

**US Student Abroad
PLAN
BLANKET STUDENT ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE**

PLAN NO. (###-##) ("the Plan")

Participating Organization or Institution: Global Citizen Association

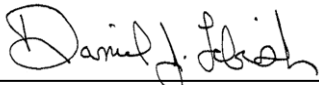
Participating Organization's or Institution's Effective Date: August 1, 2007

Eligible Participant: See Identification Card Issued to Participant

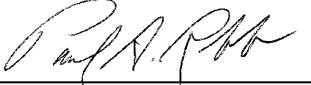
Coverage Start Date: See Identification Card Issued to Participant

This Plan refers to an Eligible Participant as a "Covered Person," The Plan will be administered on behalf of the Insurer by the "Administrator" Worldwide Insurance Services, Inc., aka "HTH Worldwide".

This Plan replaces all plans previously issued to the Eligible Participant as evidence of coverage under the Plan.



President



Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1	SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS – Eligible Classes	Page 2
	SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS – TABLE 1	Page 2
	SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS – TABLE 2 Coverage A – Medical Benefits	Page 2
	SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS – TABLE 3 Coverage A – Medical Expense Benefits	Page 3
SECTION 2	DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES – Coverage A – Medical Expenses	Page 3
SECTION 3	DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES – Coverage B – Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit	Page 4
SECTION 4	DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES – Coverage C – Repatriation of Remains Benefit	Page 4
SECTION 5	DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES – Coverage D – Medical Evacuation Benefit	Page 5
SECTION 6	DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES – Coverage E – Bedside Visit Benefit	Page 5
SECTION 7	PRE-EXISTING CONDITION LIMITATION	Page 5
SECTION 8	GENERAL PLAN EXCLUSIONS	Page 5
SECTION 9	DEFINITIONS	Page 6
SECTION 10	EXTENSION OF BENEFITS	Page 9
SECTION 11	EXCESS COVERAGE	Page 9
SECTION 12	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PERIOD OF COVERAGE	Page 9
SECTION 13	PREMIUM	Page 10
SECTION 14	CLAIM PROVISIONS	Page 10
SECTION 15	GENERAL PROVISIONS	Page 11

**SECTION 1
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS
ELIGIBLE CLASSES**

The Classes eligible for coverages available under the Plan are shown below.

 X Class I: Citizens of the United States who are enrolled as full-time students and who are temporarily engaged in educational activities outside of the United States

All benefits and limits are stated per Covered Person

SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS - TABLE 1

	Limits – Eligible Participant
COVERAGE A – MEDICAL EXPENSES	
Lifetime Maximum Benefit	\$250,000
Plan Year Maximum Benefits	\$100,000
Maximum Benefit per Injury or Sicknesses	\$100,000
Basic Medical Expense Benefit per Injury or Sickness	Up to \$10,000 Maximum: 100% of Reasonable Expenses after Deductible
Supplemental Major Medical Expense Benefit (SMM) per Injury or Sickness	After Basic Medical Expense Benefit Maximum has been paid, 80% of Reasonable Expenses up to an additional \$90,000 Maximum
Pregnancy coverage	Reasonable Expenses up to Maximum per Plan Year
Deductible	\$50 per Injury or Sickness
Benefit Period	After the Covered Person's effective date, until coverage terminated under the Plan whichever is less.
COVERAGE B – ACCIDENTAL, DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT	Maximum Benefit: Principal Sum up to \$10,000
COVERAGE C – REPATRIATION OF REMAINS	Maximum Benefit up to \$15,000
COVERAGE D – MEDICAL EVACUATION	Maximum Lifetime Benefit for all Evacuations up to \$50,000
COVERAGE E – BEDSIDE VISIT	Up to a maximum benefit of \$1,500 for the cost of one economy round-trip air fare ticket to, and the hotel accommodations in, the place of the Hospital Confinement for one (1) person

**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS - TABLE 2
COVERAGE A – MEDICAL EXPENSES**

Physician Office Visits	For Basic, after Deductible, 100% of Reasonable Expenses. For SMM Benefit, after Deductible, 80% of Reasonable Expenses.
Inpatient Hospital Services Maximum payment for Intensive Care Facility up to \$1,000 per day.	For Basic, after Deductible, 100% of Reasonable Expenses. For SMM Benefit, after Deductible, 80% of Reasonable Expenses.
Hospital and Physician Outpatient Services	For Basic, after Deductible, 100% of Reasonable Expenses. For SMM Benefit, after Deductible, 80% of Reasonable Expenses.

**TABLE 3
COVERAGE A – MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFITS**

BENEFITS LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO

1. **TABLE 1 LIFETIME MAXIMUMS, ANNUAL MAXIMUMS, MAXIMUMS PER INJURY AND SICKNESS, DEDUCTIBLES, COINSURANCE, OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUMS;**
2. **TABLE 1 LEVELS OF COVERAGE FOR BASIC MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFITS, SUPPLEMENTAL MAJOR MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFITS, AND CATASTROPHIC MAJOR MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFITS; AND**
3. **TABLE 2 PLAN TYPE LIMITS (INDEMNITY)**

MEDICAL EXPENSE	Eligible Participant
Maternity Care for a Covered Pregnancy	Reasonable Expenses
Inpatient treatment of mental and nervous disorders including drug or alcohol abuse	Reasonable Expenses up to \$2,500 Maximum per lifetime
Outpatient treatment of mental and nervous disorders including drug or alcohol abuse	Reasonable Expenses up to \$500 Maximum per lifetime
Therapeutic termination of pregnancy	Reasonable Expenses up to \$500 Maximum per Plan Year
Repairs to sound, natural teeth required due to an Injury	100% of Reasonable Expenses up to \$250 per tooth
Outpatient prescription drugs	50% of actual charge
Professional ground or air ambulance service to nearest hospital	Reasonable Expenses up to \$250 per Injury or Sickness

**SECTION 2 - DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGES
COVERAGE A – MEDICAL EXPENSES**

- A. What the Insurer Pays for Covered Medical Expenses:** If a Covered Person incurs expenses while insured under the Plan due to an Injury or a Sickness, the Insurer will pay the Reasonable Expenses for the Covered Medical Expenses listed below. All Covered Medical Expenses incurred as a result of the same or related cause, including any Complications, shall be considered as resulting from one Sickness or Injury. The amount payable for any one Injury or Sickness will not exceed the Maximum Benefit of \$100,000 per Injury or Sickness for the Eligible Participant stated in Coverage A – Medical Expenses of Table 1 of the Schedule of Benefits. Benefits are subject to the Deductible Amount, Co-insurance, Co-payments, and Maximum Benefits stated in the Schedule of Benefits, specified benefits and limitations set forth under Covered Medical Expenses, the General Plan Exclusions, the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation, and to all other limitations and provisions of the Plan.
- B. Covered General Medical Expenses and Limitations:** Covered Medical Expenses are limited to the Reasonable Expenses incurred for services, treatments and supplies listed below. All benefits are per Injury or Sickness unless stated otherwise.

No Medical Treatment Benefit is payable for Reasonable Expenses incurred after the Covered Person's insurance terminates as stated in the Period of Coverage provision. However, if the Covered Person is in a Hospital on the date the insurance terminates, the Insurer will continue to pay the Medical Treatment Benefits until the earlier of the date the Confinement ends or 31 days after the date the insurance terminates.

If the Covered Person was insured under a group plan administered by the Administrator immediately prior to the Plan Effective Date, the Insurer will pay the Medical Treatment Benefits for a Covered Injury or a Covered Sickness such that there is no interruption in the Covered Person's insurance.

1. **Physician office visits.**
2. **Hospital Services:** Inpatient Hospital services and Hospital and Physician Outpatient services consist of the following: Hospital room and board, including general nursing services; medical and surgical treatment; medical services and supplies; Outpatient nursing services provided by an RN, LPN or LVN; local, professional ground ambulance services to and from a local Hospital for Emergency Hospitalization and Emergency Medical Care; x-rays; laboratory tests; prescription medicines; artificial limbs or prosthetic appliances, including those which are functionally necessary; the rental or purchase, at the Insurer's option, of durable medical equipment for therapeutic use, including repairs and necessary maintenance of purchased equipment not provided for under a manufacturer's warranty or purchase agreement.

The Insurer will not pay for Hospital room and board charges in excess of the prevailing semi-private room rate unless the requirements of Medically Necessary treatment dictate accommodations other than a semi-private room.

If Tests and Xrays are the result of a Physician Office Visit or of Hospital and Physician Outpatient Services there is no additional Copayment for these Tests or Xrays. A Deductible may apply. However, if there is neither a Physician Office Visit nor Hospital or Physician Outpatient Services delivered, the Hospital and Physician Outpatient Services Copayment applies.

- C. Additional Covered General Medical Expenses and Limitations:** These additional Covered Medical Expenses are limited to the Reasonable Expenses incurred for services, treatments and supplies listed below. All benefits are per Injury or Sickness unless stated otherwise.
- 1. Pregnancy:** The Insurer will pay the actual expenses incurred as a result of pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any Complications resulting from any of these, except to the extent shown in the Schedule of Benefits. Conception must have occurred while the Covered Person was insured under the Plan. Pregnancy benefits will also cover a period of hospitalization for maternity and newborn infant care for:
 - a. a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care following a vaginal delivery; or
 - b. a minimum of 96 hours of inpatient care following delivery by cesarean section.

If the physician, in consultation with the mother, determines that an early discharge is medically appropriate, the Insurer shall provide coverage for post-delivery care, within the above time limits, to be delivered in the patient's home, or, in a provider's office, as determined by the physician in consultation with the mother. The at-home post-delivery care shall be provided by a registered professional nurse, physician, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or physician assistant experienced in maternal and child health, and shall include:

 - a. Parental education;
 - b. Assistance and training in breast or bottle feeding; and
 - c. Performance of any medically necessary and clinically appropriate tests, including the collection of an adequate sample for hereditary and metabolic newborn screening.
- D. Basic Medical Expense Benefit (Basic):** The Insurer will pay the provider 100% of all Covered Medical Expenses, unless otherwise stated, which are in excess of the Deductible Amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits for Coverage A. The Basic Medical Expense Deductible Amount will be reduced to as stated in the Schedule of Benefits if initial treatment is rendered at the Participant's Registered Student Health Center.
- E. Supplemental Major Medical Expense Benefit (SMM):** The Insurer will pay the provider 80% of all additional Covered Medical Expenses, unless otherwise stated, which are in excess of the Deductible Amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits for Coverage A and after all benefits have been exhausted under the Basic Medical Expense Benefit.

**SECTION 3
COVERAGE B – ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT BENEFIT**

The Insurer will pay the benefit stated below if a Covered Person sustains an Injury in the Country of Assignment resulting in any of the losses stated below within 365 days after the date the Injury is sustained:

Loss	Benefit
Loss of life	100% of the Principal Sum
Loss of one hand	50% of the Principal Sum
Loss of one foot	50% of the Principal Sum
Loss of sight in one eye	50% of the Principal Sum

Loss of one hand or loss of one foot means the actual severance through or above the wrist or ankle joints. Loss of the sight of one eye means the entire and irrecoverable loss of sight in that eye.

If more than one of the losses stated above is due to the same Accident, the Insurer will pay 100% of the Principal Sum. In no event will the Insurer pay more than the Principal Sum for loss to the Covered Person due to any one Accident.

The Principal Sum is stated in Table 1 of the Schedule of Benefits.

There is no coverage for loss of life or dismemberment for or arising from an Accident in the Covered Person's Home Country.

**SECTION 4
COVERAGE C – REPATRIATION OF REMAINS BENEFIT**

If Covered Person dies the Insurer will pay the necessary expenses actually incurred, up to the Maximum Limit shown in the Schedule of Benefits, for the preparation of the body for burial, or the cremation, and for the transportation of the remains to his/her Home Country. This benefit covers the legal minimum requirements for the transportation of the remains. It does not include the transportation of anyone accompanying the body, urns, caskets, coffins, visitation, burial or funeral expenses. Any expense for repatriation of remains requires approval in advance by the Plan Administrator.

No benefit is payable if the death occurs after the Termination Date of the Plan. However, if the Covered Person is Hospital Confined on the Termination Date, eligibility for this benefit continues until the earlier of the date the Covered Person's Confinement ends or 31 days after the Termination Date. The Insurer will not pay any claims under this provision unless the expense has been approved by the Plan Administrator before the body is prepared for transportation.

SECTION 5
COVERAGE D – MEDICAL EVACUATION BENEFIT

If an Covered Person is involved in an accident or suffers a sudden, unforeseen illness requiring emergency medical services, while traveling outside of his/her home country, and adequate medical facilities are not available, the Administrator will coordinate and pay for a medically-supervised evacuation, up to the Maximum Limit shown in the Schedule of Benefits, to the nearest appropriate medical facility. This medically-supervised evacuation will be to the nearest medical facility only if the facility is capable of providing adequate care. The evacuation will only be performed if adequate care is not available locally and the Injury or Sickness requires immediate emergency medical treatment, without which there would be a significant risk of death or serious impairment. The determination of whether a medical condition constitutes an emergency and whether area facilities are capable of providing adequate medical care shall be made by physicians designated by the Administrator after consultation with the attending physician on the Covered Person's medical conditions. The decision of these designated physicians shall be conclusive in determining the need for medical evacuation services. Transportation shall not be considered medically necessary if the physician designated by the Administrator determines that the Covered Person can continue his/her trip or can use the original transportation arrangements that he/she purchased.

The Insurer will pay Reasonable Charges for escort services if the Covered Person is a minor or if the Covered Person is disabled during a trip and an escort is recommended in writing by the attending Physician and approved by the Insurer.

As part of a medical evacuation, the Administrator shall also make all necessary arrangements for ground transportation to and from the hospital, as well as pre-admission arrangements, where possible, at the receiving hospital.

If following stabilization, when medically necessary and subject to the Administrator's prior approval, the Insurer will pay for a medically supervised return to the Covered Person's permanent residence or, if appropriate, to a health care facility nearer to their permanent residence or for one-way economy airfare to the Covered Person's point of origin, if necessary.

All evacuations must be approved and coordinated by Administrator designated physicians. Transportation must be by the most direct and economical route.

With respect to this provision only, the following is in lieu of the Plan's Extension of Benefits provision: No benefits are payable for Covered Expenses incurred after the date the Covered Person's insurance under the Plan terminates. However, if on the date of termination the Covered Person is Hospital Confined, then coverage under this benefit provision continues until the earlier of the date the Hospital Confinement ends or the end of the 31st day after the date of termination.

The combined benefit for all necessary evacuation services is listed in Table 1 of the Schedule of Benefits.

SECTION 6
COVERAGE E – BEDSIDE VISIT BENEFIT

If a Covered Person is Hospital Confined due to an Injury or Sickness for more than 7 days, is likely to be hospitalized for more than 7 days or is in critical condition, while traveling outside of his/her home country, the Insurer will pay up to the maximum benefit as listed in Table 1 of the Schedule of Benefits for the cost of one economy round-trip air fare ticket to, and the hotel accommodations in, the place of the Hospital Confinement for one person designated by the Covered Person. Payment for meals, ground transportation and other incidentals are the responsibility of the family member or friend.

With respect to any one trip, this benefit is payable only once for that trip, regardless of the number of Covered Persons on that trip. The determination of whether the Covered Member will be hospitalized for more than 7 or is in critical condition shall be made by the Administrator after consultation with the attending physician. No more than one (1) visit may be made during any 12 month period. No benefits are payable unless the trip is approved in advance by the Plan Administrator.

SECTION 7
PRE-EXISTING CONDITION LIMITATION

The Insurer does not pay benefits for loss due to a Pre-Existing Condition during the first one (1) year of coverage. Pre-Existing Conditions will be covered after the Covered Person's coverage has been in force for one (1) year.

This limitation does not apply to the Medical Evacuation Benefit, the Repatriation of Remains Benefit, or the Bedside Visit Benefit.

SECTION 8
GENERAL PLAN EXCLUSIONS

Unless specifically provided for elsewhere under the Plan, the Plan does not cover loss caused by or resulting from, nor is any premium charged for, any of the following:

1. Preventative medicines, routine physical examinations, or any other examination where there are no objective indications of impairment in normal health, including routine care of a newborn infant.
2. Services and supplies not Medically Necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of a Sickness or Injury.
3. Surgery for the correction of refractive error and services and prescriptions for eye examinations, eye glasses or contact lenses or hearing aids, except when Medically Necessary for the Treatment of an Injury.

4. Plastic or cosmetic surgery, unless they result directly from an Injury which necessitated medical treatment within 24 hours of the Accident.
5. For diagnostic investigation or medical treatment for infertility, fertility, or birth control.
6. Expenses incurred in excess of Reasonable Expenses.
7. Expenses incurred for Injury resulting from the Covered Person's being legally intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol as defined by the jurisdiction in which the Accident occurs. This exclusion does not apply to the Medical Evacuation Benefit, to the Repatriation of Remains Benefit and to the Bedside Visit Benefit.
8. Voluntarily using any drug, narcotic or controlled substance, unless as prescribed by a Physician. This exclusion does not apply to the Medical Evacuation Benefit, to the Repatriation of Remains Benefit and to the Bedside Visit Benefit.
9. Organ or tissue transplant.
10. Participating in an illegal occupation or committing or attempting to commit a felony.
11. For treatment, services, supplies, or Confinement in a Hospital owned or operated by a national government or its agencies. (This does not apply to charges the law requires the Covered Person to pay.)
12. While traveling against the advice of a Physician, while on a waiting list for a specific treatment, or when traveling for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment.
13. The diagnosis or treatment of Congenital Conditions, except for a newborn child insured under the Plan.
14. Expenses incurred within the Covered Person's Home Country.
15. Treatment to the teeth, gums, jaw or structures directly supporting the teeth, including surgical extraction's of teeth, TMJ dysfunction or skeletal irregularities of one or both jaws including orthognathia and mandibular retrognathia.
16. Expenses incurred in connection with weak, strained or flat feet, corns or calluses.
17. Diagnosis and treatment of acne and sebaceous cyst.
18. Outpatient treatment for specified therapies including, but not limited to, Physiotherapy and acupuncture.
19. Deviated nasal septum, including submucous resection and/or surgical correction, unless treatment is due to or arises from an Injury.
20. Self-inflicted Injuries while sane or insane; suicide, or any attempt thereat while sane or insane. This exclusion does not apply to the Medical Evacuation Benefit, to the Repatriation of Remains Benefit and to the Bedside Visit Benefit.
21. Loss due to war, declared or undeclared; service in the armed forces of any country or international authority; riot; or civil commotion.
22. Riding in any aircraft, except as a passenger on a regularly scheduled airline or charter flight.
23. Elective termination of pregnancy.
24. Loss arising from participation in professional sports, scuba diving, hang gliding, parachuting, or bungee jumping.
25. Medical Treatment Benefits provision for loss due to or arising from a motor vehicle Accident if the Covered Person operated the vehicle without a proper license in the jurisdiction where the Accident occurred.
26. Under the Accidental Death and Dismemberment provision, for loss of life or dismemberment for or arising from an Accident in the Covered Person's Home Country.
27. Expenses incurred for treatment of sports-related accidents resulting from interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, club or professional sports.
28. Expenses incurred as a result of pregnancy that is not covered.

SECTION 9 DEFINITIONS

Unless specifically defined elsewhere, wherever used in the Plan, the following terms have the meanings given below.

Accident (Accidental) means a sudden, unexpected and unforeseen, identifiable event producing at the time objective symptoms of an Injury. The Accident must occur while the Covered Person is insured under the Plan.

Age means the Covered Person's attained age.

Alcohol Abuse means any pattern of pathological use of alcohol that causes impairment in social or occupational functioning, or that produces physiological dependency evidenced by physical tolerance or by physical symptoms when it is withdrawn.

Ambulatory Surgical Facility means an establishment which may or may not be part of a Hospital and which meets the following requirements:

1. Is in compliance with the licensing or other legal requirements in the jurisdiction where it is located;
2. Is primarily engaged in performing surgery on its premises;
3. Has a licensed medical staff, including Physicians and registered nurses;
4. Has permanent operating room(s), recovery room(s) and equipment for Emergency Medical Care; and
5. Has an agreement with a Hospital for immediate acceptance of patients who require Hospital care following treatment in the ambulatory surgical facility.

Coinsurance means the ratio by which the Covered Person and the Insurer share in the payment of Reasonable Expenses for Medically Necessary treatment. The percentage the Insurer pays is stated in the Schedule of Benefits.

Complications means a secondary condition, an Injury or a Sickness, that develops or is in conjunction with an already existing Injury or Sickness.

Confinement (Confined) means the continuous period a Covered Person spends as an Inpatient in a Hospital due to the same or related cause.

Congenital Condition means a condition that existed at or has existed from birth, including, but not limited to, congenital diseases or anomalies that cause functional defects.

Country of Assignment means the country for which the Eligible Participant has a valid visa, if required, and in which he/she is undertaking an educational activity.

Covered Medical Expense means an expense actually incurred by or on behalf of a Covered Person for those services and supplies which are:

1. administered or ordered by a Physician;
2. Medically Necessary to the diagnosis and treatment of an Injury or Sickness;
3. are not excluded by any provision of the Plan; and incurred while the Covered Person's insurance is in force under the Plan, except as stated in the Extension of Benefits provision. A Covered Medical Expense is deemed to be incurred on the date such service or supply which gave rise to the expense or charge was rendered or obtained. Covered Medical Expenses are listed in Table 3 and described in Section 2.

Covered Person means an Eligible Participant as described in the appropriate eligibility section, for whom premium is paid and who is covered under the Plan.

Deductible Amount means the dollar amount of Covered Medical Expenses which must be incurred as an out-of-pocket expense by each Covered Person on a per Injury or per Sickness basis before certain benefits are payable under the Plan. The Deductible Amounts are stated in the Schedule of Benefits.

Drug Abuse means any pattern of pathological use of a drug that causes impairment in social or occupational functioning, or that produces physiological dependency evidenced by physical tolerance or by physical symptoms when it is withdrawn.

Durable Medical Equipment means medical equipment which:

1. Is prescribed by the Physician who documents the necessity for the item including the expected duration of its use;
2. Can withstand long term repeated use without replacement;
3. Is not useful in the absence of Injury or Sickness; and
4. Can be used in the home without medical supervision.

The Insurer will cover charges for the purchase of such equipment when the purchase price is expected to be less costly than rental.

Eligible Participant means a person who:

1. Is engaged in international educational activities; and
2. Is temporarily located outside his/her Home Country as a non-resident alien; and
3. Has not obtained permanent residency status.

Emergency Hospitalization and Emergency Medical Care means hospitalization or medical care that is provided for an Injury or a Sickness condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity including without limitation sudden and unexpected severe pain for which the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably result in:

1. Permanently placing the Covered Person's health in jeopardy, or
2. Causing other serious medical consequences; or
3. Causing serious impairment to bodily functions; or
4. Causing serious and permanent dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Previously diagnosed chronic conditions in which sub-acute symptoms have existed over a period of time shall not be included in this definition of a medical emergency, unless symptoms suddenly become so severe that immediate medical aid is required.

Experimental or Investigative means treatment, a device or prescription medication which is recommended by a Physician, but is not considered by the medical community as a whole to be safe and effective for the condition for which the treatment, device or prescription medication is being used, including any treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drugs, drug usage, devices, or supplies not recognized as accepted medical practice; and any of those items requiring federal or other governmental agency approval not received at the time services are rendered. The Insurer will make the final determination as to what is Experimental or Investigative.

Home Country means the Covered Person's country of domicile named on the enrollment form or the roster, as applicable.

Hospital means a facility that:

1. Is primarily engaged in providing by, or under the supervision of doctors of medicine or osteopathy, Inpatient services for the diagnosis, treatment, and care, or rehabilitation of persons who are sick, injured, or disabled;
2. Is not primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services for persons who require medical or nursing care;
3. Provides 24 hours nursing service; and
4. Is licensed or approved as meeting the standards for licensing by the state in which it is located or by the applicable local licensing authority.

Immediate Family means the spouse, children, brothers, sisters or parents of a Covered Person.

Injury means bodily injury caused directly by an Accident. It must be independent of all other causes. To be covered, the Injury must first be treated while the Covered Person is insured under the Plan. A Sickness is not an Injury. A bacterial infection that occurs through an Accidental wound or from a medical or surgical treatment of a Sickness is an Injury.

Inpatient means a person confined in a Hospital for at least one full day (18 to 24 hours) and charged room and board.

Intensive Care Facility means an intensive care unit, cardiac care unit or other unit or area of a Hospital:

1. Which is reserved for the critically ill requiring close observation; and
2. Which is equipped to provide specialized care by trained and qualified personnel and special equipment and supplies on a standby basis.

Medically Necessary services or supplies are those that the Insurer determines to be **all** of the following:

1. Appropriate and necessary for the symptoms, diagnosis or treatment of the medical condition.
2. Provided for the diagnosis or direct care and treatment of the medical condition.
3. Within standards of good medical practice within the organized community.
4. Not primarily for the patient's, the Physician's, or another provider's convenience.
5. The most appropriate supply or level of service that can safely be provided. For Hospital stays, this means acute care as an inpatient is necessary due to the kind of services the Covered Person is receiving or the severity of the Covered Person's condition and that safe and adequate care cannot be received as an outpatient or in a less intensified medical setting.

The fact that a Physician may prescribe, authorize, or direct a service does not of itself make it Medically Necessary or covered by the Plan.

Mental Illness means any psychiatric disease identified in the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases or of the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.

Other Plan means any of the following which provides benefits or services for, or on account of, medical care or treatment:

1. Group insurance or group-type coverage, whether insured or uninsured. This includes prepayment, group practice or individual practice coverage, and medical benefits coverage in group, group-type and individual automobile "no fault" and "traditional fault" type contracts. It does not include student accident-type coverage.
2. Coverage under a governmental plan or 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). It also does not include any plan when, by law, its benefits are excess of those of any private program or other non-governmental program.

Outpatient means a person who receives medical services and treatment on an Outpatient basis in a Hospital, Physician's office, Ambulatory Surgical Facility, or similar centers, and who is not charged room and board for such services.

Participating Organization or Institution means the organization or institution which has elected that its Eligible Participants and, if applicable, the dependents of those Eligible Participants be covered under the Plan and which has been accepted by the Insurer for coverage under the Plan.

Physician means a currently licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of his/her license. It does not include the Covered Person or his/her spouse, parents, parents-in-law or dependents or any other person related to the Covered Person or who lives with the Covered Person.

Physiotherapy means a physical or mechanical therapy, diathermy, ultrasonic, heat treatment in any form, manipulation or massage.

Plan Year means the period beginning on the Participating Organization's or Institution's effective date. It includes the period beginning on the date a Covered Person's coverage under the Plan starts. It ends on the date the Covered Person's insurance under the Plan ends.

Pre-Existing Condition means any Injury or Sickness which had its origin or symptoms, or for which a Physician was consulted or for which treatment or a medication was recommended or received up to one (1) year prior to the Covered Person's effective date of coverage.

Reasonable Expense means the normal charge of the provider, incurred by the Covered Person, in the absence of insurance,

1. for a medical service or supply, but not more than the prevailing charge in the area for a like service by a provider with similar training or experience, or
2. for a supply which is identical or substantially equivalent. The final determination of a reasonable and customary charge rests solely with the Insurer.

Registered Nurse means a graduate nurse who has been registered or licensed to practice by a State Board of Nurse Examiners or other state authority, and who is legally entitled to place the letters "R.N." or "R. P.N." after his/her name.

Sickness means an illness, ailment, disease, or physical condition of a Covered Person starting while insured under the Plan.

Total Disability or Totally Disabled

1. With respect to a Covered Person who otherwise would be employed, Total Disability or Totally Disabled means the Covered Person's complete inability to perform all the substantial and material duties of his/her regular occupation while under the care of, and receiving treatment from, a Physician for the Injury or Sickness causing the inability.
2. With respect to a Covered Person who would not otherwise be employed, Total Disability or Totally Disabled means the Covered Person's inability to engage in the normal activities of a person of like age and sex while:
 - a. Under the care of, and receiving treatment from, a Physician for the Injury or Sickness causing the inability, or
 - b. Hospital Confined or home confined at the direction of his/her Physician due to Injury or Sickness, except for trips away from home to receive medical treatment.

11:59:59 p.m. means 11:59:59 p.m. at the Covered Person's location.

12:00:01 a.m. means 12:00:01 Eastern Prevailing Time in Washington, DC.

SECTION 10 EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

No benefits are payable for medical treatment benefits after the Covered Person's insurance terminates. However, if the Covered Person is in a Hospital on the date the insurance terminates, the Insurer will continue to pay the medical treatment benefits until the earlier of the date the Confinement ends or 31 days after the date the insurance terminates.

SECTION 11 EXCESS COVERAGE

The Insurer will reduce the amount payable under the Plan to the extent expenses are covered under any Other Plan. The Insurer will determine the amount of benefits provided by Other Plans without reference to any coordination of benefits, non-duplication of benefits, or other similar provisions. The amount from Other Plans includes any amount to which the Covered Person is entitled, whether or not a claim is made for the benefits. The Plan is secondary coverage to all other plan.

SECTION 12 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PERIOD OF COVERAGE

Eligible Participant: Eligible Participant means any person who satisfies the definition of an Eligible Participant and the requirement of an applicable class as shown in Section 1—Eligible Classes.

Enrollment for Coverage: An Eligible Participant will be eligible for coverage under the Plan subject to the particular types and amounts of insurance as specified in his/her enrollment form.

When an Eligible Participant's Coverage Starts: Coverage for an Eligible Participant starts at 12:00:01 a.m. on the latest of the following:

1. The effective date of the Plan; or
2. The effective date shown on the Insurance Identification Card, if any;
3. The date the requirements in Section 1—Eligible Classes are met; or
4. The date the premium and completed enrollment form, if any, are received by the Insurer or the Administrator.

Thereafter, the insurance is effective 24 hours a day, worldwide except whenever the Covered Person is in his/her Home Country. In no event, however, will insurance start prior to the date the premium is received by the Insurer.

For Transfers Only: If a Covered Person transfers from a Group which has coverage under a plan issued on the same form as this plan of insurance to another Group which also has coverage under the same plan form, or transfers from one plan to another under the same plan, and coverage is continuous, then coverage is continued between the two plans of insurance. A Covered Person will be covered under the newer plan for medical conditions which first arise on or after the transfer date. A Pre-Existing Condition will not be covered under the newer plan until the benefit period expires for such condition under the prior plan (the plan under which the Covered Person was insured prior to the date of transfer). At that time, the Pre-Existing Condition will be covered under the newer plan. Benefit payments for Pre-Existing Conditions shall be the lesser of:

1. The unused portion of the maximum benefit applicable to the covered medical condition under the prior plan; or
2. The maximum benefit applicable to the covered medical condition under this plan.

Both 1 and 2 above are subject to the benefit periods, Deductibles, and Coinsurance as defined in the respective plan.

When an Eligible Participant's Coverage Ends: Coverage for an Eligible Participant will automatically terminate on the earliest of the following dates:

1. The date the Plan terminates;
2. The date of which the Eligible Participant ceases to meet the Individual Eligibility Requirements;
3. The end of the term of coverage specified in the Eligible Participant's enrollment form, if any, including any requested extension;
4. The date the Eligible Person leaves the Country of Assignment for his/her or her Home Country;

5. The date the Eligible Participant requests cancellation of coverage (the request must be in writing); or
6. The premium due date for which the required premium has not been paid, subject to the Grace Period provision.

Any unearned premium will be returned upon request, but returned premium will only be for the number of full months of the unexpired term of coverage, less any administrative fees. Premium will be refunded in full or pro-rated if it is later determined that the Covered Person is not eligible for coverage or if the enrollment form contained inaccurate or misleading information.

Coverage will end at 11:59:59 p.m. on the last date of insurance. A Covered Person's coverage will end without prejudice to any claim existing at the time of termination.

SECTION 13
PREMIUM for Individual Enrollment

Payment: Coverage is provided in return for payment of the required premium. Premiums may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually, or for a specified term, as arranged with the Administrator. Coverage will terminate if the required premium is not paid to the Insurer. Premium is charged from the date insurance for each Covered Person takes effect. Premium is payable to the Insurer or one of its authorized agents. If payment of a premium is not honored by the bank or credit card drawn upon, the insurance is deemed to have not been purchased and not to be in effect.

Renewing Coverage: Coverage for all Covered Persons shall be continuous if the acceptable renewal form and premium are received by the Insurer prior to the expiration of coverage. Premiums will be based upon the attained age of the Covered Person at the time of renewal. Any Covered Person whose coverage under the Plan lapses may re-enroll and shall be subject to all Plan exclusions as of any subsequent effective date.

Grace Period: There is a 31 day grace period after the premium due date in which to pay the required premium. The Plan and affected coverage will stay in force during the grace period. The grace period does not apply to payment of the first premium or the last premium when the Covered Person requests to terminate coverage. The Covered Person is liable for all premium unpaid, including any part or entire premium due through the grace period.

Cancellation Requirements: Cancellation will only be allowed if the following requirements are met:

1. proof of ineligibility is provided; or
2. cancellation occurs within the first 10 days from the effective date or most recent renewal date; and
3. the Covered Member requests cancellation in writing.

If cancellation is after 10 days, premium will be refunded in whole months only.

SECTION 14
CLAIM PROVISIONS

Notice of Claim: Written notice of any event which may lead to a claim under the Plan must be given to the Insurer or to the Administrator within 30 days after the event, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.

Claim Forms: Upon receipt of a written notice of claim, the Insurer will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing Proofs of Loss. If these forms are not furnished within 15 days after the notice is sent, the claimant may comply with the Proof of Loss requirements of the Plan by submitting, within the time fixed in the Plan for filing proofs of loss, written proof showing the occurrence, nature and extent of the loss for which claim is made.

Proofs of Loss: Written proof of loss must be furnished to the Insurer or to its Administrator within 90 days after the date of loss. However, in case of claim for loss for which the Plan provides any periodic payment contingent upon continuing loss, this proof may be furnished within 90 days after termination of each period for which the Insurer is liable. Failure to furnish proof within the time required will not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it is not reasonably possible to give proof within 90 days, provided

1. it was not reasonably possible to provide proof in that time; and
2. the proof is given within one year from the date proof of loss was otherwise required. This one year limit will not apply in the absence of legal capacity

Time for Payment of Claim: Benefits payable under the Plan will be paid immediately upon receipt of satisfactory written proof of loss, unless the Plan provides for periodic payment. Where the Plan provides for periodic payments, the benefits will accrue and be paid monthly, subject to satisfactory written proof of loss.

Payment of Claims: Benefits for accidental loss of life under Coverage B will be payable in accordance with the beneficiary designation and the provisions of the Plan which are effective at the time of payment. If no beneficiary designation is then effective, the benefits will be payable to the estate of the Covered Person for whom claim is made. Any other accrued benefits unpaid at the Covered Person's death may, at the Insurer's option, be paid either to his/her beneficiary or to his/her estate. Benefits payable under Coverages A, C, D, and E shall be payable to the provider of the service. Benefits payable under Coverage B, other than for loss of life, will be paid to the Covered Person.

If any benefits are payable to the estate of a Covered Person, or to a Covered Person's beneficiary who is a minor or otherwise not competent to give valid release, the Insurer may pay up to \$1,000 to any relative, by blood or by marriage, of the Covered Person or beneficiary who is deemed by the Insurer to be equitably entitled to payment. Any payment made by the Insurer in good faith pursuant to this provision will fully discharge the Insurer of any obligation to the extent of the payment.

Physical Examination and Autopsy: The Insurer may, at its expense, examine a Covered Person, when and as often as may reasonably be required during the pendency of a claim under the Plan and, in the event of death, make an autopsy in case of death, where it is not forbidden by law.

SECTION 15 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Entire Contract: The entire contract between the Insurer and the Planholder consists of the Plan, this Plan, the application of the Planholder and the application of the Participating Organization or Institution, copies of which are attached to and made a part of the Plan. All statements contained in the applications will be deemed representations and not warranties. No statement made by an applicant for insurance will be used to void the insurance or reduce the benefits, unless contained in a written application and signed by the applicant. No agent has the authority to make or modify the Plan, or to extend the time for payment of premiums, or to waive any of the Insurer's rights or requirements. No modifications of the Plan will be valid unless evidenced by an endorsement or amendment of the Plan, signed by one of the Insurer's officers and delivered to the Planholder.

Incontestability: The validity of a Covered Person's insurance will not be contested except for nonpayment of premium, after his/her insurance under the Plan has been continuously in force for two years during his/her lifetime. No statement made by a Covered Person relating to his/her insurability will be used in defense of a claim under the Plan unless: 1. it is contained in the enrollment form or renewal form signed by the Covered Person; and 2. a copy of the enrollment form or renewal form has been furnished to the Covered Person, or to his/her beneficiary.

Time Limit on Certain Defenses: No claim for loss incurred after 2 years from the effective date of the Covered Person's insurance will be reduced or denied on the grounds that the disease or physical condition existed prior to the effective date of the Covered Person's insurance. This provision does not apply to a disease or physical condition excluded by name or specific description.

Legal Actions: No action at law or in equity may be brought to recover on the Plan prior to the expiration of 60 days after written proof of loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of the Plan. No such action may be brought after the expiration of 3 years (5 years in Kansas, 6 years in South Carolina, and the applicable statute of limitations in Florida) after the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

Conformity with Law: If any provision of the plan is contrary to the laws or regulations/bulletins of the jurisdiction in which it is delivered, such provision is hereby amended to conform to the laws or regulations/bulletins of that jurisdiction.

Assignment: No assignment of benefits will be binding on the Insurer until a copy of the assignment has been received by the Insurer or by its Administrator. The Insurer assumes no responsibility for the validity of the assignment. Any payment made in good faith will relieve the Insurer of its liability under the Plan.

Beneficiary: The beneficiary is the last person named in writing by the Covered Person and recorded by or on the Insurer's behalf. The beneficiary can be changed at any time by sending a written notice to the Insurer or to its Administrator. The beneficiary's consent is not required for this or any other change in the Plan unless the designation of the beneficiary is irrevocable.

Mistake in Age: If the age of any Covered Person has been misstated, an equitable adjustment will be made in the premiums or, at the Insurer's discretion, the amount of insurance payable. Any premium adjustment will be based on the premium that would have been charged for the same coverage on a Covered Person of the same age and similar circumstances.

Clerical Error: A clerical error in record keeping will not void coverage otherwise validly in force, nor will it continue coverage otherwise validly terminated. Upon discovery of the error an equitable adjustment of premium shall be made.

Not in Lieu of Workers' compensation. The Plan does not satisfy any requirement for Workers' Compensation.

Subrogation: If the Covered Person suffers an Injury or Sickness through the act or omission of another person, and if benefits are paid under the Plan due to that Injury or Sickness, then to the extent the Covered Person recovers for the same Injury or Sickness from a third party, its insurer, or the Covered Person's uninsured motorist insurance, the Insurer will be entitled to a refund of all benefits the Insurer has paid from such recovery. Further, the Insurer has the right to offset subsequent benefits payable to the Covered Person under the Plan against such recovery.

The Insurer may file a lien in a Covered Person's action against the third party and have a lien upon any recovery that the Covered Person receives whether by settlement, judgment, or otherwise, and regardless of how such funds are designated. The Insurer shall have a right to recovery of the full amount of benefits paid under the Plan for the Injury or Sickness, and that amount shall be deducted first from any recovery made by the Covered Person. The Insurer will not be responsible for the Covered Person's attorneys' fees or other cost.

Upon request, the Covered Person must complete the required forms and return them to the Insurer or to the Administrator. The Covered Person must cooperate fully with the Insurer in asserting his/her right to recover. The Covered Person will be personally liable for reimbursement to the Insurer to the extent of any recovery obtained by the Covered Person from any third party. If it is necessary for the Insurer to institute legal action against the Covered Person for failure to repay the Insurer, the Covered Person will be personally liable for all costs of collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

Right of Recovery: Whenever the Insurer have made payments with respect to benefits payable under the Plan in excess of the amount necessary, the Insurer shall have the right to recover such payments. The Insurer shall notify the Covered Person of such overpayment and request reimbursement from the Covered Person. However, should the Covered Person not provide such reimbursement, the Insurer has the right to offset such overpayment against any other benefits payable to the Covered Person under the Plan to the extent of the overpayment.

Currency: All premiums for and claims payable pursuant to the Plan are payable only in the currency of the United States of America.

Grievance Procedures: If the Covered Person's claim is denied in whole or in part, he/she will receive written notification of the denial. The notification will explain the reason for the denial.

The Covered Person has the right to appeal any denial of a claim for benefits by submitting a written request for reconsideration with the Insurer. Requests for reconsideration must be filed within 60 days after receipt of the written notification of denial. When the Insurer receives the Covered Person's written request, the Insurer will review the claim and arrive at a determination.

There will be made available to the Covered Person, a member services representative to assist the Covered Person throughout the grievance process. The Covered Person also has a right to designate an outside independent representative to assist the covered person or the Covered Person's member services representative through the grievance process.

The insurer will respond to grievances it receives within 45 business days of receipt of the grievance. The insurer will inform the Covered Person in writing of the decision regarding the covered person's grievance.

All communications regarding the grievance/appeals process will be recorded, documented and maintained for at least 3 years.

If the matter is still not resolved to the Covered Person's satisfaction, he/she may appeal any grievance decision resulting in a denial, termination, or other limitation of covered health care services by requesting a second review of the claim by sending the Insurer a written request for a second reconsideration. This written request must be filed within 60 days of the Eligible Participant's receipt of the Insurer's written notification of the result of the first review. If the issue involves a dispute over the coverage of medical services, or the extent of that coverage, the second review will be completed by physician consultants who did not take part in the initial reconsideration. The Covered Person will be informed, in writing, of the Insurer's final decision.

There shall be three levels of appeal of a grievance decision.

Informal Internal Review: An Informal Internal Review shall consist of the Covered Person's right to discuss and appeal the insurer's grievance decision with the insurer's medical director or with the physician or health care provider designee who rendered the decision.

If an appeal is from a determination regarding urgent or emergency care, the insurer shall conclude the appeal within 24 hours of receiving notification of appeal from the covered person or his/her member service's representative. All other concurrent or prospective appeals conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by the insurer within 14 business days, unless the medical circumstances surrounding the case require the insurer to respond sooner.

If the Informal Internal Review is not concluded to the Covered Person's satisfaction, the insurer shall provide the Covered Person with a written explanation of the decision, which shall, at a minimum, consist of:

1. The reviewer's understanding of the grievance;
2. The reviewer's decision in clear terms;
3. The contract basis or medical rationale in enough detail for the member or member representative to understand and to respond to the insurer's position; and
4. All applicable instructions, including the telephone numbers and titles of persons to contact and time frames to appeal the decision to the next stage of appeal.

If still dissatisfied, the covered person or his/her member representative has a right to engage in a second level appeal.

Formal Internal Review: If dissatisfied with the Informal Internal Review decision, the Covered Person shall have a right to appeal before a reviewer or panel of physicians, or advanced practice registered nurses, or other health care professionals selected by the insurer.

The panel of reviewers selected by the insurer shall not have been involved in the initial grievance decision under review.

For all reviews which require medical expertise, the medical reviewer or in the case of a panel of reviewers, the panel shall consist of at least one medical reviewer who is trained or certified in the same specialty as the matter at issue.

A medical reviewer shall be a physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse or other appropriate health care provider possessing a non-restricted license to practice or provide care anywhere in the United States and have no history of disciplinary action or sanctions pending or taken against them by any governmental agency or professional regulatory body.

A medical reviewer shall be certified by a recognized specialty board in the areas appropriate to review.

All Formal Internal Reviews will be acknowledged by the insurer within 10 business days of receipt.

If the Formal Internal Appeal is from a determination regarding urgent or emergency care, the insurer shall conclude the appeal within 24 hours of receiving notification of appeal from the covered person or his/her member representative. All other concurrent or prospective appeals conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by the insurer within 30 business days, unless the medical circumstances surrounding the case require the insurer to respond sooner. The time may be extended at the request of the Covered Person or his/her member services representative.

If the Formal Internal Review is not concluded to the Covered Person's satisfaction, the insurer shall provide the Covered Person with a written explanation of the decision, which shall, at a minimum, consist of:

1. The reviewer's understanding of the grievance;
2. The reviewer's decision in clear terms;
3. The contract basis or medical rationale in enough detail for the member or member representative to understand and to respond to the insurer's position; and
4. All applicable instructions, including the telephone numbers and titles of persons to contact and time frames to appeal the decision to the next stage of appeal.

If the covered person or his/her member representative is dissatisfied with the Formal Internal Review decision, he/she may pursue an external grievance.

If the insurer fails to comply with any of the deadlines for completion of a formal internal appeal, the covered person or his/her member representative shall be relieved of his/her obligations under the Formal Internal Review Process and may proceed directly to the external appeal process.

External Grievance Process: If dissatisfied with the decision rendered in a Formal Internal Review, the Covered Person may pursue an External Review before an independent review organization.

Within 30 business days from receipt of a written decision of the formal internal appeal panel, the Covered Person shall file a written request with the director for an external review along with a signed release, allowing the insurer to release medical records pertinent to the appeal.

Upon receipt of the request for an external appeal, together with the executed release form, the Director shall determine whether:

- (1) The individual was or is a member of the health benefits plan;
- (2) The health care service which is the subject of the appeal reasonably appears to be a service covered by the health benefits plan;
- (3) The member or member representative has fully complied with the informal and formal internal appeals processes; and
- (4) The member or member representative has provided all information required by the independent review organization and the Director to make the preliminary determination, including the appeal form, and a copy of any information provided by the insurer regarding its decision to deny, reduce, or terminate a covered service, and the release form required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Upon completion of the preliminary review, the Director shall notify the member or member representative and insurer in writing as to whether the appeal has been accepted for processing. If the appeal is accepted by the Director, the Director shall assign the appeal to an independent review organization for full review. If the appeal is not accepted by the Director, the Director shall provide a statement of the reasons for the non-acceptance to the member or member representative and the insurer.

The staff of the independent review organization that is assigned to the appeal shall have meaningful prior experience in performing utilization review, peer review, quality of care assessment or assurance, or the hearing of appeals. Any independent review organization, its staff, and its professional and medical reviewers, shall not have any material, professional, familial, or financial affiliation with the insurer that is a party to the appeal.

The Director may waive exhaustion of the informal and formal appeals process as a prerequisite for proceeding to the external appeals process in cases of emergency or urgent care.

The insurer shall provide timely access to all its records relating to the matter under review and to all provisions of the health benefits plan or health insurance coverage, including any evidence of coverage, "member handbook", plan of insurance or contract and health benefits plan relating to the matter.

Upon acceptance of the appeal for processing, the independent review organization shall conduct a full review to determine whether, as a result of the insurer's decision, the member was deprived of any service covered by the health benefits plan.

The full review of an appeal of a health benefits decision shall be initially conducted by at least 2 physicians licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia. On an exceptions basis, when necessary based on the medical, surgical, or mental condition under review, the independent review organization may select medical reviewers licensed anywhere in the United States who have no history of disciplinary action or sanctions pending or taken against them by any governmental or professional regulatory body.

In reaching a determination, the independent review organization shall take into consideration all pertinent medical records, consulting physician reports, and other documents submitted by the parties, any applicable generally accepted practice guidelines developed by the federal government, national or professional medical societies, boards and associations, any applicable clinical protocols or practice guidelines developed by the insurer, and may consult with such other professionals as appropriate and necessary.

The member or member representative and one insurer representative may request to appear in person before the independent review organization. The independent review organization shall conduct the hearing in the District of Columbia. The independent review organization's procedures for conducting a review, when the member or member representative or the insurer has requested to appear in person, shall include the following:

- (1) The independent review organization shall schedule and hold a hearing as soon as possible after receiving a request from a member or member representative or from an insurer representative to appear before the independent review organization. The independent review organization shall notify the member or member representative and insurer representative, either orally or in writing, of the hearing date and location. The independent review organization shall not unreasonably deny a request for postponement of the hearing made by the member or member representative or insurer representative.

- (2) A member or member representative and an insurer representative shall have the right to the following:
- (A) To attend the independent review organization hearing;
 - (B) To present his or her case to the independent review organization;
 - (C) To submit supporting material both before and during the hearing;
 - (D) To ask questions of any representative of the independent review organization; and
 - (E) To be assisted or represented by a person of his or her choice.

When necessary, the independent review organization shall consult with a physician or advance practice registered nurse trained in the same specialty or area of practice as the type of treatment that is the subject of the grievance and appeal. All final recommendations of the independent review organization shall be approved by the medical director of the independent review organization.

The independent review organization shall complete its review and issue its recommended decision as soon as possible in accordance with the medical exigencies of the case. Except as provided for in this subsection, the independent review organization shall complete its review within 30 business days, or 72 hours in the case of an expedited appeal, from the time the Director assigns the appeal to the independent review organization. An insurer shall provide all documentation to the independent review organization within 5 days of receipt of the notice of approval of the appeal by the Director, or within 24 hours of receipt of the notice of approval of the grievance, for an expedited review. If an insurer does not provide the independent review organization all documentation required by this subsection within the time frames, or obtain the necessary extensions, the independent review organization may decide the appeal without receiving the information. The independent review organization shall extend its review for a reasonable period of time as may be necessary due to circumstances beyond its or the insurer's control, but only when the delay will not result in increased medical risk to the member. In such an event, the independent review organization shall, prior to the conclusion of the initial review period, provide written notice to the member or member representative and to the insurer setting forth the status of its review and the specific reasons for the delay.

If the independent review organization determines that the member was deprived of medically necessary covered services, the independent review organization shall recommend to the Director the appropriate covered health care services the member should receive. The Director shall forward copies of the recommendation to the member or member representative and the insurer.

When necessary, the independent review organization shall refer a case for review to a consultant physician or other health care provider in the same specialty or area of practice who would generally manage the type of treatment that is the subject of the appeal. All final recommendations of the independent review organization shall be approved by the medical director of the independent review organization.

The decision of the independent review organization shall be nonbinding on all parties and shall not affect any other legal causes of action.

This section shall not apply in cases directly involving Medicaid benefits.

Any appeal brought pursuant to this section by a member involving coverage provided pursuant to the Medicaid program shall be resolved in accordance with federal and District of Columbia laws, regulations, and procedures established for fair hearings and appeals for the Medicaid program.

The Insurer shall not take any retaliatory action, such as refusing to renew or canceling coverage, against the Eligible Participant or the Group because the Eligible Participant, the Group, or any person acting on the Eligible Participant's or the Group's behalf, has filed a complaint against the Insurer or has appealed a decision made by the Insurer.

In the case of a reduction or a termination of services that is contrary to the recommendations of the treating physician or advance practice registered nurse, an insurer shall provide a member or member representative with 24 hours prior verbal notification, followed by a written decision as soon as practical.

The Insurer will meet any Notice requirements by mailing the Notice to the Group at the billing address listed on our records. The Group will meet any Notice requirements by mailing the Notice to:

The Insurer

If the Covered Person is dissatisfied with the insurer's resolution, the Covered Person has a right to contact the Director of Insurance. For issues concerning medical necessity of treatment contact:

**Department of Health
Attn: Charlita Brown
825 North Capital Street, Room 4119
Washington, D.C. 20002**

For all other issues contact:
**The Commissioner of Insurance
810 First Street, Room 701
Washington, D.C 20002**

Dispute Resolution

All complaints or disputes relating to coverage under this Plan must be resolved in accordance with the Insurer's grievance procedures. Grievances may be reported by telephone or in writing. All grievances received by the Insurer that cannot be resolved by telephone conversation (when appropriate) to the mutual satisfaction of both the Covered Person and the Insurer will be acknowledged in writing, along with a description of how the Insurer propose to resolve the grievance.

The Insurer shall not take any retaliatory action, such as refusing to renew or canceling coverage, against the Insured Participant and his/her Insured Dependents or the Group because the Insured Participant's, the Group's, or any person's action on the Covered Person's or the Group's behalf, has filed a complaint against the Insurer or has appealed a decision made by the Insurer.