ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vision Care Option
CareFirst of Maryland, Inc.
doing business as
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
10455 Mill Run Circle
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117-5559

A private not-for-profit health service plan incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

ELECTRONIC CONTRACT ACCURACY DISCLAIMER

CareFirst has provided this evidence of coverage, including any amendments or riders applicable thereto, to the Group in electronic format. Any errors, changes and/or alterations to the electronic data, resulting from the data transfer or caused by any person shall not be binding on CareFirst. Such errors, changes and/or alterations do not create any right to additional coverage or benefits under the Group’s health benefit plan as described in the health benefit plan documents provided to the Group in hard copy format.

_______________________________
Chester E. Burrell
President and Chief Executive Officer
EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

This Evidence of Coverage, including any attachments, amendments and riders, is a part of the Group Contract issued to the Group through which the Subscriber is enrolled for health benefits. In addition, the Group Contract includes other provisions that explain the duties of CareFirst and the Group. The Group's payment and CareFirst's issuance make the Group Contract's terms and provisions binding on CareFirst and the Group.

To the extent that this health care benefits plan is completely or partially self-funded by the Group, CareFirst provides administrative services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to health care benefit claims for the self-insured portion of the Group Contract.

The Group reserves the right to change, modify, or terminate the Plan, in whole or in part.

Members have no benefits after a Plan termination or partial Plan termination affecting them, except with respect to covered events giving rise to benefits and occurring prior to the date of Plan termination or partial Plan termination and except as otherwise expressly provided, in writing, by the Group, or as required by federal, state or local law.

Members should not rely on any oral description of the Plan, because the written terms in the Group’s Plan documents always govern.

Group Name: Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Group Number(s): R62F, R62G, R62H

CareFirst of Maryland, Inc.

Chester E. Burrell
President and Chief Executive Officer
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DEFINITIONS

The Evidence of Coverage uses certain defined terms. When these terms are capitalized, they have the following meaning:

**Allowed Benefit** means:

1. For a Health Care Provider that has contracted with CareFirst, the Allowed Benefit for a Covered Service is the lesser of:
   a. The actual charge; or
   b. The amount CareFirst allows for the service in effect on the date that the service is rendered.

   The benefit is payable to the Health Care Provider and is accepted as payment in full, except for any applicable Member payment amounts, as stated in the Schedule of Benefits.

2. For a Health Care Provider that has not contracted with CareFirst, the Allowed Benefit for a Covered Service will be determined in the same manner as the Allowed Benefit payable to a Health Care Provider that has contracted with CareFirst. The benefit is payable to the Subscriber, or to the Health Care Provider, at the discretion of CareFirst. The Member is responsible for any applicable Member payment amounts, as stated in the Schedule of Benefits, and for the difference between the Allowed Benefit and the Health Care Provider’s actual charge. It is the Member’s responsibility to apply any CareFirst payments to the Health Care Provider’s charges.

**Benefit Period** means the period of time during which Covered Services are eligible for payment. The Benefit Period is: January 1st through December 31st.

**CareFirst** means CareFirst of Maryland, Inc. doing business as CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

**Coinsurance** means the percentage of the Allowed Benefit allocated between CareFirst and the Member whereby CareFirst and the Member share in the payment for Covered Services.

**Convenience Item** means any item that increases physical comfort or convenience without serving a Medically Necessary purpose, e.g. elevators, hoyer/stair lifts, ramps, shower/bath bench, items available without a prescription.

**Cosmetic** means the use of a service or supply which is provided with the primary intent of improving appearance, not restoring bodily function or correcting deformity resulting from disease, trauma, or previous therapeutic intervention, as determined by CareFirst.

**Covered Service** means a Medically Necessary service or supply provided in accordance with the terms of this Evidence of Coverage.

**Deductible** means the dollar amount of Covered Services based on the Allowed Benefit, which must be Incurred before CareFirst will pay for all or part of remaining Covered Services. The Deductible is met when the Member receives Covered Services that are subject to the Deductible and pays for these him/herself.

CFMI/DEF, FS (4/05)
**Dependent** means a Member who is covered under the Evidence of Coverage as the eligible spouse or eligible child.

**Effective Date** means the date on which the Member’s coverage becomes effective. Covered Services rendered on or after the Member’s Effective Date are eligible for coverage.

**Evidence of Coverage** means this agreement, which includes the group application, acceptance and riders and amendments, if any, between the Group and CareFirst. (Also referred to as the Group Contract.)

**Experimental/Investigational** means a service or supply that is in the developmental stage and in the process of human or animal testing. Services or supplies that do not meet all five of the criteria listed below are deemed to be Experimental/Investigational:

1. The Technology* must have final approval from the appropriate government regulatory bodies;
2. The scientific evidence must permit conclusions concerning the effect of the Technology on health outcomes;
3. The Technology must improve the net health outcome;
4. The Technology must be as beneficial as any established alternatives; and,
5. The improvement must be attainable outside the Investigational settings.

*Technology includes drugs, devices, processes, systems, or techniques.

**FDA** means the federal Food and Drug Administration.

**Group** means the Subscriber's employer or other organization to which CareFirst has issued the Group Contract and Evidence of Coverage.

**Group Contract** means the agreement issued by CareFirst to the Group through which the benefits described in this Evidence of Coverage are made available. In addition to the Evidence of Coverage, the Group Contract includes any riders and/or amendments attached to the Group Contract or Evidence of Coverage and signed by an officer of CareFirst.

**Health Care Provider** means a health care practitioner licensed or otherwise authorized by law to provide Covered Services.

**Incurred** means a Member's receipt of a health care service or supply for which a charge is made.

**Lifetime Maximum** means the maximum dollar amount payable toward a Member's claims for Covered Services while the Member is insured under this Group Contract.

**Limiting Age** means the maximum age to which an eligible child may be covered under this Evidence of Coverage as stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

**Medical Director** means a board certified physician who is appointed by CareFirst. The duties of the Medical Director may be delegated to qualified persons.
Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity means health care services or supplies that a Health Care Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, renders to or recommends for, a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms. These health care services or supplies are:

1. In accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice;

2. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for a patient's illness, injury or disease;

3. Not primarily for the convenience of a patient or Health Care Provider; and

4. Not more costly than an alternative service or frequency of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results in the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury, or disease.

For these purposes, "generally accepted standards of medical practice" means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, physician specialty society recommendations and views of Health Care Providers practicing in relevant clinical areas, and any other relevant factors.

Member means an individual who meets all applicable eligibility requirements, is enrolled either as a Subscriber or Dependent, and for whom the Premiums have been received by CareFirst.

Non-Participating or Non-Par Provider means any Health Care Provider that does not contract with CareFirst.

Open Enrollment means a single period of time in each benefit year during which the Group gives eligible individuals the opportunity to change coverage or enroll in coverage.

Over-the-Counter means any item or supply, as determined by CareFirst, that is available for purchase without a prescription, unless otherwise a Covered Service. This includes, but is not limited to, non-prescription eye wear, family planning and contraception products, cosmetics or health and beauty aids, food and nutritional items, support devices, non-medical items, foot care items, first aid and miscellaneous medical supplies (whether disposable or durable), personal hygiene supplies, incontinence supplies, and Over-The-Counter medications and solutions.

Participating Provider or Par Provider means a Health Care Provider who contracts with CareFirst to be paid directly for rendering Covered Services to Members.

Plan means that portion of the Welfare Benefit Plan established by the Group that provides for health care benefits for which CareFirst is the Claims Administrator under this Group Contract.

Premium means the dollar amount the Group and/or Subscriber remits for health care benefits under this Evidence of Coverage.
**Prescription Drug** means a drug, biological or compounded prescription intended for outpatient use that carries the FDA legend “may not be dispensed without a prescription;” and, drugs prescribed for treatments other than those stated in the labeling approved by the FDA, if the drug is recognized for such treatment in standard reference compendia or in the standard medical literature as determined by CareFirst.

**Subscriber** means a Member who is covered under this Evidence of Coverage as an eligible employee or eligible participant of the Group, rather than as a Dependent.

**Type of Coverage** means either Individual coverage, which covers the Subscriber only, or Family Coverage, under which a Subscriber may also enroll his or her Dependents. Some Group Contracts include additional categories of coverage, such as Individual and Adult and Individual and Child. The Types of Coverage available under this Evidence of Coverage are Individual, Individual and Child, Individual and Adult, Family.

**Waiting Period** means the period of time that must pass before an employee or dependent is eligible to enroll under the terms of this Evidence of Coverage.
2.1 **Requirements for Coverage**
The Group is required to administer all requirements for coverage in strict accordance with the terms that have been agreed to and cannot change the requirements for coverage or make an exception unless CareFirst approves them in advance, in writing. To be covered under the Evidence of Coverage, all of the following conditions must be met:

A. The individual must be eligible for coverage either as a Subscriber or, if applicable, as a Dependent pursuant to the terms of the Evidence of Coverage;
B. The individual must elect coverage during certain periods defined in the Evidence of Coverage;
C. The Group must notify CareFirst of the election in accordance with the Group Contract; and,
D. Payments must be made by or on behalf of the Member as required by the Group Contract.

2.2 **Eligibility as a Subscriber**
To enroll as a Subscriber, the individual must meet the eligibility requirements established by the Group. These requirements are stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

2.3 **Eligibility of Subscriber's Spouse**
If the Group has elected to include coverage for the Subscriber's spouse under this Evidence of Coverage (see Eligibility Schedule) then a Subscriber may enroll his or her spouse as a Dependent (spouse is a person of the opposite sex who is married to a Subscriber by a ceremony recognized by the law of the state or jurisdiction in which the Subscriber resides).

2.4 **Eligibility of Children**
If the Group has elected to include coverage for the Subscriber's children under this Evidence of Coverage then a Subscriber may enroll a child as a Dependent as limited below (see Eligibility Schedule). To be eligible, the Dependent child must:

A. Not have reached the Limiting Age for Dependent children as stated in the Eligibility Schedule;
B. Be unmarried; and
C. Be related to the Subscriber, in one of the following ways:

1. The Subscriber’s or spouse’s Dependent child by birth or legal adoption;
2. Under testamentary or court appointed guardianship, other than temporary guardianship of less than 12 months duration, and who resides with, and is the dependent of, the Subscriber or spouse;
3. A Dependent child who is the subject of a Medical Child Support Order or a Qualified Medical Support Order that creates or recognizes the right of the Dependent child to receive benefits under a parent’s health insurance coverage;

4. A grandchild who is in the court-ordered custody, and who resides with, and is the dependent of, the Subscriber or Dependent spouse.

D. Children whose relationship to the Subscriber is not listed above, including, but not limited to grandchildren (except as provided above), foster children or children whose only relationship is one of legal guardianship (except as provided above) are not covered under this Evidence of Coverage, even though the child may live with the Subscriber and be dependent upon him or her for support.

2.5 Limiting Age for Dependent Children.
A. Dependent children are eligible for coverage up to the Limiting Age for non-students, as stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

B. Dependent children may be eligible beyond the Limiting Age if they meet the requirements for Student Dependents, as described below. Coverage will be provided up to the Limiting Age for Student Dependents as stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

1. Student Dependent means a Dependent child who is enrolled and whose time is principally devoted to attending school (meets the requirements for full-time status, or shows evidence that attendance is a full-time endeavor). Student Dependent also means a Dependent child who is enrolled less than full time as a result of a documented disability that prevents the student from maintaining a full-time course load and is maintaining a course load of at least seven (7) credit hours per semester.

2. The Member must provide CareFirst with proof of the Dependent child's student status within 31 days after the Dependent child's coverage would otherwise terminate or within 31 days after the Effective Date of the Dependent child's coverage, whichever is later. CareFirst has the right to verify eligibility status.

C. Coverage for unmarried incapacitated Dependent children/Student Dependents. A Dependent child/Student Dependent covered under this Evidence of Coverage will be eligible for coverage past the Limiting Age if:

1. The Dependent child/Student Dependent is chiefly dependent for support upon the Subscriber or the Subscriber's Dependent spouse; and

2. At the time of reaching the Limiting Age, is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity that started before the Dependent child/Student Dependent attained the Limiting Age.
3. The Subscriber provides CareFirst with proof of the Dependent child’s/Student Dependent’s mental or physical incapacity within 31 days after the Dependent child’s/Student Dependent’s coverage would otherwise terminate. CareFirst has the right to determine whether the child is and continues to qualify as mentally or physically incapacitated.

2.6 Enrollment Opportunities and Effective Dates

Eligible individuals may elect coverage as Subscribers or Dependents, as applicable, only during the following times and under the following conditions. If an individual meets these conditions, his or her enrollment will be treated as timely enrollment. Enrollment at other times will be treated as special enrollment and will be subject to the conditions and limitations stated in Special Enrollment Periods. Disenrollment is not allowed during a Contract Year except as stated in section 2.6.A and as stated in the Termination of Coverage section of the Evidence of Coverage.

A. Open Enrollment Period

Open Enrollment changes will be effective on the Open Enrollment effective date stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

1. During the Open Enrollment period, the Group will provide an opportunity to all eligible persons to enroll in or transfer coverage between CareFirst and all other alternate health care plans available through the Group.

2. In addition, Subscribers already enrolled in CareFirst may change their Type of Coverage (e.g. from Individual to Family Coverage) and/or add eligible Dependents not previously enrolled under their coverage.

B. Newly Eligible Subscriber

A newly eligible individual and his/her Dependents may enroll and will be effective as stated in the Eligibility Schedule. If such individuals do not enroll within this period and do not qualify for special enrollment as described below, they must wait for the Group’s next Open Enrollment period.

C. Special Enrollment Periods

Special enrollment is allowed for certain individuals who lose coverage. Special enrollment is also allowed with respect to certain dependent beneficiaries. Enrollment will be effective as stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

If only the Subscriber is eligible under this Evidence of Coverage and dependents are not eligible to enroll, special enrollment periods for a spouse/Dependent child are not applicable.

a. Special enrollment for certain individuals who lose coverage:

1) CareFirst will permit current employees and dependents to enroll for coverage without regard to the dates on which an individual would otherwise be able to enroll under this Evidence of Coverage.

2) Individuals eligible for special enrollment.
i) When employee loses coverage. A current employee and any dependents (including the employee’s spouse) each are eligible for special enrollment in any benefit package offered by the Group (subject to Group eligibility rules conditioning dependent enrollment on enrollment of the employee) if:

A) The employee and the dependents are otherwise eligible to enroll;

B) When coverage was previously offered, the employee had coverage under any group health plan or health insurance coverage; and

C) The employee satisfies the conditions of paragraph a.3)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this section, and if applicable, paragraph a.3)(iv) of this section.

ii) When dependent loses coverage.

A) A dependent of a current employee (including the employee’s spouse) and the employee each are eligible for special enrollment in any benefit package offered by the Group (subject to Group eligibility rules conditioning dependent enrollment on enrollment of the employee) if:

1) The dependent and the employee are otherwise eligible to enroll;

2) When coverage was previously offered, the dependent had coverage under any group health plan or health insurance coverage; and

3) The dependent satisfies the conditions of paragraph a.3)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this section, and if applicable, paragraph a.3)(iv) of this section.

B) However, CareFirst is not required to enroll any other dependent unless the dependent satisfies the criteria of this paragraph a.2)(ii), or the employee satisfies the criteria of paragraph a.2)(i) of this section.

3) Conditions for special enrollment.

i) Loss of eligibility for coverage. In the case of an employee or dependent who has coverage that is not COBRA continuation coverage, the conditions of this paragraph a)3)(i) are satisfied at the time the coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility (regardless of whether the individual is eligible for or elects COBRA continuation coverage). Loss of eligibility under this paragraph does not include a loss due to the failure of the
employee or dependent to pay premiums on a timely basis or termination of coverage for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact). Loss of eligibility for coverage under this paragraph includes, but is not limited to:

A) Loss of eligibility for coverage as a result of legal separation, divorce, cessation of dependent status (such as attaining the Limiting Age), death of an employee, termination of employment, reduction in the number of hours of employment, and any loss of eligibility for coverage after a period that is measured by any of the foregoing;

B) In the case of coverage offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the individual market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live, or work in a service area, loss of coverage because an individual no longer resides, lives, or works in the service area (whether or not within the choice of the individual);

C) In the case of coverage offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the group market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live, or work in a service area, loss of coverage because an individual no longer resides, lives, or works in the service area (whether or not within the choice of the individual) and no other benefit package is available to the individual;

D) A situation in which an individual incurs a claim that would meet or exceed a lifetime limit on all benefits; and

E) A situation in which a plan no longer offers any benefits to the class of similarly situated individuals that includes that individual.

ii) Termination of employer contributions. In the case of an employee or dependent who has coverage that is not COBRA continuation coverage, the conditions of this paragraph are satisfied at the time employer contributions towards the employee’s or dependent’s coverage terminate. Employer contributions include contributions by any current or former employer that was contributing to coverage for the employee or dependent.

iii) Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage. In the case of an employee or dependent who has coverage that is COBRA continuation coverage, the conditions of this paragraph are satisfied at the time the COBRA continuation coverage is exhausted. For purposes of this paragraph, an individual who
satisfies the conditions for special enrollment of paragraph a)3)ii) of this section, does not enroll, and instead elects and exhausts COBRA continuation coverage satisfies the conditions of this paragraph.

iv) Written statement. The Group or CareFirst may require an employee declining coverage (for the employee or any dependent of the employee) to state in writing whether the coverage is being declined due to other health coverage only if, at or before the time the employee declines coverage, the employee is provided with notice of the requirement to provide the statement (and the consequences of the employee’s failure to provide the statement). If the Group or CareFirst requires such a statement, and an employee does not provide it, the Group and CareFirst are not required to provide special enrollment to the employee or any dependent of the employee under this paragraph. The Group and CareFirst must treat an employee as having satisfied the requirement permitted under this paragraph if the employee provides a written statement that coverage was being declined because the employee or dependent had other coverage; the Group and CareFirst cannot require anything more for the employee to satisfy this requirement to provide a written statement. (For example, the Group and CareFirst cannot require that the statement be notarized.)

b. Special enrollment with respect to certain dependent beneficiaries:

1) Provided the Group provides coverage for dependents, CareFirst will permit the individuals described in paragraph b.2) of this section to enroll for coverage in a benefit package under the terms of the Group’s plan, without regard to the dates on which an individual would otherwise be able to enroll under this Evidence of Coverage.

2) Individuals eligible for special enrollment. An individual is described in this paragraph if the individual is otherwise eligible for coverage in a benefit package under the Group’s plan and if the individual is described in paragraph b.2)i), ii), iii), iv), v), or vi) of this section.

i) Current employee only. A current employee is described in this paragraph if a person becomes a dependent of the individual through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

ii) Spouse of a participant only. An individual is described in this paragraph if either:

A) The individual becomes the spouse of a participant; or

B) The individual is a spouse of a participant and a child becomes a dependent of the participant through birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.
iii) Current employee and spouse. A current employee and an individual who is or becomes a spouse of such an employee, are described in this paragraph if either:

A) The employee and the spouse become married; or

B) The employee and spouse are married and a child becomes a dependent of the employee through birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

iv) Dependent of a participant only. An individual is described in this paragraph if the individual is a dependent of a participant and the individual has become a dependent of the participant through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

v) Current employee and a new dependent. A current employee and an individual who is a dependent of the employee, are described in this paragraph if the individual becomes a dependent of the employee through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

vi) Current employee, spouse, and a new dependent. A current employee, the employee’s spouse, and the employee’s dependent are described in this paragraph if the dependent becomes a dependent of the employee through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

D. Newly Eligible Children

If the Group has elected to include coverage for the Subscriber's children under this Evidence of Coverage then a Subscriber may add a child outside the Open Enrollment period as described below. Other than the categories of children listed below, eligible children can only be added to this coverage during the Group's Open Enrollment period or special enrollment period except as stated under the Medical Child Support Orders section of this Evidence of Coverage. Enrollment will be effective as stated in the Eligibility Schedule.

The benefits applicable:

1. For a newborn child shall be payable from the moment of birth and shall continue for 31 days after the date of birth.

2. For an eligible grandchild shall be payable from the date the grandchild is placed in the court-ordered custody of the Subscriber or Dependent spouse and shall continue for 31 days after that date.

3. For a newly adopted child shall be payable from the date of adoption of the child and shall continue for 31 days after the date of adoption of the child.

Adoption means the earlier of a judicial decree of adoption or, the assumption of custody, pending adoption, of a prospective adoptive child by a prospective adoptive parent.
4. For a minor for whom guardianship is granted by court or testamentary appointment shall be payable from the date of appointment and shall continue for 31 days after the date of court or testamentary appointment.

Coverage beyond 31 days may cost an additional Premium. This occurs when the addition of the child changes the Subscriber's Type of Coverage. When additional Premium is due the Subscriber must notify the Group within 31 days of the Effective Date and the additional Premium must be paid. Coverage will not be provided beyond the 31 days of automatic coverage when written notification enrolling the eligible child is not received within the 31-day period and the additional Premium is not paid.

Where the addition of a child does not change the Subscriber’s Type of Coverage, CareFirst does not require notification within the first 31 days for coverage to continue beyond the 31-day period; however, CareFirst will not be able to properly process claims for the child until notice is given.

Coverage for a newborn child or newly adopted child or grandchild or a minor for whom guardianship is granted by court or testamentary appointment shall consist of coverage for injury or sickness, including the necessary care and treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects and birth abnormalities.

2.7 Eligibility of Individuals Covered Under Prior Continuation Provisions
A. If, at the time the Group Contract is first issued, a person is covered under a federal or state required continuation provision of the Group's prior health insurance plan, the person will be considered eligible for coverage.

B. If, at the time an individual is first eligible for coverage, a person is covered under a federal or state required continuation provision of the persons prior health insurance plan, the person will be considered eligible for coverage.

C. The coverage will otherwise be subject to the eligibility requirements of the Group Contract.

2.8 Clerical or Administrative Error
Clerical or administrative errors by the Group or CareFirst in recording or reporting data will not confer eligibility or coverage upon individuals who are otherwise ineligible under this Evidence of Coverage, nor will such an error make an individual ineligible for coverage.

2.9 Cooperation and Submission of Information
CareFirst may require verification from the Group and/or Subscriber pertaining to the eligibility of a Subscriber or Dependent enrolled hereunder. The Group and/or Subscriber agree to cooperate with and assist CareFirst, including providing CareFirst with reasonable access to Group records upon request.

2.10 Proof of Eligibility
CareFirst retains the right to require proof of relationships or facts to establish eligibility.
3.1 Definitions

A. Medical Child Support Order (MCSO) means an “order” issued in the format prescribed by federal law; and issued by an appropriate child support enforcement agency to enforce the health insurance coverage provisions of a child support order. An “order” means a judgment, decree or a ruling (including approval of a settlement agreement) that:

1. Is issued by a court or administrative child support enforcement agency of any state or the District of Columbia.

2. Creates or recognizes the right of a child to receive benefits under a parent’s health insurance coverage; or establishes a parent’s obligation to pay child support and provide health insurance coverage for a child.

B. Qualified Medical Support Order (QMSO) means a Medical Child Support Order issued under State law, or the laws of the District of Columbia and, when issued to an employer sponsored health plan, one that complies with Section 609(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

3.2 Eligibility and Termination

A. Upon receipt of a MCSO/QMSO, when coverage of the Subscriber's family members is available under the terms of the Subscriber's contract then CareFirst will accept enrollment regardless of enrollment period restrictions. If the Subscriber does not enroll the child then CareFirst will accept enrollment from the non-Subscriber custodial parent; or, the appropriate child support enforcement agency of any State or the District of Columbia. If the Subscriber has not completed an applicable waiting period for coverage the child will not be enrolled until the end of the waiting period.

The Subscriber must be enrolled under this Group Contract in order for the child to be enrolled. If the Subscriber is not enrolled when CareFirst receives the MCSO/QMSO, CareFirst will enroll both the Subscriber and the child, without regard to enrollment period restrictions. The Effective Date will be that stated in the Eligibility Schedule for a newly eligible Subscriber and a newly eligible Dependent child.

B. Enrollment for such a child will not be denied because the child:

1. Was born out of wedlock.

2. Is not claimed as a dependent on the Subscriber's federal tax return.

3. Does not reside with the Subscriber.

4. Is covered under any Medical Assistance or Medicaid program.

C. Termination. Unless coverage is terminated for non-payment of the premium, a covered child subject to a MCSO/QMSO may not be terminated unless written evidence is provided to CareFirst that:
1. The MCSO/QMSO is no longer in effect;

2. The child has been or will be enrolled under other comparable health insurance coverage that will take effect not later than the effective date of the termination of coverage; or,

3. If coverage is provided under an employer sponsored health plan;
   a. The employer has eliminated family member's coverage for all employees;
      or
   b. The employer no longer employs the Subscriber, except if the Subscriber elects continuation under applicable State or federal law the child will continue in this post-employment coverage.

3.3 **Administration**

When the child subject to a MCSO/QMSO does not reside with the Subscriber, CareFirst will:

A. Send the non-insuring custodial parent ID cards, claims forms, the applicable certificate of coverage or member contract and any information needed to obtain benefits;

B. Allow the non-insuring custodial parent or a Health Care Provider of a Covered Service to submit a claim without the approval of the Subscriber;

C. Provide benefits directly to:
   1. The non-insuring parent;
   2. The Health Care Provider of the Covered Services; or
   3. The appropriate child support enforcement agency of any State or the District of Columbia.
TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

4.1 Disenrollment of Individual Members

Coverage of individual Members will terminate on the date stated in the Eligibility Schedule for the following reasons.

A. CareFirst may terminate a Member’s coverage as follows.

1. Nonpayment of charges when due, including Premium contribution that may be required by the Group.

2. The Member no longer meets the conditions of eligibility.

3. Fraudulent use of CareFirst membership card on the part of the Member, the alteration or sale of prescriptions by the Member, or an attempt by the Subscriber to enroll non-eligible persons as Dependents.

B. The Group is required to terminate the Subscriber’s coverage and the coverage of the Dependents if the Subscriber is no longer employed by the Group or the Subscriber no longer meets the Group’s eligibility requirements for coverage.

C. The Group is required to notify the Subscriber if a Member’s coverage is cancelled. If the Group does not notify the Subscriber, this will not continue the Member’s coverage beyond the termination date of coverage. The Member’s coverage will terminate on the termination date set forth in the Eligibility Schedule.

D. Except in the case of a Dependent child enrolled pursuant to a Medical Child Support Order or Qualified Medical Support Order, the Dependents’ coverage will terminate if the Subscriber changes the Type of Coverage to an Individual or other non-family contract.

E. Coverage for Dependents will automatically terminate if they no longer meet the eligibility requirements of the Group Contract because of a change in age, status or relationship to the Subscriber. Coverage of an ineligible Dependent will terminate on the termination date set forth in the Eligibility Schedule.

F. The Subscriber is responsible for notifying CareFirst (through the Group) of any changes in the status of Dependents that affect their eligibility for coverage. These changes include a divorce, the marriage of a Dependent child, or termination of a Student Dependent's status as a full-time student. If the Subscriber does not notify CareFirst of these types of changes and it is later determined that a Dependent was not eligible for coverage, CareFirst has the right to recover these amounts from the Subscriber or from the Dependent, at CareFirst’s option.

G. CareFirst can terminate a Member’s coverage with 31 days prior written notice if CareFirst determines that the Member:
1. Made an intentional misrepresentation of information that is material to the acceptance of the enrollment form. As a Member, you represent that all information contained in your enrollment form is true, correct and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief.

2. The Member or the Member’s representative made fraudulent misstatements related to coverage or benefits.

4.2 **Death of a Subscriber**
In the event of the Subscriber's death, coverage of any Dependents will continue under the Subscriber's enrollment as stated in the Eligibility Schedule under termination of coverage Death of a Subscriber.

4.3 **Effect of Termination**
Except as provided under the Extension of Benefits for Inpatient or Totally Disabled Individuals provision, no benefits will be provided for any services received on or after the date on which the Member’s coverage under this Evidence of Coverage terminates. This includes services received for an injury or illness that occurred before the effective date of termination.

4.4 **Reinstatement**
Coverage will not reinstate automatically under any circumstances.
CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

5.1 Continuation of Eligibility upon Loss of Group Coverage

A. Federal Continuation of Coverage under COBRA

If the Group health benefit Plan provided under this Evidence of Coverage is subject to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 ("COBRA"), as amended from time to time, and a Member's coverage terminates due to a "Qualifying Event" as described under COBRA, continuation of participation in this Group health benefit Plan may be possible. The employer offering this Group health benefit Plan is the Plan Administrator. It is the Plan Administrator's responsibility to notify a Member concerning terms, conditions and rights under COBRA. If a Member has any questions regarding COBRA, the Member should contact the Plan Administrator.

B. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA")

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the Natural Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

If a Member leaves their job to perform military service, the Member has the right to elect to continue their Group coverage including any Dependents for up to 24 months while in the military. Even if continuation of coverage was not elected during the Member’s military service, the Member has the right to be reinstated in their Group coverage when reemployed, without any waiting periods or pre-existing condition exclusions except for service-connected illnesses or injuries. If a Member has any questions regarding USERRA, the Member should contact the Plan Administrator.
COORDINATION OF BENEFITS ("COB")

6.1 Coordination of Benefits ("COB")
A. Applicability

1. This Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies to this CareFirst Plan when a Member has health care coverage under more than one Plan.

2. If this COB provision applies, the Order Of Benefit Determination Rules should be looked at first. Those rules determine whether the benefits of this CareFirst Plan are determined before or after those of another Plan. The benefits of this CareFirst Plan:
   a. Shall not be reduced when, under the order of determination rules, this CareFirst Plan determines its benefits before another Plan; but
   b. May be reduced when, under the order of determination rules, another Plan determines its benefits first. The above reduction is described in the Effect on the Benefits section of this CareFirst Plan Evidence of Coverage.

B. Definitions
For the purpose of this COB section, the following terms are defined. The definitions of other capitalized terms are found in the definitions sections of this Evidence of Coverage.

Allowable Expenses means any health care expense, including deductibles, coinsurance or copayments, that is covered in whole or in part by any of the Plans covering the Member. This means that any expense or portion of an expense that is not covered by any of the Plans is not an Allowable Expense.

CareFirst Plan means this Evidence of Coverage.

Intensive Care Policy means a health insurance policy that provides benefits only when treatment is received in that specifically designated health care facility of a hospital that provides the highest level of care and which is restricted to those patients who are physically, critically ill or injured.

Plan means any health insurance policy, including those of nonprofit health service Plan, and those of commercial group, blanket, and individual policies, any subscriber contracts issued by health maintenance organizations, and any other established programs under which the insured may make a claim. The term Plan includes coverage under a governmental Plan, or coverage required or provided by law. This does not include a State Plan under Medicaid (Title XIX, Grants to States for Medical Assistance Programs, of the United States Social Security Act, as amended from time to time.)
The term Plan does not include:

1. An individually underwritten and issued, guaranteed renewable, specified disease policy;
2. An intensive care policy, which does not provide benefits on an expense incurred basis;
3. Coverage regulated by a motor vehicle reparation law;
4. The first $100 per day of a Hospital indemnity contract; or,
5. An elementary and or secondary school insurance program sponsored by a school or school system.

**Primary Plan Or Secondary Plan** means the order of benefit determination rules state whether this CareFirst Plan is a Primary Plan or Secondary Plan as to another Plan covering the Member.

1. When this CareFirst Plan is a Primary Plan, its benefits are determined before those of the other Plan and without considering the other Plan's benefits.
2. When this CareFirst Plan is a Secondary Plan, its benefits are determined after those of the other Plan and may be reduced because of the other Plan's benefits.
3. When there are more than two Plans covering the Member, this CareFirst Plan may be a Primary Plan as to one of the other Plans, and may be a Secondary Plan as to a different Plan or Plans.

**Specified Disease Policy** means a health insurance policy that provides (1) benefits only for a disease or diseases specified in the policy or for the treatment unique to a specific disease; or (2) additional benefits for a disease or diseases specified in the policy or for treatment unique to a specified disease or diseases.

**C. Order of Determination Rules**

1. **General**
   
   When there is a basis for a claim under this CareFirst Plan and another Plan, this CareFirst Plan is a Secondary Plan which has its benefits determined after those of the other Plan, unless;

   a. The other Plan has rules coordinating benefits with those of this CareFirst Plan; and

   b. Both those rules and this CareFirst Plan's rules require that this CareFirst Plan's benefits be determined before those of the other Plan.
2. **Rules**

This CareFirst Plan determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules which applies:

a. Non-dependent/dependent. The benefits of the Plan which covers the person as an employee, member or subscriber (that is, other than as a dependent) are determined before those of the Plan which covers the person as a dependent; except that if the person is also a Medicare beneficiary, and the result of the rule established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, Medicare is:

   1) Secondary to the Plan covering the person as a dependent, and
   2) Primary to the Plan covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g. retired employee),

   Then the benefits of the Plan covering the person as a dependent are determined before those of the Plan covering the person as other than a dependent.

b. Dependent child covered by more than one Plan. Unless there is a court decree stating otherwise, when this CareFirst Plan and another Plan cover the same child as a dependent, the order of benefits shall be determined as follows:

   1) For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together:

      (a) The benefits of the Plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a year are determined before those of the Plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in the year; but

      (b) If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the Plan that covered one parent longer are determined before those of the Plan that covered the other parent for a shorter period of time.

   This rule described in 1) also shall apply if: (i) a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the dependent child’s health care expenses or health care coverage or (ii) a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the health care expenses or coverage of the dependent child.

   2) For a dependent child whose parents are separated, divorced, or are not living together:
(a) If the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses or health care coverage of the child, and the entity obligated to pay or provide the benefits of the Plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, the benefits of that Plan are determined first. If the parent with responsibility has no health care coverage for the dependent child’s health care expenses, but the parent’s spouse does, that parent’s spouse’s plan is the primary plan. This paragraph does not apply with respect to any claim for services rendered before the entity has that actual knowledge of the terms of the court decree.

(b) If there is no court decree setting out the responsibility for the child’s health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the dependent child are as follows:

(i) The Plan of the parent with custody of the child;

(ii) The Plan of the spouse of the parent with the custody of the child;

(iii) The Plan of the parent not having custody of the child; and then

(iv) The Plan of the spouse of the parent who does not have custody of the child.

(3) For a dependent child covered under more than one plan of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the order of benefits shall be determined, as applicable, under the rules set forth in 1) and 2) of this paragraph as if those individuals where parents of the child.

d. Active/inactive employee. The benefit of a Plan which covers a person as an employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a Plan which covers that person as a laid off or retired employee. The same would hold true if a person is a dependent of a person covered as a retiree and an employee. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.

e. Continuation coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided under the right of continuation pursuant to Federal or State law also is covered under another Plan, the following shall be the order of benefits determination:

1) First, the benefits of a Plan covering the person as an employee, member or Subscriber (or as that person's dependent);
2) Second, the benefits under the continuation coverage.

If the other Plan does not have the rule described above, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.

f. Longer/shorter length of coverage. If none of the above rules determines the order of benefits, the benefits of the Plan that covered an employee, member or subscriber longer are determined before those of the Plan that covered that person for the shorter term.

D. Effect on the Benefits of this CareFirst Plan

1. When this Section Applies

   This section applies when, in accordance with the prior section, order of benefits determination rules, this CareFirst Plan is a Secondary Plan as to one or more other Plans. In that event the benefits of this CareFirst Plan may be reduced under this section. Such other Plan or Plans are referred to as "the other Plans" immediately below.

2. Reduction in this CareFirst Plan’s Benefits

   When this CareFirst Plan is the Secondary Plan, the benefits under this CareFirst Plan may be reduced so that the total benefits that would be payable or provided by all the other Plans do not exceed 100% of the total Allowable Expenses. If the benefits of this CareFirst Plan are reduced, each benefit is reduced in proportion. It is then charged against any applicable benefit limit of this CareFirst Plan.

E. Right To Receive And Release Needed Information

   Certain facts are needed to apply these COB rules. CareFirst has the right to decide which facts it needs. It may get the needed facts from or give them to any other organization or person for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. CareFirst need not tell, or get the consent of, any person to do this. Each person claiming benefits under this CareFirst Plan must give this CareFirst Plan any facts it needs to pay the claim.

F. Facility Of Payment

   A payment made under another Plan may include an amount that should have been paid under this CareFirst Plan. If it does, this CareFirst Plan 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 CareFirst Plan. This CareFirst Plan 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.

G. Right Of Recovery

   If the amount of the payments made by this CareFirst Plan is more that it should have paid under this COB provision, it may recover the excess from one or more of:
1. The persons it has paid or for whom it has paid,
2. Insurance companies, or,
3. Other organizations.

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

6.2 **Employer or Governmental Benefits**
Coverage under this Evidence of Coverage does not include the cost of services or payment for services for any illness, injury or condition for which, or as a result of which, a Benefit (as defined below) is provided or is required to be provided either:

A. Under any federal, state, county or municipal workers' compensation or employer's liability law or other similar program; or

B. From any federal, state, county or municipal or other government agency, including, in the case of service-connected disabilities, the Veterans Administration, to the extent that benefits are payable by the federal, state, county or municipal or other government agency, but excluding Medicare benefits and Medicaid benefits.

Benefit as used in this provision includes a payment or any other benefit, including amounts received in settlement of a claim for Benefits.
VISION CARE BENEFITS
DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES

The services described herein are eligible for coverage under this Evidence of Coverage. CareFirst will provide the benefits described in the Schedule of Benefits for Medically Necessary Covered Services Incurred by a Member, including any extension of benefits for which the Member is eligible. It is important to refer to the Schedule of Benefits to determine the percentage of the Allowed Benefit that CareFirst will pay and any specific limits on the number of services that will be covered. The Schedule of Benefits also lists important information about Deductibles, Out-of-Pocket Maximums and other features that affect Member coverage, including the annual Deductible, specific benefit limitations and, if applicable, the Lifetime Maximum.

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SECTION B – VISION CARE BENEFITS
SECTION C – EXCLUSIONS
SECTION D – EXTENSION OF BENEFITS
SECTION E – SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

SECTION A – HOW THE PLAN WORKS

This health care benefits plan offers a choice of Health Care Providers. Payment depends on the Health Care Provider chosen, as explained below in Choosing a Provider. Other factors that may affect payment are found in Coordination of Benefits (“COB”); Subrogation and Exclusions.

Medical Necessity
CareFirst will pay a benefit for Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider only when Medically Necessary as determined by CareFirst. Benefits are subject to all of the terms, conditions, and maximums, if applicable, as stated in this Evidence of Coverage.

Choosing a Provider

Member/Health Care Provider Relationship

1. The Member has the exclusive right to choose a Health Care Provider. Whether a Health Care Provider is a Participating Provider or not relates only to method of payment, and does not imply that any Health Care Provider is more or less qualified than another.

2. CareFirst makes payment for Covered Services, but does not provide these services. CareFirst is not liable for any act or omission of any Health Care Provider.

Participating Providers

1. Claims will be submitted directly to CareFirst by the Health Care Provider.

2. CareFirst will pay benefits directly to the Health Care Provider.

3. The Member is responsible for any applicable Deductible and Coinsurance or Copayment and balance due after CareFirst’s payment unless otherwise stated.
Non-Participating Providers

1. Claims may be submitted directly to CareFirst or its designee by the Health Care Provider, or the Member may need to submit the claim. In either case, it is the responsibility of the Member to make sure that proofs of loss are filed on time.

2. All benefits for Covered Services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider will be payable to the Subscriber, or to the Health Care Provider, at the discretion of CareFirst.

3. In the case of a Dependent child enrolled pursuant to a Medical Child Support Order or a Qualified Medical Support Order, payment will be paid directly to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the noninsuring parent if proof is provided that such parent has paid the Health Care Provider.

4. The Member is responsible for the difference between CareFirst’s payment and the Non-Participating Provider’s charge.

Notice of Claim
A Member may request a claim form by writing or calling CareFirst. CareFirst does not require written notice of a claim.

Claim Forms
CareFirst provides claim forms for filing proof of loss. If CareFirst does not provide the claim forms within 15 days after notice of claim is received, the Member is considered to have complied with the requirements of this Evidence of Coverage as to proof of loss if the Member submits, within the time fixed in this Evidence of Coverage for filing proof of loss, written proof of the occurrence, character, and extent of the loss for which the claim is made.

Proofs of Loss
In order to receive benefits for services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider, a Member must submit written proof of loss to CareFirst or its designee within the deadlines described below.

Claims for Vision Care Benefits must be submitted within twelve (12) months following the dates services were rendered.

A Member’s failure to furnish the proof of loss within the time required does not invalidate or reduce a claim if it was not reasonably possible to submit the proof within the required time, if the proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible, and except in the absence of legal capacity of the member, not later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

CareFirst will honor claims submitted for Covered Services by any agency of the federal, state or local government that has the statutory authority to submit claims beyond the time limits established under this Evidence of Coverage. These claims must be submitted to CareFirst before the filing deadline established by the applicable statute on claims forms that provide all of the information CareFirst deems necessary to process the claim. CareFirst provides forms for this purpose.

Time of Payment of Claims
Benefits payable under this Evidence of Coverage will be paid not more than 30 days after receipt of written proof of loss.
Claim Payments Made in Error
If CareFirst makes a claim payment to or on behalf of a Member in error, the Member is required to repay CareFirst the amount that was paid in error. If the Member has not repaid the full amount owed CareFirst and CareFirst makes a subsequent benefit payment, CareFirst may subtract the amount owed CareFirst from the subsequent payment.

Assignment of Benefits
A Member may not assign his or her right to receive benefits or benefit payments under this Evidence of Coverage to another person or entity except for routine assignment of benefit payments to Participating Providers rendering Covered Services.

Certificates
Unless CareFirst makes delivery directly to the Subscriber, CareFirst will provide the Group, for delivery to each Subscriber, a statement that summarizes the essential features of the coverage of the Subscriber and that indicates to whom benefits are payable. Only one statement will be issued for each family unit.

Notices
Notices to Members required under the Evidence of Coverage shall be in writing directed to the Subscriber's last known address. It is the Subscriber's responsibility to notify the Group, and the Group’s responsibility to notify CareFirst of an address change.

Privacy Statement
CareFirst shall comply with state, federal and local laws pertaining to the dissemination or distribution of non-public personally identifiable medical or health-related data. In that regard, CareFirst will not provide to the plan sponsor named herein or unauthorized third parties any personally identifiable medical information without the prior written authorization of the patient or parent/guardian of the patient or as otherwise permitted by law.
SECTION B – VISION CARE BENEFITS

Benefits are available for:

1. A vision exam which may include:
   a. Case history;
   b. External exam of eye and adnexa;
   c. Ophthalmoscopic exams;
   d. Determination of refractive status;
   e. Binocular balance test;
   f. Tonometry test for glaucoma;
   g. Gross visual fields;
   h. Color vision test;
   i. Summary finding;
   j. Recommendations, including prescription of corrective lenses.

2. A second vision exam within 60 days of an optometrist's exam, when an optometrist suspects a problem and refers a Member to an ophthalmologist.

3. Prescribed frames and lenses or contact lenses including directly related Health Care Provider services such as:
   a. Measurement of face and interpupillary distance;
   b. Quality assurance;
   c. Reasonable aftercare to fit, adjust, and maintain comfort and effectiveness;
   d. Help in choosing frames.

4. One pair of frames.

5. One pair of prescription lenses:
   a. Single or multi vision;
   b. Tinted no darker than Tint #2.
6. One pair of prescription contact lenses, or multiple pairs of prescription contact lenses if the Member selects disposable contact lenses.
   a. When Medically Necessary as a result of cataract surgery; or when visual acuity of at least 20/70 in the better eye can be obtained only by use of contact lenses.
   b. At the election of the Member (in place of frames and lenses).

SECTION C – EXCLUSIONS

Note: these exclusions are in addition to the exclusions in the attached Evidence of Coverage.

Benefits are not provided for:

1. Diagnostic services, except as may be necessary for a vision exam.
2. Medical care or surgery.
3. Prescription Drugs, except as may be necessary for a vision exam.
4. Orthoptics, vision training, and low vision aids.
5. Except as otherwise provided, vision care services for Cosmetic use.
6. Replacement, within the same Benefit Period, of frames, lenses or contact lenses that were lost or broken.
7. Sunglasses.
8. Non-prescription glasses, sunglasses or contact lenses.

SECTION D – EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

During an extension period under this Evidence of Coverage, Premium may not be charged.

Benefits will cease as of 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the Subscriber's termination date.

If a Member has ordered lenses and frames or contact lenses before the date coverage terminates, CareFirst will provide coverage for the lenses and frames or contact lenses if received within 30 days after the date of the order.

This extension of benefits will not apply if:

1. Coverage is terminated for non-payment of the required Premium by the Member; or
2. Coverage is terminated for fraud or material misrepresentation by the Member; or
3. The member obtained uninterrupted and comparable coverage under a succeeding vision plan that is less than the cost to the Member of the extended benefit.

CFMI/VISION (4/05)
SECTION E – SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

CareFirst pays only for Covered Services. The Member pays for services, supplies or care which are not covered. The Member pays any applicable Deductible, and Coinsurance or Copayment and balance due after CareFirst’s payment unless otherwise stated. Services that are not listed herein, or are listed in Exclusions, are not Covered Services.

When determining the benefits a Member may receive, CareFirst considers all provisions of this Evidence of Coverage, its medical policies, and its operating procedures.

Unless otherwise stated for a particular Covered Service:

**Benefit Period**
The Benefit Period is 12 months from the first Covered Service. Benefits are limited to once per Benefit Period.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Service</th>
<th>CareFirst Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision Exam</td>
<td>100% of Allowed Benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Member payment is zero when the exam is provided by a Par Provider; otherwise, the Member payment is the balance after CareFirst’s payment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Service</th>
<th>CareFirst Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frames</td>
<td>$ 45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Member payment is zero when frames are chosen from a Par Provider’s display of selected frames; otherwise, the Member payment is the balance after CareFirst’s payment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Service</th>
<th>CareFirst Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Member payment is zero for glass single vision, bifocal (Kryptoc and flat top) and trifocal lenses when the lenses are provided by a Par Provider; otherwise, the Member payment is the balance after CareFirst’s payment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single vision</td>
<td>$ 52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifocal</td>
<td>$ 82.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifocal</td>
<td>$ 101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double bifocal</td>
<td>$ 100.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract (aphakic)</td>
<td>$ 181.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Service</th>
<th>CareFirst Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Lenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medically Necessary</td>
<td>$ 352.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single vision elective contact lenses (in place of frames and lenses)</td>
<td>$ 97.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifocal elective contact lenses (in place of frames and lenses)</td>
<td>$ 127.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CFMI/VISION (4/05)
EXCLUSIONS

This section lists services or conditions for which benefits are not available under this Evidence of Coverage.

CareFirst will not provide a benefit for:

- Any service, supply or item that is not Medically Necessary. Although a service may be listed as covered, benefits will be provided only if the service is Medically Necessary as determined by CareFirst.

- Services that are Experimental/Investigational or not in accordance with accepted medical standards in effect at the time the service in question is rendered, as determined by CareFirst.

- Services or supplies received at no charge to a Member in any federal hospital, or through any federal, state or local governmental agency or department, or not the legal obligation of the Member, or where the charge is made only to insured persons.

This exclusion does not apply to:

1. Medicaid;

2. Benefits provided in any state, county, or municipal hospital in or out of the state of Maryland;

3. Care received in a Veteran’s hospital unless the care is rendered for a condition that is a result of a Member’s military service.

- Services that are not specifically shown in this Evidence of Coverage as a Covered Service or that do not meet all other conditions and criteria for coverage, as determined by CareFirst. Provision of services, even if Medically Necessary, by a Participating Provider does not, by itself, entitle a Member to benefits if the services are excluded or do not otherwise meet the conditions and criteria for coverage.

- Cosmetic services.

- Treatment rendered by a Health Care Provider who is the Member's parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, brother, great grandparent, great grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew or resides in the Member’s home.

- All non-prescription drugs, medications, biologicals, and Over-the-Counter disposable supplies, routinely obtained and self-administered by the Member, except as stated in the Description of Covered Services.

- Services furnished as a result of a referral prohibited by law.

- Non-medical, Health Care Provider services, including, but not limited to:

  1. Telephone consultations, charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit, completion of forms, copying charges or other administrative services provided by the Health Care Provider or his/her staff.
2. Administrative fees charges by a Health Care Provider to a Member to retain the Health Care Provider’s medical practices services, e.g., “concierge fees” or boutique medical practice membership fees. Benefits under this Evidence of Coverage are limited to Covered Services rendered to a Member by a Health Care Provider.

- Services related to an excluded service (even if those services or supplies would otherwise be Covered Services).

- Separate billings for health care services or supplies furnished by an employee of a Health Care Provider which are normally included in the Health Care Provider’s charges and billed for by them.

- Services that are non-medical in nature, including, but not limited to personal hygiene, Cosmetic and convenience items, including, but not limited to, air conditioners, humidifiers, exercise equipment, elevators or ramps.

- Personal comfort items.

- Services performed or prescribed by or under the direction of a person who is not a Health Care Provider.

- Services performed or prescribed by or under the direction of a person who is acting beyond his/her scope of practice.

- Services provided through a dental or medical department of an employer; a mutual benefit association, a labor union, a trust, or a similar entity.

- Services rendered or available under any Worker's Compensation or occupational disease, or employer's liability law, or any other similar law, even if a Member fails to claim benefits. Exclusions to these laws exist for partnerships, sole proprietorships and officers of closed corporations. If a Member is exempt from the above laws, the benefits of this Evidence of Coverage will be provided for Covered Services.

- Services provided or available through an agent of a school system in response to the requirements of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and Amendments, or any similar state or federal legislation mandating direct services to disabled students within the educational system, even when such services are of the nature that they are Covered Services when provided outside the educational domain.

- Illnesses resulting from an act of war.

- Charges used to satisfy a Member's dental care, Prescription Drug, or vision care benefits Deductible, if applicable, or balances from any such programs.

- Medical or surgical treatment of myopia or hyperopia. Coverage is not provided for radial keratotomy and any other forms of refractive keratoplasty, or any complications.
**ELIGIBILITY SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBILITY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following persons are eligible for benefits under this Evidence of Coverage:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>A full-time wage-earning employee; who works at least 30 hours per week on a regular (not seasonal or temporary) basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An employee eligible for the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as stated therein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A retiree under the terms of the Group’s retirement program, as amended from time to time who was covered as a wage-earning employee before retirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE</strong>: A wage earning employee is a person who is compensated by the Group for work/services performed in accordance with applicable federal and state wage and hour laws, which compensation is reported to the Internal Revenue Service by Form W-2 and the Department of Business and Economic Development by Form DEED/AU-16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>Coverage for a spouse is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Partner</td>
<td>Coverage for a Domestic Partner is not available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent Children</td>
<td>Coverage for Dependent children is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage for children of a Domestic Partner is not available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals covered under prior continuation provision:</td>
<td>Coverage for a person whose coverage was being continued under a continuation provision of the Group’s prior health insurance plan is available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage for a person whose coverage was being continued under a continuation provision of the Subscriber’s prior health insurance plan is available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting Age for Dependent children</td>
<td>Up to age 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Limiting Age is not applicable to unmarried incapacitated Dependent children/incapacitated Student Dependents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting Age for Student Dependent</td>
<td>Up to age 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### EFFECTIVE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Enrollment</th>
<th>The Group’s Contract Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newly eligible Subscriber</td>
<td>A Subscriber who is not enrolled when CareFirst receives a Qualified Medical Support Order is eligible for coverage effective on the date specified in the Medical Child Support Order. If a Section 125 Plan, within 31 days after any event which, in the judgment of the Plan Administrator qualifies as a status change or other allowable change under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code (family status changes) a new Subscriber is eligible for coverage effective the first of the month following acceptance of the enrollment form by CareFirst. The date defined by the Group. The date defined by the Group is: the enrollment period defined by the Group during which a Subscriber must apply for coverage under this Evidence of Coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFECTIVE DATES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dependents of a newly eligible Subscriber</strong></td>
<td>If a Section 125 Plan, within 31 days after any event which, in the judgment of the Plan Administrator qualifies as a status change or other allowable change under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code (family status changes) Dependents of a new Subscriber are eligible for coverage effective the first of the month following acceptance of the enrollment form by CareFirst. The date defined by the Group. The date defined by the Group is: the enrollment period defined by the Group during which Dependents of a Subscriber must apply for coverage under this Evidence of Coverage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CFMI/ELIG SCHED (4/05)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EFFECTIVE DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newly eligible spouse                                                       The date of marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly eligible Dependent child                                               Newly born Dependent child: the date of birth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted Dependent child: the date of adoption, which is the earlier of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date a judicial decree of adoption is signed; or the assumption of custody,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pending adoption, of a prospective adoptive child by a prospective adoptive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testamentary or court appointed guardianship of a Dependent child: the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date of appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent child who is the subject of a Medical Child Support Order or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Medical Support Order that creates or recognizes the right of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent child to receive benefits under a parent’s health insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coverage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Child Support Order: the date specified in the Medical Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Medical Support Order: the date specified in the Medical Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A grandchild who is in the court-ordered custody, and who resides with,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and is the dependent of, the Subscriber or spouse: the date of placement of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a grandchild in the court-order custody of the Subscriber or spouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals whose coverage was being continued under the Group’s prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health insurance plan                                                        The Group’s Contract Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependents of the individual being continued under the individual’s prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health insurance plan                                                        An individual will be effective as stated above for a Dependent of a Newly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eligible Subscriber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CFMI/ELIG SCHED (4/05)
## SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS

<p>| Special enrollment for certain individuals who lose coverage | The employee must notify the Group, and the Group must notify CareFirst no later than 30 days after the exhaustion of the other coverage described or termination of the other coverage as a result of the loss of eligibility for the other coverage described or following the termination of employer contributions toward that other coverage. However, in the case of loss of eligibility for coverage due to the operation of a lifetime limit on all benefits, the Group and CareFirst will allow the employee a period of at least 30 days after a claim is denied due to the operation of a lifetime limit on all benefits. A new Subscriber and/or his/her Dependents is effective on the first of the month following acceptance of the enrollment form by CareFirst. |
| Special enrollment for certain dependent beneficiaries | The employee must notify the Group, and the Group must notify CareFirst during the 31-day special enrollment period beginning on the date of the marriage, birth, or adoption or placement for adoption. A new Subscriber and/or his/her Dependents is effective as follows: In the case of marriage: the date of marriage. In the case of a newly born child: the date of birth. In the case of an adopted child: the date of adoption, which is the earlier of the date a judicial decree of adoption is signed; or the assumption of custody, pending adoption, of a prospective adoptive child by a prospective adoptive parent. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERMINATION OF COVERAGE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber no longer eligible</td>
<td>A Subscriber and his/her Dependents will remain covered until the end of the month the Subscriber’s eligibility ceases under the terms of the Evidence of Coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent child</td>
<td>A Dependent child will remain covered until the end of the calendar year when eligibility ceases under the terms of the Evidence of Coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent child who is a Student Dependent</td>
<td>Coverage for a Student Dependent will terminate upon the earlier of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. The end of the month in which full-time student status ends; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. The end of the calendar year in which the Student Dependent reaches the Limiting Age for a Student Dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent spouse no longer eligible</td>
<td>A Dependent spouse will remain covered until the end of the month when eligibility ceases under the terms of the Evidence of Coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonpayment of charges</td>
<td>Coverage will terminate on the date stated in CareFirst’s written notice of termination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraudulent use of CareFirst membership card on the part of the Member, the alteration or sale of prescriptions by the Member, or an attempt by the Subscriber to enroll non-eligible persons as Dependents</td>
<td>Coverage will terminate on the date stated in CareFirst’s written notice of termination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber changes the Type of Coverage to an Individual or other non-family contract (except in the case of a Dependent child enrolled pursuant to a court or administrative order or Qualified Medical Support Order)</td>
<td>Coverage will terminate at the end of the month the Subscriber changes the Type of Coverage to an Individual or other non-family contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of a Subscriber</td>
<td>Coverage of any Dependents will terminate at the end of the month in which the Subscriber dies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLAIMS PROCEDURES

A. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The Plan’s Claims Procedures were developed in accordance with section 503 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA or the Act), 29 U.S.C. 1133, 1135, which sets forth minimum requirements for employee benefit plan procedures pertaining to Claims For Benefits by Members (hereinafter referred to as Claimants). Except as otherwise specifically provided, these requirements apply to every employee benefit plan described in section 4(a) and not exempted under section 4(b) of the Act. Additionally, because CareFirst must maintain uniformity in its processes, any group health plan not subject to ERISA agrees to follow these same procedures. Notwithstanding this provision, nothing herein shall be construed to mean or imply that a non-ERISA Group health plan has deemed itself subject to ERISA.

B. CLAIMS PROCEDURES

These procedures govern the filing of benefit claims, Notification of benefit determinations, and appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations (hereinafter collectively referred to as Claims Procedures) for Claimants.

These Claims Procedures do not preclude an authorized representative of a Claimant from acting on behalf of such Claimant in pursuing a benefit claim or appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination. Nevertheless, the Plan has established reasonable procedures for determining whether an individual has been authorized to act on behalf of a Claimant, provided that, in the case of a Claim Involving Urgent Care, a Health Care Professional, with knowledge of a Claimant's medical condition shall be permitted to act as the authorized representative of the Claimant.

These Claims Procedures contain administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that benefit claim determinations are made in accordance with governing Plan documents and, where appropriate, Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to similarly situated Claimants.
C. CLAIMS PROCEDURES COMPLIANCE

1. Failure to follow Pre-Service Claims Procedures. In the case of a failure by a Claimant or an authorized representative of a Claimant to follow the Plan’s procedures for filing a Pre-Service Claim the Claimant or representative shall be notified of the failure and the proper procedures to be followed in filing a Claim For Benefits. This Notification shall be provided to the Claimant or authorized representative, as appropriate, as soon as possible, but not later than 5 days (24 hours in the case of a failure to file a Claim Involving Urgent Care) following the failure. Notification may be oral, unless written Notification is requested by the Claimant or authorized representative.

The above shall apply only in the case of a failure that:

   a. Is a communication by a Claimant or an authorized representative of a Claimant that is received by the person or organizational unit designated by the Plan or Plan Designee that handles benefit matters; and

   b. Is a communication that names a specific Claimant; a specific medical condition or symptom; and a specific treatment, service, or product for which approval is requested.

2. Civil Action. A Claimant is not required to file more than the appeals process described herein prior to bringing a civil action under ERISA.

D. CLAIM FOR BENEFITS

A Claim For Benefits is a request for a Plan benefit or benefits made by a Claimant in accordance with a Plan’s reasonable procedure for filing benefit claims. A Claim For Benefits includes any Pre-Service Claims and any Post-Service Claims.

E. TIMING OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION

1. In general. Except as provided in item E.2., if a claim is wholly or partially denied, the Claimant shall be notified in accordance with item F. herein, of the Adverse Benefit Determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 90 days after receipt of the claim by the Plan or the Plan’s Designee, unless it is determined that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the claim. If it is determined that an extension of time for processing is required, written Notice of the extension shall be furnished to the Claimant prior to the termination of the initial 90-day period. In no event shall such extension exceed a period of 90 days from the end of such initial period. The extension Notice shall indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the benefit determination will be rendered.

2. The Claimant shall be notified of the determination in accordance with the following, as appropriate.
a. Urgent care claims. In the case of a Claim Involving Urgent Care, the Claimant shall be notified of the benefit determination (whether adverse or not) as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the claim unless the Claimant fails to provide sufficient information to determine whether, or to what extent, benefits are covered or payable under the Plan. In the case of such a failure, the Claimant shall be notified as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim, of the specific information necessary to complete the claim. The Claimant shall be afforded a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the circumstances, but not less than 48 hours, to provide the specified information. Notification of any Adverse Benefit Determination pursuant to this paragraph shall be made in accordance with item F. herein. The Claimant shall be notified of the benefit determination as soon as possible, but in no case later than 48 hours after the earlier of:

1) Receipt of the specified information, or

2) The end of the period afforded the Claimant to provide the specified additional information.

b. Concurrent care decisions. If an ongoing course of treatment has been approved to be provided over a period of time or number of treatments:

1) Any reduction or termination of such course of treatment (other than by Plan amendment or termination) before the end of such period of time or number of treatments shall constitute an Adverse Benefit Determination. The Claimant shall be notified in accordance with item F. herein, of the Adverse Benefit Determination at a time sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the Claimant to appeal and obtain a determination on review of that Adverse Benefit Determination before the benefit is reduced or terminated.

2) Any request by a Claimant to extend the course of treatment beyond the period of time or number of treatments that is a Claim Involving Urgent Care shall be decided as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies. The Claimant shall be notified of the benefit determination, whether adverse or not, within 24 hours after receipt of the claim, provided that any such claim is made at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments. Notification of any Adverse Benefit Determination concerning a request to extend the course of treatment, whether involving urgent care or not, shall be made in accordance with item F. herein, and appeal shall be governed by item H.2.a., H.2.b., or H.2.c., herein as appropriate.

c. Other claims. In the case of a claim that is not an urgent care claim or a concurrent care decision the Claimant shall be notified of the benefit determination in accordance with the below “Pre-Service Claims” or “Post-Service Claims,” as appropriate.
1) Pre-Service Claims. In the case of a Pre-Service Claim, the Claimant shall be notified of the benefit determination (whether adverse or not) within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 15 days after receipt of the claim. This period may be extended one time for up to 15 days, provided that the Plan or the Plan’s Designee both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond its control and notifies the Claimant, prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which a decision is expected to be rendered. If such an extension is necessary due to a failure of the Claimant to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the Notice of extension shall specifically describe the required information, and the Claimant shall be afforded at least 45 days from receipt of the Notice within which to provide the specified information. Notification of any Adverse Benefit Determination pursuant to this paragraph shall be made in accordance with item F. herein.

2) Post-Service Claims. In the case of a Post-Service Claim, the Claimant shall be notified, in accordance with item F. herein, of the Adverse Benefit Determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the claim. This period may be extended one time for up to 15 days, provided that the Plan or the Plan’s Designee both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond its control and notifies the Claimant, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which a decision is expected to be rendered. If such an extension is necessary due to a failure of the Claimant to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the Notice of extension shall specifically describe the required information, and the Claimant shall be afforded at least 45 days from receipt of the Notice within which to provide the specified information.

d. Calculating time periods. For purposes of item E. herein the period of time within which a benefit determination is required to be made shall begin at the time a claim is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination accompanies the filing. In the event that a period of time is extended as permitted pursuant to item E.2.c. above due to a Claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the benefit determination shall be tolled from the date on which the Notification of the extension is sent to the Claimant until the date on which the Claimant responds to the request for additional information.

F. MANNER AND CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION

1. Except in the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination concerning a Claim Involving Urgent Care, the Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall provide a Claimant with written or electronic Notification of any Adverse Benefit Determination. The Notification shall set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the Claimant:

a. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;
b. Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination is based;

c. A description of any additional material or information necessary for the
Claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or
information is necessary;

d. A description of the Plan’s review procedures and the time limits applicable to
such procedures, including a statement of the Claimant's right to bring a civil
action under section 502(a) of the Act following an Adverse Benefit
Determination on review;

e. In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination:

1) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied
upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule,
guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion; or a statement that such a
rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in
making the adverse determination and that a copy of such rule, guideline,
protocol, or other criterion will be provided free of charge to the Claimant
upon request; or

2) If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on a Medical Necessity or
experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an
explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination,
applying the terms of the Plan to the Claimant's medical circumstances,
or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon
request.

f. In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination by the Plan or the Plan’s Designee
concerning a Claim Involving Urgent Care, a description of the expedited review
process applicable to such claims.

2. In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination by the Plan or the Plan’s Designee
concerning a Claim Involving Urgent Care, the information described above may be
provided to the Claimant orally within the time frame prescribed in item E.2.a. herein,
provided that a written or electronic Notification in accordance with item F.1. of this section
is furnished to the Claimant not later than 3 days after the oral Notification.

G. APPEAL OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS

1. To appeal a denied claim, a written request and any supporting record of medical
documentation must be submitted to the address on the reverse side of your membership
card within 180 days of the Adverse Benefit Determination.

2. a. A Claimant has the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records,
and other information relating to the Claim For Benefits;

b. A Claimant shall be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access
to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information Relevant to the
Claimant's Claim For Benefits;
c. The Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the Claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

3. In addition to the requirements of paragraphs G.2.a. through c. herein, the following apply:

   a. The Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall provide for a review that does not afford deference to the initial Adverse Benefit Determination and will be conducted by an appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the Adverse Benefit Determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of such individual;

   b. In deciding an appeal of any Adverse Benefit Determination that is based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a particular treatment, drug, or other item is experimental, investigational, or not Medically Necessary or appropriate, the appropriate named fiduciary shall consult with a Health Care Professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;

   c. Upon request, the Plan or the Plan’s Designee will identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with a Claimant's Adverse Benefit Determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination;

   d. Health Care Professionals engaged for purposes of a consultation under item G.3.b. herein shall be individuals who were neither consulted in connection with the Adverse Benefit Determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor subordinates of any such individuals; and

   e. In the case of a Claim Involving Urgent Care, a request for an expedited appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination may be submitted orally or in writing by the Claimant; and the Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall transmit within 72 hours of receipt of the expedited request for appeal its benefit determination. The determination may be made by telephone, facsimile, or other available similarly expeditious method.

H. TIMING OF NOTIFICATION OF DETERMINATION OF APPEAL

1. In general. Except as provided in item H.2., a Claimant shall be Notified in accordance with item I. herein of the benefit determination on review within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 60 days after receipt of the Claimant's request for review, unless it is determined that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the claim. If it is determined that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the Claimant prior to the termination of the initial 60-day period. In no event shall such extension exceed a period of 60 days from the end of the initial period. The extension Notice shall indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the Plan or the Plan’s Designee expects to render the determination on review.
2. The Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall notify a Claimant of its benefit determination on review in accordance with the following, as appropriate.

   a. Urgent care claims. In the case of a Claim Involving Urgent Care, the Claimant shall be Notified, in accordance with item I. herein, of the benefit determination on review as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the Claimant's request for review of an Adverse Benefit Determination.

   b. Pre-service claims. In the case of a Pre-Service Claim, the Claimant shall be Notified, in accordance with item I. herein, of the benefit determination on review within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances. Such Notification shall be provided not later than 30 days after receipt of the Claimant's request for review of an Adverse Benefit Determination.

   c. Post-service claims. In the case of a Post-Service Claim, the Claimant shall be Notified, in accordance with item I. herein, of the benefit determination on review within a reasonable period of time. Such Notification shall be provided not later than 60 days after receipt of the Claimant's request for review of an Adverse Benefit Determination.

3. Calculating time periods. For purposes of item H. herein, the period of time within which a benefit determination on review shall be made begins at the time an appeal is received by the Plan or the Plan’s Designee, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination on review accompanies the filing. In the event that a period of time is extended as permitted pursuant to item I.1. herein due to a Claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the benefit determination on review shall be tolled from the date on which the Notification of the extension is sent to the Claimant until the date on which the Claimant responds to the request for additional information.

4. In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination on review, upon request, the Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall provide such access to, and copies of Relevant documents, records, and other information described in items I.3., I.4., and I.5. herein as is appropriate.

I. MANNER AND CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION OF APPEAL

The Plan or the Plan’s Designee shall provide a Claimant with written or electronic Notification of its benefit determination on review. In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination, the Notification shall set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the Claimant:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;

2. Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the benefit determination is based;

3. A statement that the Claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information Relevant to the Claimant's Claim For Benefits;
4. A statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the Plan and the Claimant's right to obtain the information about such procedures, and a statement of the Claimant's right to bring an action under section 502(a) of the Act; and

5. a. If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion; or a statement that such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of the rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge to the Claimant upon request;

b. If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on a Medical Necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the Claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request; and

c. Other information may be available regarding dispute resolutions through your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and or your State insurance regulatory agency.

J. DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms whenever such terms are used in these Claims Procedures.

1. **Claim Involving Urgent Care** is any claim for medical care or treatment with respect to which the application of the time periods for making non-urgent care determinations:

   a. Could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Claimant or the ability of the Claimant to regain maximum function, or,

   b. In the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the Claimant's medical condition, would subject the Claimant to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.

Whether a claim is a Claim Involving Urgent Care is to be determined by an individual acting on behalf of the Plan applying the judgment of a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine; however, any claim that a physician with knowledge of the Claimant's medical condition determines is a Claim Involving Urgent Care for purposes of these Claims Procedures.

2. **Pre-Service Claim** means any claim for a benefit with respect to which the terms of the Plan condition receipt of the benefit, in whole or in part, on approval of the benefit in advance of obtaining medical care.

3. **Post-Service Claim** means any claim for a benefit that is not a Pre-Service Claim.
4. **Adverse Benefit Determination** means any of the following: a denial, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit, including any such denial, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a determination of a Claimant’s eligibility to participate in a Plan, and including, a denial, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit resulting from the application of any utilization review, as well as a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not Medically Necessary or appropriate.

5. **Notice** or **Notification** means the delivery or furnishing of information to an individual in a manner appropriate with respect to material required to be furnished or made available to an individual.

6. **Group Health Plan** means an employee welfare benefit plan within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Act to the extent that such plan provides "medical care" within the meaning of section 733(a) of the Act.

7. **Health Care Professional** means a physician or other Health Care Professional licensed, accredited, or certified to perform specified health services consistent with State law.

8. **Relevant**. A document, record, or other information shall be considered Relevant to a Claimant's claim if such document, record, or other information:
   a. Was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
   b. Was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the benefit determination, without regard to whether such document, record, or other information was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
   c. Demonstrates compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards required pursuant to these Claims Procedures in making the benefit determination; or
   d. Constitutes a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied treatment option or benefit for the Claimant's diagnosis, without regard to whether such advice or statement was relied upon in making the benefit determination.

9. **Plan** means that portion of the Group Health Plan established by the Sponsor that provides for health care benefits for which CareFirst is the claims administrator under this Contract.

10. **Plan Designee**, for purposes of these Claims Procedures, means CareFirst.
When you have questions about your benefits, feel free to call or write any of our local CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield offices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office</th>
<th>Main Office - Customer Service Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAREFIRST OF MARYLAND, INC.</td>
<td>CAREFIRST OF MARYLAND, INC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doing business as</td>
<td>doing business as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield</td>
<td>CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10455 Mill Run Circle</td>
<td>10802 Red Run Boulevard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owings Mills, Maryland 21117-5559</td>
<td>Owings Mills, Maryland 21117-5559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151 West Street</td>
<td>301-724-1313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite 101</td>
<td>81 Baltimore Street, Suite 608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis, Maryland 21401</td>
<td>Cumberland, Maryland 21502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>301-245-4215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td>410-822-1850</td>
<td>301-663-3138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 Bay Street, Suite 401</td>
<td>110 Baughman’s Lane, Suite 180</td>
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<td>Frederick, Maryland 21702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hagerstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>301-733-5995</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>182-184 Eastern Boulevard North</td>
<td>224 Phillip Morris Drive, Suite 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagerstown, Maryland 21740-5843</td>
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