not be a Covered Service under this Policy.
- Q. Furnished by a Provider or caregiver that is not listed as a Covered Provider.
- R. For the purchase of Therapy or Service Dogs/Animals and the cost of training/maintaining said animals.
- S. Orthoptics or other vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
- T. Plano Lenses.
- U. Two (2) pair of eyeglasses in place of bifocals.
- V. Replacement of Lenses, Frames or Contact Lenses furnished hereunder that are lost or broken (Lenses, Frames or Contact Lenses are only replaced at the normal intervals when Covered Services are otherwise available).
- W. Medical or surgical treatment of the eye(s).
- X. Any eye examination or any corrective eyewear required by an employer as a condition of employment.
- Y. Low vision aids.
- Z. Solutions and/or cleaning products for eyeglasses or Contact Lenses.

**II. Preexisting Condition Waiting Period**

There are no waiting periods for treatment of preexisting conditions under this Policy.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION

### I. **Entire Policy—Changes**

This Policy, which includes only the Benefits Outline, Group application, individual enrollment applications, Insured identification cards, and any written endorsements, riders, amendments, or other written agreements approved in writing by an authorized Blue Cross of Idaho (BCI) officer, is the entire Policy between the Group and BCI. No agent or representative of BCI, other than a BCI officer, may change this Policy or waive any of its provisions. This Policy supplants and replaces any and all previous oral or written agreements, certificates, contracts, policies or representations, which shall have no further force and effect.

### II. **Records of Insured Eligibility and Changes in Insured Eligibility**

- A. The Group shall furnish all data required by BCI for it to provide coverage of the Group's Insureds under this Policy. In addition, the Group will provide written notification to BCI within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of any changes in an Insured's enrollment and benefit coverage status under this Policy.
- B. A notification by the Group to BCI must be furnished on BCI approved forms, and according to rules and regulations of BCI. The notification must include all information reasonably required by BCI to effect changes, and must be accompanied by payment of applicable premiums.

### III. **Premium Charges And Billings**

- A. Blue Cross of Idaho shall submit an itemized monthly billing to the Group in advance of the premium due date and the Group shall make appropriate adjustments in the billing to reflect the termination of any Eligible Person or the addition of any new Eligible Person, in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.
- B. The payment of the premium for each month is due on the first day of each month.

### IV. **Eligibility Requirements For School Districts Applying For Participation**

- A. Blue Cross of Idaho shall conduct a thorough review of the applying school district's historical claims experience to determine if the district will be accepted into the Statewide Schools Group Program. Blue Cross of Idaho shall make the final decision on acceptability.
- B. If a district is accepted, it will be subject to a surcharge on premium if the district's historical claims experience is greater than the claim experience of the Statewide Schools Group Program pool. Surcharges shall be limited to two years. Blue Cross of Idaho shall determine the surcharge, based on the district's claims experience.
- C. If the district wants to terminate participation sometime in the future, the district must provide at least 60 days advance written notice of termination of participation immediately prior to the Statewide School Group Program annual renewal date of September 1. If the district fails to provide 60 days notice or fails to pay premiums when due, the district shall pay Blue Cross of Idaho \$5,000 plus associated administrative expenses as a penalty for such failure(s). The penalty shall be due within 30 days after the district's termination or premium due date as the case may be.
- D. If a district terminates its participation in the Statewide Schools Group Program, the district cannot reapply for two years. After two years, the district may apply for participation, and unless precluded by law, the district must participate in the Statewide Schools Group Program for at least two years and must accept all rate adjustments and new endorsements during that period.

### V. **Termination or Modification of This Policy**

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection V., the Group or BCI may unilaterally terminate this Policy. BCI may unilaterally modify the terms of this Policy, including but not limited to, benefits, Deductibles, Out-of-pocket Limits, premiums, and other provisions. Unless specified otherwise in this Policy, such termination or modification may be accomplished by giving written notice to the other party at least sixty (60) days in advance of the effective date of the termination or modification.

Except for modifications resulting from statutory and/or regulatory changes affecting benefits, BCI may modify benefits only at the time of the Group's annual renewal of coverage.

If there is a modification and its effective date is not January 1 or the Groups renewal date, all amounts previously credited to an Insured's Deductible, Out-of-pocket Limit or benefit limit during the Benefit Period in which the modification is made will be credited against the Insured's Deductible, Out-of-pocket Limit or benefit limit under this Policy as modified for the remainder of that Benefit Period. If any portion of the Out-of-pocket Limit is increased during the Benefit Period, the additional amount of the Deductible, Copayment and/or Coinsurance must be met for the Insured to satisfy the new Out-of-pocket Limit. If an Insured is admitted for Inpatient Hospital Services and the Out-of-pocket Limit and/or any other contract terms are changed during that admission, the Out-of-pocket Limit and the contract terms in effect on the date of admission will apply to the Inpatient Hospital Services for the entire hospital stay. If any Out-of-pocket Limit is increased during the Benefit Period, benefit payments to an Insured who has already met the previous Out-of-pocket Limit will be reduced until the new Out-of-pocket Limit is satisfied. If an Insured is admitted for Inpatient Hospital Services and any contract terms are changed during that admission, the contract terms in effect on the date of admission will apply to the Inpatient Hospital Services for the entire hospital stay. If a Deductible is increased during a Benefit Period, the additional amount must be satisfied before benefit payments from BCI resume. However, this provision does not obligate BCI to provide benefits beyond the term of this Policy. The Group agrees that it will notify Insureds of any changes in benefits, Deductibles, Out-of-pocket Limits, or premiums, at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such modifications. The Group's subsequent payment of premiums constitutes conclusive documentation that the Group and its Insureds have accepted and agreed to any such modification(s).

- B.** This Policy may be unilaterally terminated by BCI for any of the following:
1. For the Group's nonpayment of the appropriate premiums when due. A payer financial institution's return of or refusal to honor a check or draft constitutes nonpayment of premiums.
  2. For the Group's fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact.
  3. For the Group's failure to maintain the enrollment percentage specified in the Application for Group Coverage. BCI may randomly audit enrollment to insure compliance. Failure to provide information requested in the audit may also result in termination.
  4. For the Group's failure to make the employer contribution specified in the Application for Group Coverage.
  5. If the Group no longer qualifies as a Large Employer under this Policy or any applicable statutes, rules or regulations.
  6. In the case where this Policy is available to the Group only through an association as defined in Idaho Code §41-2202, the membership of the Group in the association (on the basis of which the coverage of this Policy is provided) ceases but only if the coverage is terminated under this paragraph uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor relating to any Insured.
  7. If BCI elects not to renew all of its Health Benefit Plans delivered or issued for delivery to Large Employer in the state of Idaho. In which case, BCI will provide notice to the Group and its Insureds of such nonrenewal at least one hundred eighty (180) days in advance of the date of nonrenewal.
- C.** If the Group fails to pay premiums as agreed in the Eligibility and Enrollment Section, this Policy will terminate without notice at the end of the period for which the last premiums were paid. This Policy does not have a grace period; however, if the Group makes premium payments within thirty (30) days after the due date, BCI will reinstate this Policy as of the due date. No benefits are available during this thirty (30)-day period unless all premiums are properly paid before expiration of the thirty (30)-day period. BCI reserves the right to apply a twelve percent (12%) annualized interest fee on any portion of the balance owed by the Group to BCI that remains unpaid thirty (30) days or more beyond the original due date.

## **VI. Termination or Modification of an Insured's Coverage Under This Policy**

- A. If an Enrollee ceases to be an Eligible Employee or the Group does not remit the required premium, the Enrollee's coverage and the coverage of any and all enrolled Eligible Dependents will terminate on the last day of the last month for which payment was made.
- B. Except as provided in this paragraph, coverage under this Policy will terminate on the date an Insured no longer qualifies as an Insured, as defined in the Eligibility and Enrollment Section. Coverage will not terminate because of age for an Insured who is an unmarried dependent child incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental handicap or retardation or physical handicap, who became so incapable prior to reaching the age limit, and who is chiefly dependent on the Enrollee for support and maintenance, provided the Enrollee, within thirty-one (31) days of when the dependent child reaches the age limit, has submitted to BCI (at the Enrollee's expense) a Physician's certification of such dependent child's incapacity. BCI may require, at reasonable intervals during the two (2) years following when the child reaches the age limit, subsequent proof of the child's continuing disability and dependency. After two (2) years, BCI may require such subsequent proof once each year. Coverage for the dependent child will continue so long as this Policy remains in effect, the child's disability and financial dependency exists, and the child has not exhausted benefits.
- C. Termination or modification of this Policy automatically terminates or modifies all of the Insured's coverage and rights hereunder. It is the responsibility of the Group to notify all of its Insureds of the termination or any modification of this Policy, and BCI's notice to the Group, upon mailing or any other delivery, constitutes complete and conclusive notice to the Insureds.
- D. Except as otherwise provided in this Policy, no benefits are available to an Insured for Covered Services rendered after the date of termination of an Insured's coverage.
- E. If BCI discovers that an Insured has made any misrepresentation, omission, or concealment of fact in obtaining coverage under this Policy which was or would have been material to BCI's acceptance of a risk, extension of coverage, provision of benefits, or payment of any claim, BCI may take action against the Group, including but not limited to increasing the Group's premiums.
- F. Prior to legal finalization of an adoption, the coverage provided in this Policy for a child placed for adoption with an Enrollee continues as it would for a naturally born child of the Enrollee until the first of the following events occurs:
  1. The date the child is removed permanently from placement and the legal obligation terminates, or
  2. The date the Enrollee rescinds, in writing, the agreement of adoption or the agreement assuming financial responsibility.

If one (1) of the foregoing events occurs, coverage terminates on the last day of the month in which such event occurs.
- G. Coverage under this Policy will terminate for an Eligible Dependent on the last day of the month he or she no longer qualifies as an Eligible Dependent due to a change in eligibility status.

## **VII. Benefits After Termination of Coverage**

- A. When this Policy remains in effect but an Insured's coverage terminates for reasons other than those specified in General Provisions IV.E., benefits will be continued:
  1. If the Insured is eligible for and properly elects continuation coverage in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) and any amendments thereto.
 

Most employers who employ twenty (20) or more people on a typical business day are subject to COBRA. If the Group is subject to COBRA, an Insured may be entitled to continuation coverage. Insureds should check with the Group for details.
  2. For Covered Services of an Insured who is being treated as an Inpatient on the day the Insured's coverage terminates, but only until the Insured is discharged, or the end of the Benefit Period in which coverage terminated, or until benefits are exhausted, whichever

occurs first. Benefits for Covered Services are limited to the Inpatient treatment of the condition, Accidental Injury, Disease or Illness causing the Inpatient confinement.

- B.** When the Group or BCI terminates this Policy, benefits will be continued:
1. For Covered Services of an Insured who is being treated as an Inpatient on the day the Insured's coverage terminates, but only until the Insured is discharged, or the end of the Benefit Period in which coverage terminated, or until benefits are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Benefits for Covered Services are limited to the Inpatient treatment of the condition, Accidental Injury, Disease or Illness causing the Inpatient confinement.
  2. For Covered Services directly related to a pregnancy that existed on the date of termination, in accordance with state law and regulations. Such Covered Services are subject to all the terms, limitations, and provisions of this Policy and will be provided for no more than twelve (12) consecutive months following the date coverage terminates or until the conclusion of the pregnancy, or until replacement coverage is in effect according to General Provisions section XXIX. of this Policy, whichever occurs first.
  3. For Covered Services directly related to a Total Disability that existed on the date of termination, in accordance with state law and regulations. Such Covered Services are subject to all the terms, limitations, and provisions of this Policy and will be provided for no more than twelve (12) consecutive months following the date coverage terminates or until the Total Disability ceases, whichever occurs first.

**VIII. Contract Between BCI and the Group—Description of Coverage**

This Policy is a contract between BCI and the Group. BCI will provide the Group with copies of the Policy to give to each Enrollee as a description of coverage, but this Policy shall not be construed as a contract between BCI and any Enrollee. BCI's mailing or other delivery of copies of this Policy to the Group constitutes complete and conclusive issuance and delivery thereof to each Enrollee.

**IX. Applicable Law**

This Policy shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the state of Idaho.

**X. Notice**

Any notice required under this Policy must be in writing. BCI's notices to the Group will be sent to the Group's address as it appears on BCI's records, and mailing or delivery to the Group constitutes complete and conclusive notice to the Insureds. Notice given to BCI must be sent to BCI's address contained in the Group Application. The Group shall give BCI immediate written notice of any change of address for the Group or any of its Insureds. BCI shall give the Group immediate written notice of any change in BCI's address. When BCI is required to give advice or notice, the depositing of such advice or notice with the U.S. Postal Service, regular mail, or the other delivery conclusively constitutes the giving of such advice or notice on the date of such mailing or delivery.

**XI. Benefits to Which Insureds are Entitled**

- A.** Subject to all of the terms of this Policy, an Insured is entitled to benefits for Covered Services in the amounts specified in the benefit sections and/or in the Benefits Outline.
- B.** In the event of an Inpatient Admission that occurs prior to the Group's transfer to BCI and the Effective Date of coverage under this Policy, benefits will be provided only when the Insured receives services that are Covered Services under this Policy. The outgoing carrier has primary responsibility for providing benefits for the Inpatient treatment from the date of admission until the first of the following events occur:
- The Insured is discharged,
  - The Benefit Period under the previous coverage ends, or
  - Until benefits under the outgoing carrier's policy are exhausted.
- BCI will provide benefits for Covered Services incurred following the Effective Date of coverage reduced by the benefits paid by the outgoing carrier.
- C.** Benefits will be provided only if Covered Services are prescribed by, or performed by, or under the direction of a Physician or other Professional Provider.



- D. Benefits for Covered Services specified in this Policy are provided only for Covered Services that are rendered by the Covered Providers specified in the benefits sections of this Policy and that are regularly and customarily included in such Covered Providers' charges.
- E. Covered Services are subject to the availability of Licensed General Hospitals and other Facility Providers and the ability of the employees of such Providers and of available Physicians to provide such services. BCI shall not assume nor have any liability for conditions beyond its control which affect the Insured's ability to obtain Covered Services.

**XII. Notice of Claim**

BCI is not liable under this Policy to provide benefits unless a proper claim is furnished to BCI that shows Covered Services have been rendered to an Insured. A claim must be provided within one (1) year from the date a Covered Service is rendered. The claim must include all the data necessary for BCI to determine benefits.

**XIII. Release and Disclosure of Medical Records and Other Information**

- A. In order to effectively apply the provisions of this Policy, BCI may obtain information from Providers and other entities pertaining to any health related services that the Insured may receive or may have received in the past. BCI may also disclose to Providers and other entities, information obtained from the Insured's transactions such as policy coverage, premiums, payment history and claims data necessary to allow the processing of a claim and for other health care operations. To protect the Insured's privacy, BCI treats all information in a confidential manner. For further information regarding BCI's privacy policies and procedures, the Insured may request a copy of BCI's Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting customer service at the number provided in this Policy.
- B. As a condition of coverage under this Policy, each Insured authorizes Providers to testify at BCI's request as to any information regarding the Insured's medical history, services rendered, and treatment received. Any and all provisions of law or professional ethics forbidding such disclosures or testimony are waived by and in behalf of each Insured.

**XIV. Exclusion of General Damages**

Liability under this Policy for benefits conferred hereunder, including recovery under any claim or breach of this Policy, is limited to the actual benefits for Covered Services as provided herein and shall specifically exclude any claim for general damages, including but not limited to, alleged pain, suffering or mental anguish, or for economic loss, or consequential loss or damages.

**XV. Payment of Benefits**

- A. The Insured authorizes BCI to make payments directly to Providers rendering Covered Services to the Insured for benefits provided under this Policy. Notwithstanding this authorization, BCI reserves and has the right to make such payments directly to the Insured. Except as provided by law, BCI's right to pay an Insured directly is not assignable by an Insured nor can it be waived without BCI's concurrence nor may the right to receive benefits for Covered Services under this Policy be transferred or assigned, either before or after Covered Services are rendered.
- B. Once Covered Services are rendered by a Provider, BCI is not obligated to honor Insured requests not to pay claims submitted by such Provider, and BCI shall have no liability to any person because of its rejection of such request. However, for good cause and in its sole discretion, BCI may nonetheless deny all or any part of any Provider claim.

**XVI. Insured/Provider Relationship**

- A. The choice of a Provider is solely the Insured's.
- B. BCI does not render Covered Services but only makes payment for Covered Services received by Insureds. BCI is not liable for any act or omission or for the level of competence of any Provider, and BCI has no responsibility for a Provider's failure or refusal to render Covered Services to an Insured.
- C. The use or nonuse of an adjective such as Contracting or Noncontracting is not a statement as to the ability of the Provider.

**XVII. Participating Plan**

BCI may, in its sole discretion, make an agreement with any appropriate entity (referred to as a Participating Plan) to provide, in whole or in part, benefits for Covered Services to Insureds, but it shall have no obligation to do so.

**XVIII. Coordination of This Policy's Benefits With Other Benefits**

This Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies when an Insured has health care coverage under more than one (1) Contract. Contract is defined below.

The Order of Benefit Determination Rules govern the order in which each Contract will pay a claim for benefits. The Contract that pays first is called the Primary Contract. The Primary Contract must pay benefits in accordance with its policy terms without regard to the possibility that another Contract may cover some expenses. The Contract that pays after the Primary Contract is the Secondary Contract. The Secondary Contract may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all Contracts does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the total Allowable Expenses.

**A. Definitions**

1. A Contract is any of the following that provides benefits or services for medical or dental care or treatment. If separate Contracts are used to provide coordinated coverage for members of a group, the separate Contracts are considered parts of the same Contract and there is no COB among those separate contracts.
  - a) Contract includes: group and non-group insurance contracts, health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts, Closed Panel Plans or other forms of group or group type coverage (whether insured or uninsured); medical care components of long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; medical benefits under group or individual automobile contracts; and Medicare or any other federal governmental plan, as permitted by law.
  - b) Contract does not include: hospital indemnity coverage or other fixed indemnity coverage; accident only coverage; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefit for non-medical components of long-term care policies; Medicare supplement policies; Medicare or any other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

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

2. This Contract means, in a COB provision, the part of the Contract providing the health care benefits to which the COB provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other Contracts. Any other part of the Contract providing health care benefits is separate from this plan. A Contract may apply one (1) COB provision to certain benefits, such as dental benefits, coordinating only with similar benefits, any may apply under COB provision to coordinate other benefits.
3. The Order of Benefit Determination Rules determine whether This Contract is a Primary Contract or Secondary Contract when the Insured has health care coverage under more than one (1) Contract. When This Contract is primary, it determines payment for its benefits first before those of any other Contract without considering any other Contract's benefits. When This Contract is secondary, it determines its benefits after those of another Contract and may reduce the benefits it pays so that all Contract benefits do not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the total Allowable Expense.
4. Allowable Expense is a health care expense, including Deductibles, Coinsurance and Copayments, that is covered at least in part by any Contract covering the Insured. When a Contract provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any Contract covering the Insured is not an Allowable Expense. In addition, any expense

that a provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a covered person is not an Allowable Expense.

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

- a) The difference between the cost of a semi-private hospital room and a private hospital room is not an Allowable Expense, unless one of the Contracts provides coverage for private hospital room expenses.
  - b) If an Insured is covered by two (2) or more Contracts that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology, or other similar reimbursement methodology, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an Allowable Expense.
  - c) If an Insured is covered by two (2) or more Contracts that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees it not an Allowable Expense.
  - d) If an Insured is covered by one (1) Contract that calculates its benefits or services on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology and another Contract that provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, the Primary Contract's payment arrangement shall be the Allowable Expense for all Contracts. However, if the provider has contracted with the Secondary Contract to provide the benefit or service for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the Primary Contract's payment arrangement and if the provider's contract permits, the negotiated fee or payment shall be the Allowable Expense used by the Secondary Contract to determine its benefits.
  - e) The amount of any benefit reduction by the Primary Contract because a covered person has failed to comply with the Contract provisions is not an Allowable Expense. Examples of these types of Contract provisions include second surgical opinions, pre-certificate of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.
5. Closed Panel Plan is a Contract that provides health care benefits to covered persons primarily in the form of services through a panel of providers that have contracted with or are employed by the Contract, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.
  6. Custodial Parent is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

#### **B. Order Of Benefit Determination Rules**

When an Insured is covered by two (2) or more Contracts, the rules for determining the order of benefit payments are as follows:

1. The Primary Contract pays or provides its benefits according to its terms of coverage and without regard to the benefits of any other Contract.
2.
  - a) Except as provided in Paragraph 2.b) below, a Contract that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this regulation is always primary unless the provisions of both Contracts state that the complying Contract is primary.
  - b) Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage shall be excess to any other parts of the Contract provided

by the Contract holder. Examples of these types of situations are major medical coverages that are superimposed over base plan hospital and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a Closed Panel Plan to provide out-of-network benefits.

3. A Contract may consider the benefits paid or provided by another Contract in calculating payment of its benefits only when it is secondary to that other Contract.
4. Each Contract determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules that apply:
  - a) Non-Dependent or Dependent. The Contract that covers the Insured other than as a dependent, for example as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the Primary Contract and the Contract that covers the Insured as a dependent is the Secondary Contract. However, if the Insured is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law, Medicare is secondary to the Contract covering the Insured as a dependent; and primary to the Contract covering the Insured as other than a dependent (e.g. a retired employee); then the order of benefits between the two Contracts is reversed so that the Contract covering the Insured as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the Secondary Contract and the other Contract is the Primary Contract.
  - b) Dependent Child Covered Under More Than One Contract. Unless there is a court decree stating otherwise, when a dependent child is covered by more than one Contract the order of benefits is determined as follows:
    - (1) For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married: The Contract of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the Primary Contract; or If both parents have the same birthday, the Contract that has covered the parent the longest is the Primary Contract.
    - (2) For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:
      - i. If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage and the Contract of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that Contract is primary. This rule applies to Contract year commencing after the Contract is given notice of the court decree;
      - ii. If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the health care expenses or health care coverage of the dependent child, the provisions of Subparagraph (1) shall determine the order of benefits;
      - iii. If a court decree states both parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the health care expenses or health care coverage, the provisions of Subparagraph (1) above shall determine the order of benefits;
      - iv. If there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:
        1. The Contract covering the Custodial Parent;
        2. The Contract covering the spouse of the Custodial Parent;
        3. The Contract covering the non-Custodial Parent; and then
        4. The Contract covering the spouse of the non-Custodial Parent.

For a dependent child covered under more than one Contract of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the provisions of Subparagraph (1) or (2) above shall determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.

- c) Active Employee or Retired or Laid-off Employee. The Contract that covers an Insured as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired, is the Primary Contract. The Contract covering that same Insured as a retired or laid-off employee is the Secondary Contract. The same would hold true if an Insured is a dependent of an active employee and that same Insured is a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee. If the other Contract does not have this rule, and as a result, the Contracts do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled 4.a) can determine the order of benefits.
- d) COBRA or State Continuation Coverage. If an Insured whose coverage is provided pursuant to COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another Contract, the Contract covering the Insured as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree or covering the Insured as a dependent of an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is the Primary Contract and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the Secondary Contract. If the other Contract does not have this rule, and as a result, the Contracts do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled 4.a) can determine the order of benefits.
- e) Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The Contract that covered the Insured as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber, or retiree longer is the Primary Contract and the Contract that covered the Insured the shorter period of time is the Secondary Contract.
- f) If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the Allowable Expenses shall be shared equally between the Contracts meeting the definition of Contract. In addition, This Contract will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the Primary Contract.

**C. Effect On The Benefits Of This Contract**

- A. When This Contract is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all Contracts during a Contract year are not more than the total Allowable Expenses. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the Secondary Contract will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of other health care coverage and apply that calculated amount to any Allowable Expense under its Contract that is unpaid by the Primary Contract. The Secondary Contract may then reduce its payment by the amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the Primary Contract, the total benefits paid or provided by all Contracts for the claim do not exceed the total Allowable Expenses for that claim. In addition, the Secondary Contract shall credit to its Contract deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.
- B. If a covered person is enrolled in two or more Closed Panel Plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-panel provider, benefits are not payable by one Closed Panel Plan, COB shall not apply between that Contract and other Closed Panel Plans.

**D. Facility Of Payment**

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

**E. Right Of Recovery**

If the amount of the payments made by BCI is more than it should have paid under this COB provision, it may recover the excess from one or more of the Insureds it has paid or for whom it has paid; or any other Insured or

organization that may be responsible for the benefits or services provided for the covered Insured. The “amount of the payments made” includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

**XIX. Benefits for Medicare Eligibles Who are Covered Under This Policy**

- A.** If the Group has twenty (20) or more employees, any Eligible Employee or spouse of an Eligible Employee who becomes or remains an Insured of the Group covered by this Policy after becoming eligible for Medicare (due to reaching age sixty-five (65)) is entitled to receive the benefits of this Policy as primary.
- B.** If the Group has one hundred (100) or more employees or the Group is an organization which includes an employer with one hundred (100) or more employees, any Eligible Employee, spouse of an Eligible Employee or dependent child of an Eligible Employee who becomes or remains an Insured of the Group covered by this Policy after becoming eligible for Medicare due to disability is entitled to receive the benefits of this Policy as primary.
- B.** An Insured eligible for Medicare based solely on end stage renal Disease is entitled to receive the benefits of this Policy as primary for eighteen (18) months only, beginning with the month of Medicare entitlement, if Medicare entitlement is effective before March 1, 1996. If Medicare entitlement is effective on or after March 1, 1996, the Insured is entitled to receive the benefits of this Policy as primary for thirty (30) months only, beginning with the month of Medicare entitlement.
- C.** The Group’s retirees, if covered under this Policy, and Eligible Employees or spouses of Eligible Employees who are not subject to paragraphs A., B. or C. of this provision and who are Medicare eligible, will receive the benefits of this Policy reduced by any benefits available under Medicare. This applies even if the Insured fails to enroll in Medicare or does not claim the benefits available under Medicare.

**XX. Indemnity by the Group and Blue Cross of Idaho**

The Group and BCI agree to defend, indemnify, and hold the other party harmless from and against any claim, demand, expense, loss, damage, cost, judgement, fee, or liability the other party may receive, incur, or sustain that is caused by or arises by reason of any misstatement, misrepresentation, oversight, error, omission, delay, or mistake in providing the other party or any Insured notice or advice of any relevant fact, event, or matter pertinent to claims, benefits, or coverage under this Policy.

**XXI. Incorporated by Reference**

All of the terms, limitations and exclusions of coverage contained in this Policy are incorporated by reference into all sections, endorsements, riders, and amendments and are as effective as if fully expressed in each one unless specifically noted to the contrary.

**XXII. Inquiry and Appeals Procedures**

**A. Informal Inquiry**

For any initial questions concerning a claim, an Insured should call or write BCI’s Customer Services Department. BCI’s phone numbers and addresses are listed on the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) form and in the District Office Locations section of this Policy.

**B. Formal Appeal**

An Insured who wishes to formally appeal a Pre-Service Claim decision by BCI may do so through the following process:

1. A written appeal must be sent to the Appeals and Grievance Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days after receipt of the notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. Urgent claim appeals, and the documents in support of such appeals may be submitted by phone or facsimile. The appeal should set forth the reasons why the Insured contends BCI’s decision was incorrect. Any written comments, documents or other relevant information may be submitted with the appeal.
2. After receipt of the appeal, all facts, including those originally used in making the initial decision and any additional information that is sent or that is otherwise relevant, will be reviewed. For non-urgent claim appeals, BCI will mail a written reply to the Insured within

fifteen (15) days after receipt of the written appeal. Urgent claim appeals will be notified orally within seventy-two (72) hours. If the original decision is upheld, the reply will state the specific reasons for denial and the specific provisions on which the decision is based. Each appeal will be processed as quickly as possible taking into account the medical exigencies of each claim.

3. Furthermore, the Insured or their authorized representative has the right to reasonable access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information that are relevant to the appeal.
4. If the original, non-urgent claim decision is upheld upon reconsideration, the Insured may send an additional written appeal to the Appeals and Grievance Coordinator requesting further review. This appeal must set forth the reasons for requesting additional reconsideration and must be sent within thirty (30) days of BCI's mailing of the initial reconsideration decision. The Appeals and Grievance Coordinator will issue a final decision after consideration of all relevant information. A final decision on the appeal will be made within fifteen (15) days of its receipt.

**C.** An Insured who wishes to formally appeal a Post-Service Claims decision by BCI may do so through the following process:

1. A written appeal must be sent to the Appeals and Grievance Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days after receipt of the notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. This written appeal should set forth the reasons why the Insured contends BCI's decision was incorrect. Any written comments, documents or other relevant information may be submitted with the appeal.
2. After receipt of the written appeal, all facts, including those originally used in making the initial decision and any additional information that is sent or that is otherwise relevant, will be reviewed. BCI shall mail a written reply to the Insured within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written appeal. If the original decision is upheld, the reply will list the specific reasons for denial and the specific provisions on which the decision is based. Each appeal will be processed as quickly as possible.
3. Furthermore, the Insured or their authorized representative has the right to reasonable access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information that are relevant to the appeal.
4. If the original decision is upheld upon reconsideration, the Insured may send an additional written appeal to the Appeals and Grievance Coordinator requesting *further review*. This appeal must set forth the reasons for requesting additional reconsideration and must be sent within sixty (60) days of BCI's mailing of the initial reconsideration decision. The Appeals and Grievance Coordinator will issue a final decision after consideration of all relevant information. A final decision on the appeal will be made within thirty (30) days of its receipt.

**D. External Review**

At BCI's discretion, an additional review is available for Adverse Benefit Determinations based upon medical issues including medical necessity and investigational treatment. An Insured must first exhaust both levels of the formal appeals process before submitting a request for External Review to the Appeals and Grievance Coordinator. A request for External Review must be sent within sixty (60) days of the date of BCI's second formal written appeal decision. External Review will be made by an impartial provider, associated with an independent review organization, who practices in the same or a similar specialty as the one involved in the review. The Independent Review Organization will issue a determination within sixty (60) days of receipt of the request for External Review.

Submission of an appeal for External Review is voluntary and does not affect an Insured's right to file a civil action under section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) following the exhaustion of the formal appeals process, except that the time to file such action shall be tolled while the External Review is pending.

**XXIII. Plan Administrator—COBRA and ERISA**

The Group will notify Blue Cross of Idaho when an Enrollee and/or Eligible Dependent loses group health coverage. The notice must be provided within 30 days unless the loss of coverage is due to divorce, legal separation, or a child's loss of dependent eligibility, in which case notice must be provided within 60 days.

Blue Cross of Idaho will provide all necessary COBRA notices and forms to COBRA qualified beneficiaries in a timely manner. If a qualified beneficiary's completed notice and election form and application are received by Blue Cross of Idaho within the beneficiary's sixty (60) day COBRA election period, Blue Cross of Idaho will enroll the beneficiary as a COBRA participant.

Blue Cross of Idaho will bill a participant directly for the cost of COBRA continuation coverage until the participant ceases to be eligible, is terminated for non-payment of premiums when due, voluntarily terminates coverage, or this Policy is terminated, whichever occurs first.

**XXIV. Reimbursement of Benefits Paid by Mistake**

If BCI mistakenly pays benefits on behalf of an Enrollee or his or her Eligible Dependent(s) that the Enrollee or his or her Eligible Dependent(s) is not entitled to under this Policy, the Enrollee must reimburse the erroneous benefits to BCI.

The reimbursement is due and payable as soon as BCI notifies the Enrollee and requests reimbursement. BCI may also recover such erroneous benefits from any other person or Provider to whom the payments were made. If reimbursement is not made in a timely manner, BCI may reduce benefits or reduce an allowance for benefits as a set-off toward reimbursement.

Even though BCI may elect to continue to provide benefits after mistakenly paying benefits, BCI may still enforce this provision. This provision is in addition to, not instead of, any other remedy BCI may have at law or in equity.

**XXV. Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights of Blue Cross of Idaho**

The benefits of this Policy will be available to an Insured when he or she is injured, suffers harm or incurs loss due to any act, omission, or defective or unreasonably hazardous product or service of another person, firm, corporation or entity (hereinafter referred to as "third party"). To the extent that such benefits for Covered Services are provided or paid for by Blue Cross of Idaho under this Policy or any other Blue Cross of Idaho plan, agreement, certificate, contract or policy, Blue Cross of Idaho shall be subrogated and succeed to the rights of the Insured or, in the event of the Insured's death, to the rights of his or her heirs, estate, and/or personal representative.

As a condition of receiving benefits for Covered Services in such an event, the Insured or his or her personal representative shall furnish Blue Cross of Idaho in writing with the names and addresses of the third party or parties that caused or are responsible, or may have caused or may be responsible for such injury, harm or loss, and all facts and information known to the Insured or his or her personal representative concerning the injury, harm or loss.

Blue Cross of Idaho may at its option elect to enforce either or both of its rights of subrogation and reimbursement.

Subrogation is taking over the Insured's right to receive payments from other parties. The Insured or his or her legal representative will transfer to Blue Cross of Idaho any rights he or she may have to take legal action arising from the injury, harm or loss to recover any sums paid on behalf of the Insured. Thus, Blue Cross of Idaho may initiate litigation at its sole discretion, in the name of the Insured, against any third party or parties. Furthermore, the Insured shall fully cooperate with Blue Cross of Idaho in its investigation, evaluation, litigation and/or collection efforts in connection with the injury, harm or loss and shall do nothing whatsoever to prejudice Blue Cross of Idaho's subrogation rights and efforts. Blue Cross of Idaho will be reimbursed in full for all benefits paid even if the Insured is not made whole or fully compensated by the recovery.

Additionally, Blue Cross of Idaho may at its option elect to enforce its right of reimbursement from the Insured, or his or her legal representative, of any benefits paid from monies recovered as a result of the injury, harm or loss. The Insured shall fully cooperate with Blue Cross of Idaho in its investigation, evaluation, litigation and/or collection efforts in connection with the injury, harm or loss and shall do nothing whatsoever to prejudice Blue Cross of Idaho's reimbursement rights and efforts.

The Insured shall pay Blue Cross of Idaho as the first priority, and Blue Cross of Idaho shall have a constructive trust and an equitable lien on, all amounts from any recovery by suit, settlement or otherwise from



any third party or parties or from any third party's or parties' insurer(s), indemnitor(s) or underwriter(s), to the extent of benefits provided by Blue Cross of Idaho under this Policy, regardless of how the recovery is allocated (*i.e.*, pain and suffering) and whether the recovery makes the Insured whole. Thus, Blue Cross of Idaho will be reimbursed by the Insured, or his or her legal representative, from monies recovered as a result of the injury, harm or loss, for all benefits paid even if the Insured is not made whole or fully compensated by the recovery.

To the extent that Blue Cross of Idaho provides or pays benefits for Covered Services, Blue Cross of Idaho's rights of subrogation and reimbursement extend to any right the Insured has to recover from the Insured's insurer, or under the Insured's "Medical Payments" coverage or any "Uninsured Motorist," "Underinsured Motorist," or other similar coverage provisions, and workers' compensation benefits.

Blue Cross of Idaho shall have the right, at its option, to seek reimbursement from, or enforce its right of subrogation against, the Insured, the Insured's personal representative, a special needs trust, or any trust, person or vehicle that holds any payment or recovery from or on behalf of the Insured including the Insured's attorney.

Blue Cross of Idaho's subrogation and reimbursement rights shall take priority over the Insured's rights both for expenses already incurred and paid by Blue Cross of Idaho for Covered Services, and for benefits to be provided or payments to be made by Blue Cross of Idaho in the future on account of the injury, harm or loss giving rise to Blue Cross of Idaho's subrogation and reimbursement rights. Further, Blue Cross of Idaho's subrogation and reimbursement rights for incurred expenses and/or future expenses yet to be incurred are primary and take precedence over the rights of the Insured, even if there are deficiencies in any recovery or insufficient financial resources available to the third party or parties to totally satisfy all of the claims and judgments of the Insured and Blue Cross of Idaho.

Collections or recoveries made in excess of such incurred Blue Cross of Idaho expenses shall first be allocated to such future Blue Cross of Idaho expenses, and shall constitute a special Deductible applicable to such future benefits and services under this or any subsequent Blue Cross of Idaho policy. Thereafter, Blue Cross of Idaho shall have no obligation to make any further payment or provide any further benefits until the benefits equal to the special Deductible have been incurred, delivered, and paid by the Insured.

#### **XXVI. Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans**

The Group (on behalf of itself and its participants), hereby expressly acknowledges its understanding this Policy constitutes a contract solely between the Group and BCI, which is an independent corporation operating under a license from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans (the "Association"), permitting BCI to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Marks in the state of Idaho, and that BCI is not contracting as the agent of the Association. The Group, on behalf of itself and its participants, further acknowledges and agrees that it has not entered into this Policy based upon representations by any person, entity, or organization other than BCI and that no person, entity, or organization other than BCI shall be held accountable or liable to the Group for any of BCI's obligations to the Group created under this Policy. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of BCI other than those obligations created under other provisions of this Policy.

#### **XXVII. Statements**

In the absence of fraud, all statements made by an applicant, or the policyholder, or by an enrolled person shall be deemed representations and not warranties, and no statement made for the purpose of acquiring insurance shall void such insurance or reduce benefits unless contained in a written instrument signed by the policyholder or the enrolled person.

#### **XXVIII. Membership, Voting, Annual Meeting and Participation**

The Group, as the policyholder, is a member of BCI and is entitled to vote in person or by proxy at the meetings of policyholders. The Group shall designate to BCI in writing the person who has the right to vote in person or by proxy on behalf of the Group. The annual meeting of policyholders of BCI is held on the last Friday of April of each year at 2:00 p.m., at the corporation's registered office, 3000 East Pine Avenue, Meridian, Idaho. This notice shall be sufficient as to notification of such annual meetings. If any dividends are distributed, the policyholders shall share in them according to the articles of incorporation and bylaws of BCI and under the conditions set by the board of directors of BCI.

**XXIX. Replacement Coverage**

If this Policy replaces prior Group coverage within sixty (60) days of the date of termination of prior coverage, BCI shall immediately cover all employees and dependents validly covered under the prior coverage at the date of termination who meet BCI's eligibility requirements and who would otherwise be eligible for coverage under this Policy, regardless of any exclusions or limitations relating to active employment or nonconfinement.

The previous paragraph is subject to all other provisions of Idaho Code Section 41-2215, including BCI's right to deduct from any benefits becoming payable under this Policy the amount of benefits under the prior Group coverage pursuant to an extension of benefits provision for Insureds who are Totally Disabled.

**XXX. Individual Benefits Management**

Individual Benefits Management allows BCI to provide alternative benefits in place of specified Covered Services when alternative benefits allow the Insured to achieve optimum health care in the most cost-effective way.

The decision to allow alternative benefits will be made by BCI in its sole and absolute discretion on a case-by-case basis. BCI may allow alternative benefits in place of specified Covered Services when an Insured, or the Insured's legal guardian and his or her Physician concur in the request for and the advisability of alternative benefits. BCI reserves the right to modify, limit, or cease providing alternative benefits at any time.


A determination to cover alternative benefits for an Insured shall not be deemed to waive, alter, or affect BCI's right to reject any other requests or recommendations for alternative benefits.

**XXXI. Coverage and Benefits Determination**

BCI is vested with authority and discretion to determine eligibility for coverage and whether a claim for benefits is covered under the terms of this Policy, based on all the terms and provisions set forth in this Policy, and also to determine the amount of benefits owed on claims which are covered.

In witness whereof, BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO HEALTH SERVICE, INC., by its duly authorized officer, has executed this Policy.

Blue Cross of Idaho  
Health Service, Inc.  
PO Box 7408  
Boise, ID 83707



Dennis C. Warren  
Vice President  
Account Management

### AMENDMENTS

The following amendment has been made to your Statewide School Group Policy effective October 2010. **Please read it carefully.**

1. The **Dependent Age for Active and Retiree's** shall now read:

**B. Eligible Dependent**


To qualify as an Eligible Dependent, a person must be and remain one (1) of the following:

1. The Enrollee's spouse under a legally valid marriage.
2. The Enrollee's natural child, stepchild, legally adopted child, child placed with the Enrollee for adoption, or child for whom the Enrollee or the Enrollee's spouse has court-appointed guardianship or custody. The child must be:
  - a) Under the age of twenty-six (26); or
  - b) Medically certified as disabled due to mental handicap or retardation or physical handicap *and* financially dependent upon the Enrollee for support, regardless of age.
3. An Enrollee must notify BCI and/or the Group within thirty (30) days when a dependent no longer qualifies as an Eligible Dependent. Coverage for the former Eligible Dependent will terminate the last day of the month in which the change in eligibility occurred.

Except as amended, the Master Group Policy and Enrollee Certificate shall remain unchanged.

In witness whereof, BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO HEALTH SERVICE, INC., by its duly authorized officer, has executed this amendment.

Blue Cross of Idaho  
Health Service, Inc.  
PO Box 7408  
Boise, ID 83707



Dennis C. Warren  
*Vice President*  
Account Management