

## **Currituck County**

CIGNA VISION

**EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016**

CN017  
3334829

This document printed in May, 2016 takes the place of any documents previously issued to you which described your benefits.

Printed in U.S.A.



# Table of Contents

<b>Certification</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Important Notices</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>How To File Your Claim</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Eligibility - Effective Date</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Employee Insurance .....	7
Waiting Period.....	7
Dependent Insurance .....	7
<b>Cigna Vision</b> .....	<b>8</b>
The Schedule .....	8
Covered Expenses .....	9
Expenses Not Covered .....	9
<b>Exclusions and General Limitations</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Coordination of Benefits</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Payment of Benefits</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Termination of Insurance</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Employees .....	13
Dependents .....	13
<b>Federal Requirements</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) .....	13
Effect of Section 125 Tax Regulations on This Plan .....	14
Eligibility for Coverage for Adopted Children.....	15
Group Plan Coverage Instead of Medicaid.....	15
Requirements of Medical Leave Act of 1993 (as amended) (FMLA) .....	15
Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) .....	15
Claim Determination Procedures.....	16
COBRA Continuation Rights Under Federal Law .....	16
Notice of an Appeal or a Grievance .....	19
<b>When You Have A Complaint Or An Appeal</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Definitions</b> .....	<b>23</b>

*Home Office: Bloomfield, Connecticut  
Mailing Address: Hartford, Connecticut 06152*

**CIGNA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

a Cigna company (hereinafter called Cigna) certifies that it insures certain Employees for the benefits provided by the following policy(s):

**POLICYHOLDER:** Currituck County

**GROUP POLICY(S) — COVERAGE**

3334829 - VISN CIGNA VISION

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2016

This certificate describes the main features of the insurance. It does not waive or alter any of the terms of the policy(s). If questions arise, the policy(s) will govern.

This certificate takes the place of any other issued to you on a prior date which described the insurance.

  
*Anna Krishdul, Corporate Secretary*

### **Explanation of Terms**

You will find terms starting with capital letters throughout your certificate. To help you understand your benefits, most of these terms are defined in the Definitions section of your certificate.

### **The Schedule**

**The Schedule is a brief outline of your maximum benefits which may be payable under your insurance. For a full description of each benefit, refer to the appropriate section listed in the Table of Contents.**

## Important Notices

### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WILLFUL FAILURE TO PAY GROUP INSURANCE PREMIUMS

UNDER NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 58-50-40, NO PERSON, EMPLOYER, PRINCIPAL, AGENT, TRUSTEE OR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUP HEALTH OR LIFE INSURANCE OR GROUP HEALTH PLAN PREMIUMS, SHALL:

CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR NONRENEWAL OF GROUP HEALTH OR LIFE INSURANCE, HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR DENTAL SERVICE CORPORATION PLAN, MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ARRANGEMENT, OR GROUP HEALTH PLAN COVERAGES AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OF THE COVERAGES OF THE PERSONS INSURED, BY WILLFULLY FAILING TO PAY THOSE PREMIUMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE INSURANCE OR PLAN CONTRACT; AND WILLFULLY FAIL TO DELIVER, AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THOSE COVERAGES, TO ALL PERSONS COVERED BY THE GROUP POLICY A WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PERSON'S INTENTION TO STOP PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS. THIS WRITTEN NOTICE MUST ALSO CONTAIN A NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS COVERED BY THE GROUP POLICY OF THEIR RIGHTS TO HEALTH INSURANCE CONVERSION POLICIES UNDER ARTICLE 53 OF CHAPTER 58 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES AND THEIR RIGHTS TO PURCHASE INDIVIDUAL POLICIES UNDER THE FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT AND UNDER ARTICLE 68 OF CHAPTER 58 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES. VIOLATION OF THIS LAW IS A FELONY. ANY PERSON VIOLATING THIS LAW IS ALSO SUBJECT TO A COURT ORDER REQUIRING THE PERSON TO COMPENSATE PERSONS INSURED FOR EXPENSES OR LOSSES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE TERMINATION OF THE INSURANCE.

HC-NOT59V1

### Notice Regarding Provider Directories and Provider Networks - Vision

A Participating Provider network consists of a group of local practitioners who contract directly or indirectly with Cigna to provide services to members.

You may receive a listing of Participating Providers by calling the member services number on your benefit identification card, or by visiting [www.myCigna.com](http://www.myCigna.com).

### Notice - Participating Provider Benefits

The Vision benefit plan includes the following options:

- If you select a Participating Provider Cigna will base its payment on the amount listed in the Schedule of Benefits. The Participating Provider will limit his/her charge to the Contracted Fee for the service.
- If you select a Non-Participating Provider Cigna will base its payment on the amount listed in the Out-of-Network section of the Schedule of Benefits. The Non-Participating Provider may balance bill up to his/her actual charge.

### Notice – Emergency Services

Emergency Services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider will be paid at the Participating Provider benefit level in the event a Participating Provider is not available.

HC-NOT55

## How To File Your Claim

There's no paperwork for In-Network care. Just show your identification card and pay your share of the cost, if any; your provider will submit a claim to Cigna for reimbursement. Out-of-Network claims can be submitted by the provider if the provider is able and willing to file on your behalf. If the provider is not submitting on your behalf, you must send your completed claim form and itemized bills to the claims address listed on the claim form.

You may get the required claim forms from the website listed on your identification card or by calling the toll-free number on your identification card.

### CLAIM REMINDERS

- BE SURE TO USE YOUR MEMBER ID AND ACCOUNT/GROUP NUMBER WHEN YOU FILE CIGNA'S CLAIM FORMS, OR WHEN YOU CALL YOUR CIGNA CLAIM OFFICE.  
YOUR MEMBER ID IS THE ID SHOWN ON YOUR BENEFIT IDENTIFICATION CARD.

YOUR ACCOUNT/GROUP NUMBER IS SHOWN ON YOUR BENEFIT IDENTIFICATION CARD.

- BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE CLAIM FORM CAREFULLY WHEN SUBMITTING A CLAIM TO CIGNA.

#### **Timely Filing of Out-of-Network Claims**

Cigna will consider claims for coverage under our plans when proof of loss (a claim) is submitted within 365 days for Out-of-Network benefits after services are rendered. If services are rendered on consecutive days, such as for a Hospital Confinement, the limit will be counted from the last date of service. If claims are not submitted within 365 days for Out-of-Network benefits, the claim will not be considered valid and will be denied.

**WARNING:** Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information; or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any material fact thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act.

HC-CLM39

01-11

## **Eligibility - Effective Date**

### **Employee Insurance**

This plan is offered to you as an Employee.

#### **Eligibility for Employee Insurance**

You will become eligible for insurance on the day you complete the waiting period if:

- you are in a Class of Eligible Employees; and
- you are an eligible, full-time Employee; and
- you normally work at least 30 hours a week; and
- you pay any required contribution.

If you were previously insured and your insurance ceased, you must satisfy the Waiting Period to become insured again. If your insurance ceased because you were no longer employed in a Class of Eligible Employees, you are not required to satisfy any waiting period if you again become a member of a Class of Eligible Employees within one year after your insurance ceased.

#### **Eligibility for Dependent Insurance**

You will become eligible for Dependent insurance on the later of:

- the day you become eligible for yourself; or
- the day you acquire your first Dependent.

### **Waiting Period**

None.

#### **Classes of Eligible Employees**

Each Employee as reported to the insurance company by your Employer.

#### **Effective Date of Employee Insurance**

You will become insured on the date you elect the insurance by signing an approved payroll deduction or enrollment form, as applicable, but no earlier than the date you become eligible.

You will become insured on your first day of eligibility, following your election, if you are in Active Service on that date, or if you are not in Active Service on that date due to your health status.

#### **Late Entrant - Employee**

You are a Late Entrant if:

- you elect the insurance more than 30 days after you become eligible; or
- you again elect it after you cancel your payroll deduction (if required).

### **Dependent Insurance**

For your Dependents to be insured, you will have to pay the required contribution, if any, toward the cost of Dependent Insurance.

#### **Effective Date of Dependent Insurance**

Insurance for your Dependents will become effective on the date you elect it by signing an approved payroll deduction form (if required), but no earlier than the day you become eligible for Dependent Insurance. All of your Dependents as defined will be included.

Your Dependents will be insured only if you are insured.

#### **Late Entrant – Dependent**

You are a Late Entrant for Dependent Insurance if:

- you elect that insurance more than 30 days after you become eligible for it; or
- you again elect it after you cancel your payroll deduction (if required).

HC-ELG1

04-10

v9

<b>Cigna Vision</b>
<b>The Schedule</b>
<b>For You and Your Dependents</b>
<b>Copayments</b> Copayments are amounts to be paid by you or your Dependent for covered services.
<b>Contract Year</b> Contract Year means a twelve month period beginning on each 07/01.

BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
	The Plan will pay 100% after any copayment, subject to any maximum shown below	The plan will reimburse you at 100%, subject to any maximum shown below
<b>Examinations</b> One Eye Exam every Contract Year	\$10 Copay	\$45
<b>Lenses &amp; Frames</b>	\$20 Copay*  <b>*Note:</b> Lenses & Frames Copay does not apply to Contact Lenses	
<b>Lenses</b> One pair per Contract Year		
Single Vision Lenses	100%	\$32
Bifocal Lenses	100%	\$55
Trifocal Lenses	100%	\$65
Lenticular Lenses	100%	\$80
<b>Contact Lenses</b> One pair per Contract Year		
Elective	100% up to \$110	\$98
Therapeutic	100%	\$210
<b>Frames</b> One pair in any 2 Contract Years	100% up to \$120	\$66

## Vision Benefits

### For You and Your Dependents

#### Covered Expenses

##### Benefits Include:

Examinations – One vision and eye health evaluation including but not limited to eye health examination, dilation, refraction and prescription for glasses.

Lenses (Glasses) – One pair of prescription plastic or glass lenses, all ranges of prescriptions (powers and prisms).

- Polycarbonate lenses for children under 18 years of age;
- Oversize lenses;
- Rose #1 and #2 solid tints;
- Progressive lenses covered up to bifocal lenses amount.

Frames – One frame – choice of frame covered up to retail plan allowance.

Contact Lenses – One pair or a single purchase of a supply of contact lenses in lieu of lenses and frame benefit (may not receive contact lenses and frames in same benefit year). Contact lens allowance can be applied towards contact lens materials as well as the cost of supplemental contact lens professional services including fitting and evaluation, up to the stated allowance.

Coverage for Therapeutic contact lenses will be provided when visual acuity cannot be corrected to 20/70 in the better eye with eyeglasses and the fitting of the contact lenses would obtain this level of visual acuity; and in certain cases of anisometropia, keratoconus, or aphakia; as determined and documented by your Vision Provider. Contact lenses fitted for other therapeutic purposes or the narrowing of visual fields due to high minus or plus correction will be covered in accordance with the Elective contact lens benefit shown on the Schedule of Benefits.

HC-VIS1

04-10  
V6

#### Expenses Not Covered

Covered Expenses will not include, and no payment will be made for:

- Orthoptic or vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
- Medical or surgical treatment of the eyes.
- Any eye examination, or any corrective eyewear, required by an employer as a condition of employment.

- Charges incurred after the Policy ends or the insured's coverage under the Policy ends, except as stated in the Policy.
- Experimental or non-conventional treatment or device.
- Charges in excess of the usual and customary charge for the service or materials.
- For or in connection with experimental procedures or treatment methods not approved by the American Optometric Association or the appropriate vision specialty society.
- Any injury or illness when paid or payable by Workers' Compensation or similar law, or which is work-related.
- Claims submitted and received in-excess of 12 months from the original date of service.
- VDT (video display terminal)/computer eyeglass benefit.
- Magnification or low vision aids.
- Spectacle lens treatments, "add ons", or lens coatings not shown as covered in the Schedule.
- Two pair of glasses, in lieu of bifocals or trifocals.
- Prescription sunglasses.
- Any non-prescription eyeglasses, lenses, or contact lenses.
- Safety glasses or lenses required for employment.

Other Limitations are shown in the Exclusions and General Limitations section.

HC-VIS2

04-10  
V5

## Exclusions and General Limitations

### Exclusions

**Additional coverage limitations determined by plan or provider type are shown in the Schedule. Payment for the following is specifically excluded from this plan:**

- treatment of an Injury or Sickness which is due to war, declared, or undeclared.
- charges which you are not obligated to pay or for which you are not billed or for which you would not have been billed except that they were covered under this plan.
- for or in connection with experimental procedures or treatment methods not approved by the American Optometric Association or the appropriate vision specialty society.

## **General Limitations**

No payment will be made for expenses incurred for you or any one of your Dependents:

- for charges made by a Hospital owned or operated by or which provides care or performs services for, the United States Government, if such charges are directly related to a military-service-connected Injury or Sickness.
- to the extent that payment is unlawful where the person resides when the expenses are incurred.
- for charges which would not have been made if the person had no insurance.
- expenses for supplies, care, treatment, or surgery that are not Medically Necessary.

HC-EXC1

04-10  
V2

## **Coordination of Benefits**

This section applies if you or any one of your Dependents is covered under more than one Plan and determines how benefits payable from all such Plans will be coordinated. You should file all claims with each Plan.

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

#### **Plan**

Any of the following that provides benefits or services for vision care or treatment:

- Group insurance and/or group-type coverage, whether insured or self-insured which neither can be purchased by the general public, nor is individually underwritten, including closed panel coverage.
- Coverage under Medicare and other governmental benefits as permitted by law, excepting Medicaid and Medicare supplement policies.

Each Plan or part of a Plan which has the right to coordinate benefits will be considered a separate Plan.

#### **Closed Panel Plan**

A Plan that provides medical or dental benefits primarily in the form of services through a panel of employed or contracted providers, and that limits or excludes benefits provided by providers outside of the panel, except in the case of emergency or if referred by a provider within the panel.

## **Primary Plan**

The Plan that determines and provides or pays benefits without taking into consideration the existence of any other Plan.

## **Secondary Plan**

A Plan that determines, and may reduce its benefits after taking into consideration, the benefits provided or paid by the Primary Plan. A Secondary Plan may also recover from the Primary Plan the Reasonable Cash Value of any services it provided to you.

## **Allowable Expense**

A necessary, reasonable and customary service or expense, including deductibles, coinsurance or copayments, that is covered in full or in part by any Plan covering you. When a Plan provides benefits in the form of services, the Reasonable Cash Value of each service is the Allowable Expense and is a paid benefit.

Examples of expenses or services that are not Allowable Expenses include, but are not limited to the following:

- An expense or service or a portion of an expense or service that is not covered by any of the Plans is not an Allowable Expense.
- If you are covered by two or more Plans that provide services or supplies on the basis of reasonable and customary fees, any amount in excess of the highest reasonable and customary fee is not an Allowable Expense.
- If you are covered by one Plan that provides services or supplies on the basis of reasonable and customary fees and one Plan that provides services and supplies on the basis of negotiated fees, the Primary Plan's fee arrangement shall be the Allowable Expense.
- If your benefits are reduced under the Primary Plan (through the imposition of a higher copayment amount, higher coinsurance percentage, a deductible and/or a penalty) because you did not comply with Plan provisions or because you did not use a preferred provider, the amount of the reduction is not an Allowable Expense. Such Plan provisions include second surgical opinions and precertification of admissions or services.

## **Claim Determination Period**

A calendar year, but does not include any part of a year during which you are not covered under this policy or any date before this section or any similar provision takes effect.

## **Reasonable Cash Value**

An amount which a duly licensed provider of health care services usually charges patients and which is within the range of fees usually charged for the same service by other health care providers located within the immediate geographic area

where the health care service is rendered under similar or comparable circumstances.

### **Order of Benefit Determination Rules**

A Plan that does not have a coordination of benefits rule consistent with this section shall always be the Primary Plan. If the Plan does have a coordination of benefits rule consistent with this section, the first of the following rules that applies to the situation is the one to use:

- The Plan that covers you as an enrollee or an employee shall be the Primary Plan and the Plan that covers you as a Dependent shall be the Secondary Plan;
- If you are a Dependent child whose parents are not divorced or legally separated, the Primary Plan shall be the Plan which covers the parent whose birthday falls first in the calendar year as an enrollee or employee;
- If you are the Dependent of divorced or separated parents, benefits for the Dependent shall be determined in the following order:
  - first, if a court decree states that one parent is responsible for the child's healthcare expenses or health coverage and the Plan for that parent has actual knowledge of the terms of the order, but only from the time of actual knowledge;
  - then, the Plan of the parent with custody of the child;
  - then, the Plan of the spouse of the parent with custody of the child;
  - then, the Plan of the parent not having custody of the child, and
  - finally, the Plan of the spouse of the parent not having custody of the child.
- The Plan that covers you as an active employee (or as that employee's Dependent) shall be the Primary Plan and the Plan that covers you as laid-off or retired employee (or as that employee's Dependent) shall be the Secondary Plan. If the other Plan does not have a similar provision and, as a result, the Plans cannot agree on the order of benefit determination, this paragraph shall not apply.
- The Plan that covers you under a right of continuation which is provided by federal or state law shall be the Secondary Plan and the Plan that covers you as an active employee or retiree (or as that employee's Dependent) shall be the Primary Plan. If the other Plan does not have a similar provision and, as a result, the Plans cannot agree on the order of benefit determination, this paragraph shall not apply.
- If one of the Plans that covers you is issued out of the state whose laws govern this Policy, and determines the order of benefits based upon the gender of a parent, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefit determination,

the Plan with the gender rules shall determine the order of benefits.

If none of the above rules determines the order of benefits, the Plan that has covered you for the longer period of time shall be primary.

When coordinating benefits with Medicare, this Plan will be the Secondary Plan and determine benefits after Medicare, where permitted by the Social Security Act of 1965, as amended. However, when more than one Plan is secondary to Medicare, the benefit determination rules identified above, will be used to determine how benefits will be coordinated.

### **Effect on the Benefits of This Plan**

If this Plan is the Secondary Plan, this Plan may reduce benefits so that the total benefits paid by all Plans during a Claim Determination Period are not more than 100% of the total of all Allowable Expenses.

The difference between the amount that this Plan would have paid if this Plan had been the Primary Plan, and the benefit payments that this Plan had actually paid as the Secondary Plan, will be recorded as a benefit reserve for you. Cigna will use this benefit reserve to pay any Allowable Expense not otherwise paid during the Claim Determination Period.

As each claim is submitted, Cigna will determine the following:

- Cigna's obligation to provide services and supplies under this policy;
- whether a benefit reserve has been recorded for you; and
- whether there are any unpaid Allowable Expenses during the Claims Determination Period.

If there is a benefit reserve, Cigna will use the benefit reserve recorded for you to pay up to 100% of the total of all Allowable Expenses. At the end of the Claim Determination Period, your benefit reserve will return to zero and a new benefit reserve will be calculated for each new Claim Determination Period.

### **Recovery of Excess Benefits**

If Cigna pays charges for benefits that should have been paid by the Primary Plan, or if Cigna pays charges in excess of those for which we are obligated to provide under the Policy, Cigna will have the right to recover the actual payment made or the Reasonable Cash Value of any services.

Cigna will have sole discretion to seek such recovery from any person to, or for whom, or with respect to whom, such services were provided or such payments made by any insurance company, healthcare plan or other organization. If we request, you must execute and deliver to us such instruments and documents as we determine are necessary to secure the right of recovery.

### **Right to Receive and Release Information**

Cigna, without consent or notice to you, may obtain information from and release information to any other Plan with respect to you in order to coordinate your benefits pursuant to this section. You must provide us with any information we request in order to coordinate your benefits pursuant to this section. This request may occur in connection with a submitted claim; if so, you will be advised that the "other coverage" information, (including an Explanation of Benefits paid under the Primary Plan) is required before the claim will be processed for payment. If no response is received within 90 days of the request, the claim will be denied. If the requested information is subsequently received, the claim will be processed.

### **Medicare Eligibles**

Cigna will pay as the Secondary Plan as permitted by the Social Security Act of 1965 as amended for the following:

- (a) a former Employee who is eligible for Medicare and whose insurance is continued for any reason as provided in this plan;
- (b) a former Employee's Dependent, or a former Dependent Spouse, who is eligible for Medicare and whose insurance is continued for any reason as provided in this plan;
- (c) an Employee whose Employer and each other Employer participating in the Employer's plan have fewer than 100 Employees and that Employee is eligible for Medicare due to disability;
- (d) the Dependent of an Employee whose Employer and each other Employer participating in the Employer's plan have fewer than 100 Employees and that Dependent is eligible for Medicare due to disability;
- (e) an Employee or a Dependent of an Employee of an Employer who has fewer than 20 Employees, if that person is eligible for Medicare due to age;
- (f) an Employee, retired Employee, Employee's Dependent or retired Employee's Dependent who is eligible for Medicare due to End Stage Renal Disease after that person has been eligible for Medicare for 30 months;

Cigna will assume the amount payable under:

- Part A of Medicare for a person who is eligible for that Part without premium payment, but has not applied, to be the amount he would receive if he had applied.
- Part B of Medicare for a person who is entitled to be enrolled in that Part, but is not, to be the amount he would receive if he were enrolled.

- Part B of Medicare for a person who has entered into a private contract with a provider, to be the amount he would receive in the absence of such private contract.

A person is considered eligible for Medicare on the earliest date any coverage under Medicare could become effective for him.

This reduction will not apply to any Employee and his Dependent or any former Employee and his Dependent unless he is listed under (a) through (f) above.

HC-COB1

04-10

V3

### **Payment of Benefits**

#### **To Whom Payable**

Vision Benefits are payable to you, but are also assignable to the provider. When you assign benefits to a provider, you have assigned the entire amount of the benefits due on that claim. If the provider is overpaid because of accepting a patient's payment on the charge, it is the provider's responsibility to reimburse the patient. Because of Cigna's contracts with providers, all claims from contracted providers should be assigned.

Cigna may, at its option, make payment to you for the cost of any Covered Expenses even if benefits have been assigned. When benefits are paid to you or your Dependent, you or your Dependents are responsible for reimbursing the provider.

If any person to whom benefits are payable is a minor or, in the opinion of Cigna is not able to give a valid receipt for any payment due him, such payment will be made to his legal guardian. If no request for payment has been made by his legal guardian, Cigna may, at its option, make payment to the person or institution appearing to have assumed his custody and support.

When one of our participants passes away, Cigna may receive notice that an executor of the estate has been established. The executor has the same rights as our insured and benefit payments for unassigned claims should be made payable to the executor.

Payment as described above will release Cigna from all liability to the extent of any payment made.

## Recovery of Overpayment

When an overpayment has been made by Cigna, Cigna will have the right at any time to: recover that overpayment from the person to whom or on whose behalf it was made; or offset the amount of that overpayment from a future claim payment.

HC-POB1

04-10  
V1

- the last day for which you have made any required contribution for the insurance.
- the date Dependent Insurance is canceled.

The insurance for any one of your Dependents will cease on the date that Dependent no longer qualifies as a Dependent.

HC-TRM1

04-10  
V1

## Termination of Insurance

### Employees

Your insurance will cease on the earliest date below:

- the date you cease to be in a Class of Eligible Employees or cease to qualify for the insurance.
- the last day for which you have made any required contribution for the insurance.
- the date the policy is canceled.
- the date your Active Service ends except as described below.

Any continuation of insurance must be based on a plan which precludes individual selection.

### Temporary Layoff or Leave of Absence

If your Active Service ends due to temporary layoff or leave of absence, your insurance will be continued until the date your Employer: stops paying premium for you; or otherwise cancels your insurance. However, your insurance will not be continued for more than 60 days past the date your Active Service ends.

### Injury or Sickness

If your Active Service ends due to an Injury or Sickness, your insurance will be continued while you remain totally and continuously disabled as a result of the Injury or Sickness. However, your insurance will not continue past the date your Employer stops paying premium for you or otherwise cancels your insurance.

### Retirement

If your Active Service ends because you retire, your insurance will be continued until the date on which your Employer stops paying premium for you or otherwise cancels the insurance.

### Dependents

Your insurance for all of your Dependents will cease on the earliest date below:

- the date your insurance ceases.
- the date you cease to be eligible for Dependent Insurance.

## Federal Requirements

The following pages explain your rights and responsibilities under federal laws and regulations. Some states may have similar requirements. If a similar provision appears elsewhere in this booklet, the provision which provides the better benefit will apply.

HC-FED1

10-10

## Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO)

### Eligibility for Coverage Under a QMCSO

If a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) is issued for your child, that child will be eligible for coverage as required by the order and you will not be considered a Late Entrant for Dependent Insurance.

You must notify your Employer and elect coverage for that child, and yourself if you are not already enrolled, within 31 days of the QMCSO being issued.

### Qualified Medical Child Support Order Defined

A Qualified Medical Child Support Order is a judgment, decree or order (including approval of a settlement agreement) or administrative notice, which is issued pursuant to a state domestic relations law (including a community property law), or to an administrative process, which provides for child support or provides for health benefit coverage to such child and relates to benefits under the group health plan, and satisfies all of the following:

- the order recognizes or creates a child's right to receive group health benefits for which a participant or beneficiary is eligible;
- the order specifies your name and last known address, and the child's name and last known address, except that the name and address of an official of a state or political subdivision may be substituted for the child's mailing address;

- the order provides a description of the coverage to be provided, or the manner in which the type of coverage is to be determined;
- the order states the period to which it applies; and
- if the order is a National Medical Support Notice completed in accordance with the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, such Notice meets the requirements above.

The QMCSO may not require the health insurance policy to provide coverage for any type or form of benefit or option not otherwise provided under the policy, except that an order may require a plan to comply with State laws regarding health care coverage.

#### **Payment of Benefits**

Any payment of benefits in reimbursement for Covered Expenses paid by the child, or the child's custodial parent or legal guardian, shall be made to the child, the child's custodial parent or legal guardian, or a state official whose name and address have been substituted for the name and address of the child.

HC-FED4

10-10

### **Effect of Section 125 Tax Regulations on This Plan**

Your Employer has chosen to administer this Plan in accordance with Section 125 regulations of the Internal Revenue Code. Per this regulation, you may agree to a pretax salary reduction put toward the cost of your benefits. Otherwise, you will receive your taxable earnings as cash (salary).

#### **A. Coverage Elections**

Per Section 125 regulations, you are generally allowed to enroll for or change coverage only before each annual benefit period. However, exceptions are allowed if your Employer agrees and you enroll for or change coverage within 30 days of the following:

- the date you meet the Special Enrollment criteria described above; or
- the date you meet the criteria shown in the following Sections B through H.

#### **B. Change of Status**

A change in status is defined as:

- change in legal marital status due to marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, annulment or legal separation;
- change in number of Dependents due to birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a Dependent;

- change in employment status of Employee, spouse or Dependent due to termination or start of employment, strike, lockout, beginning or end of unpaid leave of absence, including under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), or change in worksite;
- changes in employment status of Employee, spouse or Dependent resulting in eligibility or ineligibility for coverage;
- change in residence of Employee, spouse or Dependent to a location outside of the Employer's network service area; and
- changes which cause a Dependent to become eligible or ineligible for coverage.

#### **C. Court Order**

A change in coverage due to and consistent with a court order of the Employee or other person to cover a Dependent.

#### **D. Medicare or Medicaid Eligibility/Entitlement**

The Employee, spouse or Dependent cancels or reduces coverage due to entitlement to Medicare or Medicaid, or enrolls or increases coverage due to loss of Medicare or Medicaid eligibility.

#### **E. Change in Cost of Coverage**

If the cost of benefits increases or decreases during a benefit period, your Employer may, in accordance with plan terms, automatically change your elective contribution.

When the change in cost is significant, you may either increase your contribution or elect less-costly coverage. When a significant overall reduction is made to the benefit option you have elected, you may elect another available benefit option. When a new benefit option is added, you may change your election to the new benefit option.

#### **F. Changes in Coverage of Spouse or Dependent Under Another Employer's Plan**

You may make a coverage election change if the plan of your spouse or Dependent: incurs a change such as adding or deleting a benefit option; allows election changes due to Special Enrollment, Change in Status, Court Order or Medicare or Medicaid Eligibility/Entitlement; or this Plan and the other plan have different periods of coverage or open enrollment periods.

#### **G. Reduction in work hours**

If an Employee's work hours are reduced below 30 hours/week (even if it does not result in the Employee losing eligibility for the Employer's coverage); and the Employee (and family) intend to enroll in another plan that provides Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC). The new coverage must be effective no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month following the month that includes the date the original coverage is revoked.

## H. Enrollment in Qualified Health Plan (QHP)

The Employee must be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in a QHP through a Marketplace or the Employee wants to enroll in a QHP through a Marketplace during the Marketplace's annual open enrollment period; and the disenrollment from the group plan corresponds to the intended enrollment of the Employee (and family) in a QHP through a Marketplace for new coverage effective beginning no later than the day immediately following the last day of the original coverage.

HC-FED70

12-14

### Eligibility for Coverage for Adopted Children

Any child who is adopted by you, including a child who is placed with you for adoption, will be eligible for Dependent Insurance, if otherwise eligible as a Dependent, upon the date of placement with you. A child will be considered placed for adoption when you become legally obligated to support that child, totally or partially, prior to that child's adoption.

If a child placed for adoption is not adopted, all health coverage ceases when the placement ends, and will not be continued.

The provisions in the "Exception for Newborns" section of this document that describe requirements for enrollment and effective date of insurance will also apply to an adopted child or a child placed with you for adoption.

HC-FED67

09-14

### Group Plan Coverage Instead of Medicaid

If your income and liquid resources do not exceed certain limits established by law, the state may decide to pay premiums for this coverage instead of for Medicaid, if it is cost effective. This includes premiums for continuation coverage required by federal law.

HC-FED13

10-10

### Requirements of Medical Leave Act of 1993 (as amended) (FMLA)

Any provisions of the policy that provide for: continuation of insurance during a leave of absence; and reinstatement of insurance following a return to Active Service; are modified

by the following provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, where applicable:

#### Continuation of Health Insurance During Leave

Your health insurance will be continued during a leave of absence if:

- that leave qualifies as a leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended; and
- you are an eligible Employee under the terms of that Act.

The cost of your health insurance during such leave must be paid, whether entirely by your Employer or in part by you and your Employer.

#### Reinstatement of Canceled Insurance Following Leave

Upon your return to Active Service following a leave of absence that qualifies under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, any canceled insurance (health, life or disability) will be reinstated as of the date of your return.

You will not be required to satisfy any eligibility or benefit waiting period to the extent that they had been satisfied prior to the start of such leave of absence.

Your Employer will give you detailed information about the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended.

HC-FED17

10-10

### Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)

The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) sets requirements for continuation of health coverage and re-employment in regard to an Employee's military leave of absence. These requirements apply to medical and dental coverage for you and your Dependents. They do not apply to any Life, Short-term or Long-term Disability or Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage you may have.

#### Continuation of Coverage

For leaves of less than 31 days, coverage will continue as described in the Termination section regarding Leave of Absence.

For leaves of 31 days or more, you may continue coverage for yourself and your Dependents as follows:

You may continue benefits by paying the required premium to your Employer, until the earliest of the following:

- 24 months from the last day of employment with the Employer;
- the day after you fail to return to work; and
- the date the policy cancels.

Your Employer may charge you and your Dependents up to 102% of the total premium.

Following continuation of health coverage per USERRA requirements, you may convert to a plan of individual coverage according to any “Conversion Privilege” shown in your certificate.

#### **Reinstatement of Benefits (applicable to all coverages)**

If your coverage ends during the leave of absence because you do not elect USERRA or an available conversion plan at the expiration of USERRA and you are reemployed by your current Employer, coverage for you and your Dependents may be reinstated if you gave your Employer advance written or verbal notice of your military service leave, and the duration of all military leaves while you are employed with your current Employer does not exceed 5 years.

You and your Dependents will be subject to only the balance of a waiting period that was not yet satisfied before the leave began. However, if an Injury or Sickness occurs or is aggravated during the military leave, full Plan limitations will apply.

If your coverage under this plan terminates as a result of your eligibility for military medical and dental coverage and your order to active duty is canceled before your active duty service commences, these reinstatement rights will continue to apply.

HC-FED18

10-10

## **Claim Determination Procedures**

**The following complies with federal law. Provisions of the laws of your state may supersede.**

### **Postservice Claim Determinations**

When you or your representative requests payment for services which have been rendered, Cigna will notify you of the claim payment determination within 30 days after receiving the request. However, if more time is needed to make a determination due to matters beyond Cigna’s control, Cigna will notify you or your representative within 30 days after receiving the request. This notice will include the date a determination can be expected, which will be no more than 45 days after receipt of the request. If more time is needed because necessary information is missing from the request, the notice will also specify what information is needed, and you or your representative must provide the specified information within 45 days after receiving the notice. The determination period will be suspended on the date Cigna sends such a notice of missing information, and resume on the date you or your representative responds to the notice.

HC-FED40

04-12

## **COBRA Continuation Rights Under Federal Law**

### **For You and Your Dependents**

#### **What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

Under federal law, you and/or your Dependents must be given the opportunity to continue health insurance when there is a “qualifying event” that would result in loss of coverage under the Plan. You and/or your Dependents will be permitted to continue the same coverage under which you or your Dependents were covered on the day before the qualifying event occurred, unless you move out of that plan’s coverage area or the plan is no longer available. You and/or your Dependents cannot change coverage options until the next open enrollment period.

#### **When is COBRA Continuation Available?**

For you and your Dependents, COBRA continuation is available for up to 18 months from the date of the following qualifying events if the event would result in a loss of coverage under the Plan:

- your termination of employment for any reason, other than gross misconduct; or
- your reduction in work hours.

For your Dependents, COBRA continuation coverage is available for up to 36 months from the date of the following qualifying events if the event would result in a loss of coverage under the Plan:

- your death;
- your divorce or legal separation; or
- for a Dependent child, failure to continue to qualify as a Dependent under the Plan.

#### **Who is Entitled to COBRA Continuation?**

Only a “qualified beneficiary” (as defined by federal law) may elect to continue health insurance coverage. A qualified beneficiary may include the following individuals who were covered by the Plan on the day the qualifying event occurred: you, your spouse, and your Dependent children. Each qualified beneficiary has their own right to elect or decline COBRA continuation coverage even if you decline or are not eligible for COBRA continuation.

The following individuals are not qualified beneficiaries for purposes of COBRA continuation: domestic partners, grandchildren (unless adopted by you), stepchildren (unless adopted by you). Although these individuals do not have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage, if

you elect COBRA continuation coverage for yourself, you may also cover your Dependents even if they are not considered qualified beneficiaries under COBRA. However, such individuals' coverage will terminate when your COBRA continuation coverage terminates. The sections titled "Secondary Qualifying Events" and "Medicare Extension For Your Dependents" are not applicable to these individuals.

### **Secondary Qualifying Events**

If, as a result of your termination of employment or reduction in work hours, your Dependent(s) have elected COBRA continuation coverage and one or more Dependents experience another COBRA qualifying event, the affected Dependent(s) may elect to extend their COBRA continuation coverage for an additional 18 months (7 months if the secondary event occurs within the disability extension period) for a maximum of 36 months from the initial qualifying event. The second qualifying event must occur before the end of the initial 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage or within the disability extension period discussed below. Under no circumstances will COBRA continuation coverage be available for more than 36 months from the initial qualifying event. Secondary qualifying events are: your death; your divorce or legal separation; or, for a Dependent child, failure to continue to qualify as a Dependent under the Plan.

### **Disability Extension**

If, after electing COBRA continuation coverage due to your termination of employment or reduction in work hours, you or one of your Dependents is determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to be totally disabled under Title II or XVI of the SSA, you and all of your Dependents who have elected COBRA continuation coverage may extend such continuation for an additional 11 months, for a maximum of 29 months from the initial qualifying event.

To qualify for the disability extension, all of the following requirements must be satisfied:

- SSA must determine that the disability occurred prior to or within 60 days after the disabled individual elected COBRA continuation coverage; and
- A copy of the written SSA determination must be provided to the Plan Administrator within 60 calendar days after the date the SSA determination is made AND before the end of the initial 18-month continuation period.

If the SSA later determines that the individual is no longer disabled, you must notify the Plan Administrator within 30 days after the date the final determination is made by SSA. The 11-month disability extension will terminate for all covered persons on the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date the SSA makes a final determination that the disabled individual is no longer disabled.

All causes for "Termination of COBRA Continuation" listed below will also apply to the period of disability extension.

### **Medicare Extension for Your Dependents**

When the qualifying event is your termination of employment or reduction in work hours and you became enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both) within the 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for your Dependents will last for up to 36 months after the date you became enrolled in Medicare. Your COBRA continuation coverage will last for up to 18 months from the date of your termination of employment or reduction in work hours.

### **Termination of COBRA Continuation**

COBRA continuation coverage will be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- the end of the COBRA continuation period of 18, 29 or 36 months, as applicable;
- failure to pay the required premium within 30 calendar days after the due date;
- cancellation of the Employer's policy with Cigna;
- after electing COBRA continuation coverage, a qualified beneficiary enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both);
- after electing COBRA continuation coverage, a qualified beneficiary becomes covered under another group health plan, unless the qualified beneficiary has a condition for which the new plan limits or excludes coverage under a pre-existing condition provision. In such case coverage will continue until the earliest of: the end of the applicable maximum period; the date the pre-existing condition provision is no longer applicable; or the occurrence of an event described in one of the first three bullets above;
- any reason the Plan would terminate coverage of a participant or beneficiary who is not receiving continuation coverage (e.g., fraud).

### **Employer's Notification Requirements**

Your Employer is required to provide you and/or your Dependents with the following notices:

- An initial notification of COBRA continuation rights must be provided within 90 days after your (or your spouse's) coverage under the Plan begins (or the Plan first becomes subject to COBRA continuation requirements, if later). If you and/or your Dependents experience a qualifying event before the end of that 90-day period, the initial notice must be provided within the time frame required for the COBRA continuation coverage election notice as explained below.
- A COBRA continuation coverage election notice must be provided to you and/or your Dependents within the following timeframes:
  - if the Plan provides that COBRA continuation coverage and the period within which an Employer must notify the Plan Administrator of a qualifying event starts upon the

loss of coverage, 44 days after loss of coverage under the Plan;

- if the Plan provides that COBRA continuation coverage and the period within which an Employer must notify the Plan Administrator of a qualifying event starts upon the occurrence of a qualifying event, 44 days after the qualifying event occurs; or
- in the case of a multi-employer plan, no later than 14 days after the end of the period in which Employers must provide notice of a qualifying event to the Plan Administrator.

### **How to Elect COBRA Continuation Coverage**

The COBRA coverage election notice will list the individuals who are eligible for COBRA continuation coverage and inform you of the applicable premium. The notice will also include instructions for electing COBRA continuation coverage. You must notify the Plan Administrator of your election no later than the due date stated on the COBRA election notice. If a written election notice is required, it must be post-marked no later than the due date stated on the COBRA election notice. If you do not make proper notification by the due date shown on the notice, you and your Dependents will lose the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. If you reject COBRA continuation coverage before the due date, you may change your mind as long as you furnish a completed election form before the due date.

Each qualified beneficiary has an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Continuation coverage may be elected for only one, several, or for all Dependents who are qualified beneficiaries. Parents may elect to continue coverage on behalf of their Dependent children. You or your spouse may elect continuation coverage on behalf of all the qualified beneficiaries. You are not required to elect COBRA continuation coverage in order for your Dependents to elect COBRA continuation.

### **How Much Does COBRA Continuation Coverage Cost?**

Each qualified beneficiary may be required to pay the entire cost of continuation coverage. The amount may not exceed 102% of the cost to the group health plan (including both Employer and Employee contributions) for coverage of a similarly situated active Employee or family member. The premium during the 11-month disability extension may not exceed 150% of the cost to the group health plan (including both employer and employee contributions) for coverage of a similarly situated active Employee or family member.

For example: If the Employee alone elects COBRA continuation coverage, the Employee will be charged 102% (or 150%) of the active Employee premium. If the spouse or one Dependent child alone elects COBRA continuation coverage, they will be charged 102% (or 150%) of the active Employee premium. If more than one qualified beneficiary

elects COBRA continuation coverage, they will be charged 102% (or 150%) of the applicable family premium.

### **When and How to Pay COBRA Premiums**

#### *First payment for COBRA continuation*

If you elect COBRA continuation coverage, you do not have to send any payment with the election form. However, you must make your first payment no later than 45 calendar days after the date of your election. (This is the date the Election Notice is postmarked, if mailed.) If you do not make your first payment within that 45 days, you will lose all COBRA continuation rights under the Plan.

#### *Subsequent payments*

After you make your first payment for COBRA continuation coverage, you will be required to make subsequent payments of the required premium for each additional month of coverage. Payment is due on the first day of each month. If you make a payment on or before its due date, your coverage under the Plan will continue for that coverage period without any break.

#### *Grace periods for subsequent payments*

Although subsequent payments are due by the first day of the month, you will be given a grace period of 30 days after the first day of the coverage period to make each monthly payment. Your COBRA continuation coverage will be provided for each coverage period as long as payment for that coverage period is made before the end of the grace period for that payment. However, if your payment is received after the due date, your coverage under the Plan may be suspended during this time. Any providers who contact the Plan to confirm coverage during this time may be informed that coverage has been suspended. If payment is received before the end of the grace period, your coverage will be reinstated back to the beginning of the coverage period. This means that any claim you submit for benefits while your coverage is suspended may be denied and may have to be resubmitted once your coverage is reinstated. If you fail to make a payment before the end of the grace period for that coverage period, you will lose all rights to COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan.

### **You Must Give Notice of Certain Qualifying Events**

If you or your Dependent(s) experience one of the following qualifying events, you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 calendar days after the later of the date the qualifying event occurs or the date coverage would cease as a result of the qualifying event:

- Your divorce or legal separation; or
- Your child ceases to qualify as a Dependent under the Plan.
- The occurrence of a secondary qualifying event as discussed under “Secondary Qualifying Events” above (this notice

must be received prior to the end of the initial 18- or 29-month COBRA period).

(Also refer to the section titled “Disability Extension” for additional notice requirements.)

Notice must be made in writing and must include: the name of the Plan, name and address of the Employee covered under the Plan, name and address(es) of the qualified beneficiaries affected by the qualifying event; the qualifying event; the date the qualifying event occurred; and supporting documentation (e.g., divorce decree, birth certificate, disability determination, etc.).

### **Newly Acquired Dependents**

If you acquire a new Dependent through marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption while your coverage is being continued, you may cover such Dependent under your COBRA continuation coverage. However, only your newborn or adopted Dependent child is a qualified beneficiary and may continue COBRA continuation coverage for the remainder of the coverage period following your early termination of COBRA coverage or due to a secondary qualifying event. COBRA coverage for your Dependent spouse and any Dependent children who are not your children (e.g., stepchildren or grandchildren) will cease on the date your COBRA coverage ceases and they are not eligible for a secondary qualifying event.

### **COBRA Continuation for Retirees Following Employer’s Bankruptcy**

If you are covered as a retiree, and a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the Employer under Title 11 of the United States Code, you may be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage. If the bankruptcy results in a loss of coverage for you, your Dependents or your surviving spouse within one year before or after such proceeding, you and your covered Dependents will become COBRA qualified beneficiaries with respect to the bankruptcy. You will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage until your death. Your surviving spouse and covered Dependent children will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage for up to 36 months following your death. However, COBRA continuation coverage will cease upon the occurrence of any of the events listed under “Termination of COBRA Continuation” above.

### **Interaction With Other Continuation Benefits**

You may be eligible for other continuation benefits under state law. Refer to the Termination section for any other continuation benefits.

## **Notice of an Appeal or a Grievance**

The appeal or grievance provision in this certificate may be superseded by the law of your state. Please see your explanation of benefits for the applicable appeal or grievance procedure.

### **Cigna Vision Second Level Appeals Address**

Please submit your Level 2 Grievance documents to the following address:

Cigna  
NAU National Appeals Unit  
P.O. Box 188044  
Chattanooga, TN 37422

HC-SPP4

04-10

VI

## **When You Have A Complaint Or An Appeal**

### **Quality of Clinical Care Complaints**

For complaints concerning the quality of clinical care delivered by your provider, we shall acknowledge the complaint within 10 working days. The acknowledgment shall advise you that: Cigna will refer the complaint to its quality assurance committee for review and consideration or any appropriate action against your provider and the North Carolina law does not allow for a second-level complaint review for complaints concerning quality of care.

### **When You Have a Complaint or an Appeal**

For the purposes of this section, any reference to "you," "your" or "Member" also refers to a representative or provider designated by you to act on your behalf, unless otherwise noted.

We want you to be completely satisfied with the care you receive. That is why we have established a process for addressing your concerns and solving your problems.

### **Start with Member Services**

We are here to listen and help. If you have a concern regarding a person, a service, the quality of care, or contractual benefits, you can call our toll-free number and explain your concern to one of our Customer Service representatives. You can also express that concern in writing. Please call or write to us at the following:

Customer Services toll-free number or address that appears on your Benefit Identification card, explanation of benefits or claim form.

We will do our best to resolve the matter on your initial contact. If we need more time to review or investigate your concern, we will get back to you as soon as possible, but in any case within 30 days.

If you are not satisfied with the results of a coverage decision, you can start the appeals procedure.

### **Appeals Procedure**

Cigna has a two step appeals procedure for coverage decisions. To initiate an appeal, you must submit a request for an appeal in writing within 365 days of receipt of a denial notice. You should state the reason why you feel your appeal should be approved and include any information supporting your appeal. If you are unable or choose not to write, you may ask to register your appeal by telephone. Call or write to us at the toll-free number or address on your Benefit Identification card, explanation of benefits or claim form.

### **Level One Appeal**

Your appeal will be reviewed and the decision made by someone not involved in the initial decision. Appeals involving Medical Necessity or clinical appropriateness will be considered by a health care professional who is licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina.

For level one appeals we will provide you, within three working days after receiving your request for review, with the name, address and telephone number of the Appeal Coordinator and information on how to submit written material. We will respond in writing with a decision within 15 calendar days after we receive an appeal for a required preservice or concurrent care coverage determination (decision). We will respond within 30 calendar days after we receive an appeal for a postservice coverage determination. Cigna will remain liable for charges during a concurrent review until you are notified of Cigna's decision. You will receive a detailed response in writing for the coverage determination decision in clear terms describing the contractual basis or medical rationale.

You may request that the appeal process be expedited if, the time frames under this process would seriously jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function or in the opinion of your Physician would cause you severe pain which cannot be managed without the requested services; or your appeal involves nonauthorization of an admission or continuing inpatient Hospital stay. Cigna's Physician reviewer, in consultation with the treating Physician, will decide if an expedited appeal is necessary. When an appeal is expedited, we will respond orally with a decision within 72 hours, followed up in writing no later than the lesser of 2 working days or four calendar days after all necessary information is received.

### **Level Two Appeal**

If you are dissatisfied with our level one appeal decision, you may request a second review. To start a level two appeal, follow the same process required for a level one appeal.

Most requests for a second review will be conducted by the Appeals Committee, which consists of at least three people. Anyone involved in the prior decision may not vote on the Committee. For appeals involving Medical Necessity or clinical appropriateness, the Committee will consult with at least one Physician reviewer in the same or similar specialty as the care under consideration and who is licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, as determined by Cigna's Physician reviewer. You may present your situation to the Committee in person or by conference call.

For level two appeals we will acknowledge in writing within 10 working days after we received your request and schedule a Committee review. The acknowledgement will include the name, address, and telephone number of the Appeal Coordinator. The acknowledgement will also include a description of your appeal rights, including the right to: request and receive all information relevant to the review; attend the Committee meeting; present your case to the Committee and submit supporting materials before and at the Committee meeting; ask questions of any Committee member; and be assisted by a representative of your choice such as a Physician, family member, Employer representative, or attorney. An attorney representing Cigna may also attend. For required preservice and concurrent care coverage determinations, the Committee review will be completed within 15 calendar days. For postservice claims, the Committee review will be completed within 30 calendar days. You will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision within five working days after the Committee meeting, and within the Committee review time frames above if the Committee does not approve the requested coverage.

You may request in writing or verbally that the appeal process be expedited if, the time frames under this process would seriously jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function or in the opinion of your Physician would cause you severe pain which cannot be managed without the requested services; or your appeal involves nonauthorization of an admission or continuing inpatient Hospital stay. Cigna's Physician reviewer, in consultation with the treating Physician will decide if an expedited appeal is necessary. When an appeal is expedited, we will respond orally with a decision within 72 hours, followed up in writing within the lesser of two working days or four calendar days.

### **External Review**

North Carolina law provides for review of Noncertification Decisions (denials based on Medical Necessity or clinical appropriateness), by an external, Independent Review Organization (IRO). The North Carolina Department of

Insurance (NCDOI) administers this service at no charge to you, arranging for an IRO to review your case once the NCDOI establishes that your request is complete and eligible for review. You or someone you authorized to represent you may request an external review. Cigna will notify you in writing of your right to request an external review each time you receive a Noncertification Decision or you receive a level one or level two appeal decision upholding a Noncertification Decision.

In order to consider your request eligible for external review, the NCDOI must determine the following: your request is about a Medical Necessity or clinical appropriateness determination that resulted in a Noncertification Decision; you have coverage with Cigna in effect when the Noncertification Decision was issued; the service for which the Noncertification was issued does not appear to be excluded under your Plan; and you have exhausted Cigna's internal review process as described below.

External review is performed on a standard or expedited timetable, depending on which is requested and on whether medical circumstances meet the criteria for expedited review.

The external review process is a voluntary program.

#### **Standard External Review Procedure**

For a standard external review, you will be considered to have exhausted Cigna's internal appeal process if you have: completed Cigna's level one and level two appeal reviews and received a written level two decision from Cigna, filed a level two appeal and, except to the extent that you have requested or agreed to a delay, have not received Cigna's written decision within 60 days of the date you submitted the request, or received notification that Cigna has agreed to waive the requirement to exhaust Cigna's level one and/or level two appeal process. If your request for a standard external review is related to a postservice Noncertification Decision (a Noncertification which occurs after you have already received the services in question), you will not be eligible to request a standard review until you have completed Cigna's internal review process and received a written final determination from Cigna.

If you wish to request a standard external review, you (or your representative) must make this request to the NCDOI within 120 days of receiving Cigna's final notice of determination that the services in question are not approved. When processing your request for external review, the NCDOI will require you to provide the NCDOI with a written, signed authorization for the release of any of your medical records that may need to be reviewed for the purpose of reaching a decision on the external review.

Within 10 days of receipt of the request for a standard external review, the NCDOI will notify you and your provider of whether your request is complete and whether it is accepted. If

the NCDOI notifies you that your request is incomplete, you must provide all requested additional information to the NCDOI within 150 days of the date of Cigna's written notice of final determination. If the NCDOI accepts your request, the acceptance notice will include: the name and contact for the IRO assigned to your case; a copy of the information about your case that Cigna has provided to the NCDOI and the assigned IRO; and notification that you may submit additional written information and supporting documentation relevant to the initial Noncertification to the assigned IRO within seven days of the date of the acceptance notice.

If you choose to provide additional information to the IRO, you must provide the same information to Cigna at the same time using the same means of communication (e.g., you must fax the information to Cigna if you faxed it to the IRO). Please note that you may also provide this additional information to the NCDOI within the seven-day deadline rather than sending it directly to the IRO and Cigna. The NCDOI will forward this information to the IRO and Cigna within two working days of receiving your additional information.

The IRO will send you written notice of the determination within 45 days of the date the NCDOI received your standard external review request. If the IRO's decision is to reverse the Noncertification, Cigna will reverse the Noncertification Decision within three working days of receiving notice of the IRO's decision and provide coverage or payment for the requested service or supply that was the subject of the Noncertification Decision. If you are no longer covered by Cigna at the time Cigna receives notice of the IRO's decision to reverse the Noncertification, Cigna will only provide coverage for those services or supplies you actually received or would have received prior to disenrollment if the service had not been noncertified when first requested.

#### **Expedited External Review Procedure**

An expedited external review of a Noncertification may be available if you have a medical condition where the time required to complete either the expedited internal appeal or review process or a standard external review would reasonably be expected to seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function. If you meet this requirement, you may make a written or verbal request to the NCDOI for an expedited review after you: receive a Noncertification Decision from Cigna AND file a request with Cigna for an expedited appeal, receive an appeal decision upholding a Noncertification Decision AND file a request with Cigna for an expedited level two appeal, or receive a level two review decision upholding the original Noncertification. You may also make a request for an expedited external review if you receive an adverse level one or level two appeal decision concerning a Noncertification of an admission, availability of care, continued stay or

emergency care, but have not been discharged from the inpatient facility.

In consultation with a medical professional, the NCDOI will review your request and determine whether it qualifies for expedited review. You and your provider will be notified within three days if your request is accepted for expedited external review. If your request is not accepted for expedited review, the NCDOI may: accept the case for standard external review if Cigna's internal appeal process was already completed, or require the completion of Cigna's internal appeal process before you make another request for an external review with the NCDOI. An expedited external review is not available for postservice Noncertifications.

The IRO will communicate its decision to you within four days of the date the NCDOI received your request for an expedited external review. If the IRO's decision is to reverse the Noncertification, Cigna will, within one day of receiving notice of the IRO's decision, reverse the Noncertification Decision and provide coverage or payment for the requested service or supply. If you are no longer covered by Cigna at the time Cigna receives notice of the IRO's decision to reverse the Noncertification, Cigna will only provide coverage for those services or supplies you actually received or would have received prior to disenrollment if the service had not been noncertified when first requested.

#### **External Review Contact**

For further information about external review or to request an external review, contact the NCDOI at the following:

By Mail: North Carolina Department of Insurance  
Healthcare External Review Program  
1201 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1201  
(fax) 919-807-6865

In Person: Dobbs Building  
430 N. Salisbury Street  
4th Floor, Suite 4105  
Raleigh, NC

The IRO's external review decision is binding on Cigna and you, except to the extent you may have other remedies available under applicable federal or state law. You may not file a subsequent request for an external review involving the same Noncertification Decision for which you have already received an external review decision.

#### **Notice of Benefit Determination on Appeal**

Every notice of a determination on appeal will be provided in writing or electronically and, if an adverse determination, will include: the specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination; reference to the specific plan provisions on which the determination is based; 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 Relevant Information as defined; a statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the plan and the claimant's right to bring an action under ERISA section 502(a); upon request and free of charge, a copy of any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the adverse determination regarding your appeal, and an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for a determination that is based on a Medical Necessity, experimental treatment or other similar exclusion or limit.

You also have the right to bring a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA if you are not satisfied with the decision on review. You or your plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options such as Mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor office and your state insurance regulatory agency. You may also contact the Plan Administrator.

#### **Relevant Information**

Relevant Information is any document, record, or other information which was relied upon in making the benefit determination; 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; demonstrates compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards required by federal law in making the benefit determination; or constitutes a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the plan concerning the denied treatment option or benefit or the claimant's diagnosis, without regard to whether such advice or statement was relied upon in making the benefit determination.

#### **Legal Action**

If your plan is governed by ERISA, you have the right to bring a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA if you are not satisfied with the outcome of the Appeals Procedure. In most instances, you may not initiate a legal action against Cigna until you have completed the level one and level two appeal processes. If your Appeal is expedited, there is no need to complete the level two process prior to bringing legal action.

If your plan is not governed by ERISA and you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the Appeals Procedure, you may have the right to pursue other remedies in state court.

#### **Managed Care Patient Assistance Program**

If you feel you need additional assistance with your appeal you may contact the Managed Care Patient Assistance Program. Services provided by the Managed Care Patient Assistance Program are available through the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

To reach this program, contact:

North Carolina Department of Insurance  
 Health Insurance Smart NC  
 1201 Mail Service Center  
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1201  
 Toll Free Telephone: (855) 408-1212  
[www.ncdoi.com/smart](http://www.ncdoi.com/smart)

HC-APL62

09-14  
 V3

## Definitions

### Active Service

You will be considered in Active Service:

- on any of your Employer's scheduled work days if you are performing the regular duties of your work on a full-time basis on that day either at your Employer's place of business or at some location to which you are required to travel for your Employer's business.
- on a day which is not one of your Employer's scheduled work days if you were in Active Service on the preceding scheduled work day.

HC-DFS1

04-10  
 V1

### Dependent

Dependents are:

- your lawful spouse; and
- any child of yours who is
  - less than 26 years old.
  - 26 or more years old, unmarried, and primarily supported by you and incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical disability. Proof of the child's condition and dependence must be submitted to Cigna within 31 days after the date the child ceases to qualify above. From time to time, but not more frequently than once a year, Cigna may require proof of the continuation of such condition and dependence.

The term child means a child born to you or a child legally adopted by you, or a foster child including that child from the first day of placement in your home regardless of whether the adoption has become final. It also includes a stepchild or a child for whom you are the legal guardian.

Benefits for a Dependent child will continue until the last day of the calendar month in which the limiting age is reached.

Anyone who is eligible as an Employee will not be considered as a Dependent.

No one may be considered as a Dependent of more than one Employee.

HC-DFS256

04-10  
 V1

### Employee

The term Employee means a nonseasonal person who works on a full-time basis, with a normal work week of 30 or more hours and who is otherwise eligible for coverage, but does not include a person who works on a part-time, temporary, or substitute basis.

HC-DFS264

04-10  
 V1

### Employer

The term Employer means the Policyholder and all Affiliated Employers.

HC-DFS8

04-10  
 V1

### Injury

The term Injury means an accidental bodily injury.

HC-DFS12

04-10  
 V1

### Medicaid

The term Medicaid means a state program of medical aid for needy persons established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1965 as amended.

HC-DFS16

04-10  
 V1

### Medically Necessary/Medical Necessity

Medically Necessary Covered Services and Supplies are those determined by the Medical Director to be:

- provided for the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease; and, except as allowed under G.S. 58-3-255, not for experimental, investigational, or cosmetic purposes.

- necessary for and appropriate to the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, disease, or its symptoms.
- within generally accepted standards of medical care in the community.
- not solely for the convenience of the insured, the insured's family, or the provider.

HC-DFS19 04-10  
V2

### Medicare

The term Medicare means the program of medical care benefits provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965 as amended.

HC-DFS17 04-10  
V1

### Ophthalmologist

The term Ophthalmologist means a person practicing ophthalmology within the scope of his license. It will also include a physician operating within the scope of his license when he performs any of the Vision Care services described in the policy.

HC-DFS70 04-10  
V1

### Optician

The term Optician means a fabricator and dispenser of eyeglasses and/or contact lenses. An optician fills prescriptions for glasses and other optical aids as specified by optometrists or ophthalmologists. The state in which an optician practices may or may not require licensure for rendering of these services.

HC-DFS71 04-10  
V1

### Optometrist

The term Optometrist means a person practicing optometry within the scope of his license. It will also include a physician operating within the scope of his license when he performs any of the Vision Care services described in the policy.

HC-DFS72 04-10  
V1

### Sickness – For Medical Insurance

The term Sickness means a physical or mental illness. It also includes pregnancy. Expenses incurred for routine Hospital and pediatric care of a newborn child prior to discharge from the Hospital nursery will be considered to be incurred as a result of Sickness.

HC-DFS50 04-10  
V1

### Vision Provider

The term Vision Provider means: an optometrist, ophthalmologist, optician or a group partnership or other legally recognized aggregation of such professionals; duly licensed and in good standing with the relevant public licensing bodies to provide covered vision services within the scope of the Vision Providers' respective licenses.

HC-DFS73 04-10  
V1