

# **County of Stone, Missouri**

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## **HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT**

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### **SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**

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# **HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are pleased to establish this Health Reimbursement Arrangement to provide you with additional health coverage benefits. The benefits available under this Plan are outlined in this summary plan description. We will also tell you about other important information concerning the Plan, such as the rules you must satisfy before you become eligible and the laws that protect your rights.

Read this summary plan description carefully so that you understand the provisions of our Plan and the benefits you will receive. You should direct any questions you have to the Administrator. There is a plan document on file, which you may review if you desire. In the event there is a conflict between this summary plan description and the plan document, the plan document will control.

## **I ELIGIBILITY**

### **1. What Are the Eligibility Requirements for Our Plan?**

You will be eligible to join the Plan once you become covered under our group medical plan.

### **2. When is My Entry Date?**

You can join the Plan on the same day that you enter our group medical plan.

### **3. Are There Any Employees Who Are Not Eligible?**

Yes, there are certain employees who are not eligible to join the Plan. They are:

-- Employees who are not participants in our group medical plan.

## II BENEFITS

### 1. What Benefits Are Available?

The plan allows you to be reimbursed by the Employer for any deductibles which you have to meet under our group medical plan which are incurred by you the Employee only. Dependents are not eligible under this plan. **The benefit becomes available after the employees first out of pocket deductible requirement of \$1,500 is satisfied.**

The maximum allowed each "Coverage Period" is:

#### **Employee Only Deductible \$3,000**

**1<sup>st</sup> \$1,500 paid by Employee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> \$1,500 paid by Employer**

**\*The HRA plan will reimburse in-network claims only. Out-of-network claims are the responsibility of the employee to pay.**

Any amounts reimbursed to you under the Plan may not be claimed as a deduction on your personal income tax return nor reimbursed by other health plan coverage including a health flexible spending account.

### 2. When Must Expenses Be Incurred?

You may submit expenses that you incur each "Coverage Period." A new "Coverage Period" begins each calendar year. Expenses under this Plan are treated as being "incurred" when you are provided with the care that gives rise to the expenses, not when you are formally billed or charged, or you pay for the medical care.

### 3. When Will I Receive Payments From the Plan?

During the course of the Coverage Period, you may submit requests for reimbursement of expenses you have incurred. However, you must make your requests for reimbursements no later than 90 days after the end of the Coverage Period each year. The Administrator will provide you with acceptable forms for submitting these requests for reimbursement. In addition, you must submit to the Administrator proof of the expenses you have incurred and that they have not been paid by any other health plan coverage. If the request qualifies as a benefit or expense that the Plan has agreed to pay, you will receive a reimbursement payment soon thereafter. Remember, reimbursements made from the Plan are generally not subject to federal income tax or withholding. Nor are they subject to Social Security taxes.

### 4. What Happens If I Terminate Employment?

Terminated employees may submit claims up to 90 days after date of termination for claims incurred prior to the termination date. Any unused amounts are forfeited.

### 5. Can I Opt Out of the Plan?

Yes, you can opt out of the Plan and receive no further reimbursement.

## **6. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

If you take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, you may revoke or change your existing elections for health insurance. If your coverage in these benefits terminates, due to your revocation of the benefit while on leave or due to your non-payment of contributions, you will be permitted to reinstate coverage for the remaining part of the Coverage Period upon your return.

If you continue your coverage during your unpaid leave, you may pre-pay for the coverage, you may pay for your coverage on an after-tax basis while you are on leave, or you and your Employer may arrange a schedule for you to "catch up" your payments when you return.

## **7. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

If you are going into or returning from military service, you may have special rights to health care coverage under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. These rights can include extended health care coverage. If you may be affected by this law, ask your Administrator for further details.

## **8. Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act**

Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

## **9. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

A medical child support order is a judgment, decree or order (including approval of a property settlement) made under state law that provides for child support or health coverage for the child of a participant. The child becomes an "alternate recipient" and can receive benefits under the health plans of the Employer, if the order is determined to be "qualified." You may obtain, without charge, a copy of the procedures governing the determination of qualified medical child support orders from the Plan Administrator.

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**III**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PLAN**

This Section contains certain general information, which you may need to know about the Plan.

**1. General Plan Information**

County of Stone, Missouri Health Reimbursement Arrangement is the name of the Plan.

Your Employer has assigned Plan Number 502 to your Plan.

The provisions of your Plan become effective on January 1, 2017.

**2. Employer Information**

Your Employer's name, address, and identification number are:

County of Stone, Missouri  
108 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galena, Missouri 65656  
44-6000604

The Plan allows other employers to adopt its provisions. You or your beneficiaries may examine or obtain a complete list of employers, if any, who have adopted your Plan by making a written request to the Administrator.

**3. Plan Administrator Information**

The name, address and business telephone number of your Plan's Administrator are:

County of Stone, Missouri  
108 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galena, Missouri 65656  
(417) 357 - 6127

The Plan Administrator keeps the records for the Plan and is responsible for the administration of the Plan. The Administrator will also answer any questions you may have about our Plan. The Plan Administrator has the exclusive right to interpret the appropriate plan provisions. Decisions of the Administrator are conclusive and binding. You may contact the Administrator for any further information about the Plan.

**4. Third Party Claims Administrator Information**

The name, address and business telephone number of the Third Party Claims Administrator are:

BeneFLEX HR Resources, Inc.  
10805 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 401  
St. Louis, MO 63127  
314-909-6979 or 800-631-3539

The Third Party Claims Administrator is responsible for the actual processing of claims on behalf of the Plan Administrator.

## **5. Service of Legal Process**

The Employer is the Plan's agent for service of legal process.

## **6. Type of Administration**

The Plan is a health reimbursement arrangement and the claims administration is provided through a Third Party Claims Administrator. The Plan is not funded or insured. Benefits are paid from the general assets of the Employer.

# **IV ADDITIONAL PLAN INFORMATION**

## **1. Your Rights Under ERISA**

Plan Participants, eligible employees and all other employees of the Employer may be entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code. These laws provide that Participants, eligible employees and all other employees are entitled to:

- (a) Examine, without charge, at the Administrator's office, all Plan documents, including insurance contracts, collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor, and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- (b) Obtain copies of all Plan documents and other Plan information upon written request to the Administrator. The Administrator may charge a reasonable fee for the copies.
- (c) Continue health coverage for a Participant, Spouse, or other dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of a qualifying event. Employees or dependents may have to pay for such coverage.
- (d) Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the Plan on the rules governing COBRA continuation coverage rights.

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

If you have a claim for benefits, which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court.

Under ERISA there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request materials from the Plan and do not receive them within thirty (30) days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may request the Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to

\$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Administrator. If you have a claim for benefits, which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court.

In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court.

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes obligations upon the individuals who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The individuals who operate the Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of the Plan Participants and their beneficiaries. No one, including the Employer or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent the Plan Participant from obtaining a benefit or from exercising your rights under ERISA.

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

If you have any questions about the Plan, you should contact the Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement, or about your rights under ERISA or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Administrator, you should contact either the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) or visit the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa/](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## **2. How to Submit a Claim**

**The plan is set up with a FTP file feed from the carrier Cox Medical for medical expenses that accumulate toward the member's deductible. The FTP file from the carrier will also included Pay the Provider information so that claims can be paid on the members behalf once members requirements are satisfied under the HRA plan.**

If you have a claim to submit for payment, you must:

- (a) Obtain a claim form from the Plan Administrator.
- (b) Complete the Employee portion of the form.
- (c) Attach copies of the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) as documentation from the services provided for which you are requesting reimbursement.
- (d) Review claim form for any additional documentation the Plan Administrators may require as documentation needed for reimbursement.

A claim is defined as any request for a Plan benefit, made by a claimant or by a representative of a claimant that complies with the Plan's reasonable procedure for making benefit claims. The times listed

are maximum times only. A period of time begins at the time the claim is filed. Decisions will be made within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the circumstances. "Days" means calendar days.

Notification of whether claim is accepted or denied	30 days
Extension due to matters beyond the control of the Plan	15 days
Insufficient information to process the claim:	
Notification to Participant	15 days
Response by Participant	45 days
Review of claim denial	60 days

The Plan Administrator will provide written or electronic notification of any claim denial. The notice will state:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the denial.
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based.
- (c) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (d) A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of your right to bring a civil action under Section 502 of ERISA following a denial on review.
- (e) A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim; and
- (f) If the denial was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the denial and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.

When you receive a denial, you will have 180 days following receipt of the notification in which to appeal the decision. You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim. If you request, you will be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim.

The period of time within which a denial on review is required to be made will begin at the time an appeal is filed in accordance with the procedures of the Plan. This timing is without regard to whether all the necessary information accompanies the filing.

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a claim if it:

- (a) was relied upon in making the Claim determination;

- (b) was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the claim determination, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the claim determination;
- (c) demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that claim determinations are made in accordance with Plan documents and Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to all claimants;
- (d) or constituted a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied claim.

The review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial claim determination. The review will not afford deference to the initial denial and will be conducted by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse determination nor a subordinate of that individual.

## V CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain employees and their families covered under this Arrangement will be entitled to the opportunity to elect a temporary extension of health coverage (called "COBRA continuation coverage") where coverage under the Arrangement would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law.

The Plan Administrator or its designee is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Plan Administrator or its designee to Participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA. The Arrangement itself can provide group health benefits and may also be used to provide health benefits through insurance. Whenever "Arrangement" is used in this section, it means any of the health benefits under this Plan.

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

COBRA continuation coverage is the temporary extension of group health plan coverage that must be offered to certain Participants and their eligible family members (called "Qualified Beneficiaries") at group rates. The right to COBRA continuation coverage is triggered by the occurrence of a life event that results in the loss of coverage under the terms of the Arrangement (the "Qualifying Event"). The coverage must be identical to the coverage that the Qualified Beneficiary had immediately before the Qualifying Event, or if the coverage has been changed, the coverage must be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated active employees who have not experienced a Qualifying Event (in other words, similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries).

### **2. Who Can Become a Qualified Beneficiary?**

In general, a Qualified Beneficiary can be:

(a) Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under the Arrangement by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the Spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Arrangement under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

(b) Any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, and any individual who is covered by the Arrangement as an alternate recipient under a qualified medical support order. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Arrangement under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

The term "covered Employee" includes any individual who is provided coverage under the Arrangement due to his or her performance of services for the employer sponsoring the Arrangement. However, this provision does not establish eligibility of these individuals. Eligibility for Plan coverage shall be determined in accordance with Plan Eligibility provisions.

An individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary if the individual's status as a covered Employee is attributable to a period in which the individual was a nonresident alien who received from the individual's Employer no earned income that constituted income from sources within the United States. If, on account of the preceding reason, an individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary, then a Spouse or Dependent child of the individual will also not be considered a Qualified Beneficiary by virtue of the relationship to the individual. A domestic partner is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage.

### **3. What is a Qualifying Event?**

A Qualifying Event is any of the following if the Arrangement provided that the participant would lose coverage (i.e., cease to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event) in the absence of COBRA continuation coverage:

(a) The death of a covered Employee.

(b) The termination (other than by reason of the Employee's gross misconduct), or reduction of hours, of a covered Employee's employment.

(c) The divorce or legal separation of a covered Employee from the Employee's Spouse. If the Employee reduces or eliminates the Employee's Spouse's Plan coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the Spouse's coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.

(d) A covered Employee's enrollment in any part of the Medicare program.

- (e) A Dependent child's ceasing to satisfy the Arrangement's requirements for a Dependent child (for example, attainment of the maximum age for dependency under the Arrangement).

If the Qualifying Event causes the covered Employee, or the covered Spouse or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, to cease to be covered under the Arrangement under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event (or in the case of the bankruptcy of the Employer, any substantial elimination of coverage under the Arrangement occurring within 12 months before or after the date the bankruptcy proceeding commences), the persons losing such coverage become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA if all the other conditions of COBRA are also met. For example, any increase in contribution that must be paid by a covered Employee, or the Spouse, or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, for coverage under the Arrangement that results from the occurrence of one of the events listed above is a loss of coverage.

The taking of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") does not constitute a Qualifying Event. A Qualifying Event will occur, however, if an Employee does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave and all other COBRA continuation coverage conditions are present. If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Arrangement provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost.) Note that the covered Employee and family members will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage even if they failed to pay the employee portion of premiums for coverage under the Arrangement during the FMLA leave.

#### **4. What Factors Should Be Considered When Determining to Elect COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

You should take into account that a failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your rights under federal law. First, you can lose the right to avoid having pre-existing condition exclusions applied by other group health plans if there is more than a 63-day gap in health coverage and election of COBRA continuation coverage may help you avoid such a gap. (These pre-existing condition exclusions will only apply during Plan Years that begin before January 1, 2014.) Second, if you do not elect COBRA continuation coverage and pay the appropriate premiums for the maximum time available to you, you will lose the right to convert to an individual health insurance policy, which does not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions. Finally, you should take into account that you have special enrollment rights under federal law (HIPAA). You have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your Spouse's employer) within 30 days after Plan coverage ends due to a Qualifying Event listed above. You will also have the same special right at the end of COBRA continuation coverage if you get COBRA continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

#### **5. What is the Procedure for Obtaining COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

The Arrangement has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

#### **6. What is the Election Period and How Long Must It Last?**

The election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Arrangement. The election period must begin no later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before

the date that is 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of her or his right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.-----

**7. Is a Covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary Responsible for Informing the Plan Administrator of the Occurrence of a Qualifying Event?**

The Arrangement will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator or its designee has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The Employer will notify the Plan Administrator or its designee of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

- (a) the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment,
- (b) death of the employee,
- (c) commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the Employer, or
- (d) entitlement of the employee to any part of Medicare,

**IMPORTANT:**

**For the other Qualifying Events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you or someone on your behalf must notify the Plan Administrator or its designee in writing within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs, using the procedures specified below. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator or its designee during the 60-day notice period, any spouse or dependent child who loses coverage will not be offered the option to elect continuation coverage. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator or its designee.**

***NOTICE PROCEDURES:***

Any notice that you provide must be ***in writing***. Oral notice, including notice by telephone, is not acceptable. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the person, department or firm listed below, at the following address:

**County of Stone, Missouri  
108 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galena, Missouri 65656**

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan or plans** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(es) of the Qualified Beneficiary(ies)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include **a copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Be aware that there are other notice requirements in other contexts, for example, in order to qualify for a disability extension.

Once the Plan Administrator or its designee receives *timely notice* that a Qualifying Event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each Qualified Beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage for their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. For each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date that coverage would otherwise have been lost (if under your coverage the COBRA period begins on the date of the Qualifying Event, even though coverage actually ends later (e.g., at the end of the month) substitute the appropriate language, e.g. "on the date of the Qualifying Event"). If you or your spouse or dependent children do not elect continuation coverage within the 60-day election period described above, the right to elect continuation coverage will be lost.

#### **8. Is a Waiver Before the End of the Election Period Effective to End a Qualified Beneficiary's Election Rights?**

If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee, as applicable.

#### **9. Is COBRA Coverage Available If a Qualified Beneficiary Has Other Group Health Plan Coverage or Medicare?**

Qualified Beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage may do so even if they are covered under another group health plan or are entitled to Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA is elected. However, a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA, he or she becomes entitled to Medicare or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage (but only after any applicable preexisting condition exclusions of that other plan have been exhausted or satisfied).

#### **10. When May a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA Continuation Coverage Be Terminated?**

During the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary may waive COBRA continuation coverage. Except for an interruption of coverage in connection with a waiver, COBRA continuation coverage that has been elected for a Qualified Beneficiary must extend for at least the period beginning on the date of the Qualifying Event and ending not before the earliest of the following dates:

- (a) The last day of the applicable maximum coverage period.
- (b) The first day for which Timely Payment is not made to the Arrangement with respect to the Qualified Beneficiary.
- (c) The date upon which the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan (including a successor plan) to any employee.

- (d) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes covered under any other Plan that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition, other than such an exclusion or limitation that does not apply to, or is satisfied by, the Qualified Beneficiary.
- (e) The date, after the date of the election that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes entitled to Medicare (either part A or part B, whichever occurs earlier).
- (f) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary entitled to a disability extension, the later of:
  - (1) 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event, or (ii) the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date of a final determination under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act that the disabled Qualified Beneficiary whose disability resulted in the Qualified Beneficiary's entitlement to the disability extension is no longer disabled, whichever is earlier; or
  - (2) the end of the maximum coverage period that applies to the Qualified Beneficiary without regard to the disability extension.

The Arrangement can terminate for cause the coverage of a Qualified Beneficiary on the same basis that the Arrangement terminates for cause the coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries, for example, for the submission of a fraudulent claim.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Arrangement solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Arrangement's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Arrangement is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

## **11. What Are the Maximum Coverage Periods for COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

The maximum coverage periods are based on the type of the Qualifying Event and the status of the Qualified Beneficiary, as shown below.

- (a) In the case of a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period ends 18 months after the Qualifying Event if there is not a disability extension and 29 months after the Qualifying Event if there is a disability extension.
- (b) In the case of a covered Employee's enrollment in the Medicare program before experiencing a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period for Qualified Beneficiaries other than the covered Employee ends on the later of:
  - (1) 36 months after the date the covered Employee becomes enrolled in the Medicare program. This extension does not apply to the covered Employee; or
  - (2) 18 months (or 29 months, if there is a disability extension) after the date of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment.

(c) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary who is a child born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, the maximum coverage period is the maximum coverage period applicable to the Qualifying Event giving rise to the period of COBRA continuation coverage during which the child was born or placed for adoption.

(d) In the case of any other Qualifying Event than that described above, the maximum coverage period ends 36 months after the Qualifying Event.

## **12. Under What Circumstances Can the Maximum Coverage Period Be Expanded?**

If a Qualifying Event that gives rise to an 18-month or 29-month maximum coverage period is followed, within that 18- or 29-month period, by a second Qualifying Event that gives rise to a 36-month maximum coverage period, the original period is expanded to 36-months, but only for individuals who are Qualified Beneficiaries at the time of and with respect to both Qualifying Events. In no circumstance can the COBRA maximum coverage period be expanded to more than 36-months after the date of the first Qualifying Event. The Plan Administrator must be notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee and in accordance with the procedures above.

## **13. How Does a Qualified Beneficiary Become Entitled to a Disability Extension?**

A disability extension will be granted if an individual (whether or not the covered Employee) who is a Qualified Beneficiary in connection with the Qualifying Event that is a termination or reduction of hours of a covered Employee's employment, is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. To qualify for the disability extension, the Qualified Beneficiary must also provide the Plan Administrator with notice of the disability determination on a date that is both within 60 days after the date of the determination and before the end of the original 18-month maximum coverage. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee and in accordance with the procedures above.

## **14. Does the Arrangement Require Payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

For any period of COBRA continuation coverage under the Arrangement, Qualified Beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage may be required to pay up to 102% of the applicable premium and up to 150% of the applicable premium for any expanded period of COBRA continuation coverage covering a disabled Qualified Beneficiary due to a disability extension. Your Plan Administrator will inform you of any costs. The Arrangement will terminate a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage as of the first day of any period for which timely payment is not made.

## **15. Must the Arrangement Allow Payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage to Be Made in Monthly Installments?**

Yes. The health coverage is also permitted to allow for payment at other intervals.

## **16. What is Timely Payment for Payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

Timely Payment means a payment made no later than 30 days after the first day of the coverage period. Payment that is made to the Arrangement by a later date is also considered Timely Payment if either under the terms of the Arrangement, covered employees or Qualified Beneficiaries are allowed until that later date to pay for their coverage for the period or under the terms of an arrangement between the Employer and the entity that provides benefits on the Employer's behalf, the Employer is allowed until

that later date to pay for coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries for the period.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the Arrangement does not require payment for any period of COBRA continuation coverage for a Qualified Beneficiary earlier than 45 days after the date on which the election of COBRA continuation coverage is made for that Qualified Beneficiary. Payment is considered made on the date on which it is postmarked to those providing coverage.

If Timely Payment is made to the Arrangement in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Arrangement requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Arrangement's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Arrangement notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of \$50 or 10% of the required amount.

#### **17. Must a Qualified Beneficiary Be Given the Right to Enroll in a Conversion Health Plan at the End of the Maximum Coverage Period for COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

If a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage under a group health plan ends as a result of the expiration of the applicable maximum coverage period, the Arrangement will, during the 180 day period that ends on that expiration date, provide the Qualified Beneficiary with the option of enrolling under a conversion health plan if such an option is otherwise generally available to similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries under the Arrangement. If such a conversion option is not otherwise generally available, it need not be made available to Qualified Beneficiaries.

#### **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Plan Administrator or its designee. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's Web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

#### **KEEP YOUR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator or its designee.