



# **YOUR GROUP INSURANCE PLAN BENEFITS**

**WILLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CLASS 0001  
HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE PLAN 2**

The enclosed certificate is intended to explain the benefits provided by the Plan. It does not constitute the Policy Contract. Your rights and benefits are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Policy, and your insurance is effective only if you are eligible for insurance and remain insured in accordance with its terms.

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## CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

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**The Guardian**  
7 Hanover Square  
New York, New York 10004

The group Hospital Indemnity coverage described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective November 1, 2018. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under this Plan or under any other Plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Policyholder by Guardian.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PERSONS ON MEDICARE  
THIS INSURANCE DUPLICATES SOME MEDICARE BENEFITS**

**THIS IS NOT MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE**

This insurance pays a fixed amount, regardless of your expenses, if you meet the policy conditions, for one of the specific diseases or health conditions named in the policy. It does not pay your Medicare deductibles or coinsurance and is not a substitute for Medicare Supplement insurance.

*This insurance duplicates Medicare benefits because Medicare generally pays for most of the expenses for the diagnosis and treatment of the specific conditions or diagnoses named in the policy.*

*Medicare pays extensive benefits for medically necessary services regardless of the reason you need them. These include: hospitalization; physician services; hospice; and other approved items and services.*

**BEFORE YOU BUY THIS INSURANCE**

- Check the coverage in *all* health insurance policies you already have.
  - For more information about Medicare and Medicare Supplement insurance, review the *Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare*, available from the insurance company.
  - For help in understanding your health insurance, contact your state insurance department or state senior insurance counseling program.

**This is a limited plan of Hospital Indemnity insurance. It is a supplement to health insurance. It is not a substitute for hospital or medical expense insurance, a health maintenance organization (HMO) contract, or major medical expense insurance. Please read this Plan carefully to fully understand what it covers, limits, and excludes. This Certificate does not meet the Federal requirement for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act.**

## GROUP HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE

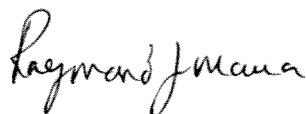
Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is entitled to the benefits described herein. However, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of this Plan's eligibility and effective date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Policyholder's records as a validly covered Employee under this Plan; and (c) all required premium payments must have been made by or on behalf of the Employee.

The Employee and/or his or her Dependents are not covered by any part of this Plan for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Policyholder's records.

Policyholder: WILLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Group Policy Number: 00552753

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond J. Marra".

Raymond Marra, Senior Vice President, Group and Worksite Markets

B045.0399

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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- 1) To obtain information or make a complaint:
- 2) You may call The Guardian's toll-free telephone number for information or to make a complaint at:

1-800-459-9401

- 3) You may also write to The Guardian at:

The Guardian Life Insurance  
Company of America  
East 777 Magnesium Road  
Spokane, Washington 99208-5884

- 4) You may contact the Texas Department of Insurance on companies, coverages, rights, or complaints at:

1-800-252-3439

- 5) You may write the Texas  
Department of Insurance at:  
P.O. Box 149104  
Austin, TX 78714-9104  
FAX # (512) 475-1771  
Web: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us>  
E-mail: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.state.tx.us)

- 6) **PREMIUM OR CLAIM DISPUTES:** Should you have a dispute concerning your premium or about a claim, you should contact The Guardian Life Insurance Company first. If the dispute is not resolved, you may contact the Texas Department of Insurance.

- 7) **ATTACH THIS NOTICE TO YOUR CERTIFICATE:** This notice is for information only and does not become a part or condition of the attached document.

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## AVISO IMPORTANTE

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Para obtener informacion o para someter una queja:

Usted puede llamar al numero de telefono gratis de The Guardian's para informacion o para someter una queja al:

1-800-459-9401

Usted tambien puede escribir a The Guardian:

The Guardian Life Insurance  
Company of America  
East 777 Magnesium Road  
Spokane, Washington 99208-5884

Puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Seguros de Texas para obtener informacion acerca de companies, coberturas, derechos o quejas al:

1-800-252-3439

Puede escribir al Departamento de Seguros de Texas  
P.O. Box 149104  
Austin, TX 78714-9104  
FAX # (512) 475-1771  
Web: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us>  
E-mail: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.state.tx.us)

**DISPUTAS SOBRE PRIMAS O RECLAMOS:** Si tiene una disputa concerniente a su prima o a un reclamo, debe comunicarse con el The Guardian Life Insurance Company primero. Si no se resuelve la disputa, puedo entonces comunicarse con el departamento (TDI).

**UNA ESTE AVISO A SU CERTIFICADO:** Este aviso es solo para proposito de informacion y no se convierte en parte o condicion del documento adjunto.

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## DEFINITIONS

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The terms shown below have the meaning given in this section. Whenever used throughout this Certificate, they will be capitalized. Additional terms may be defined within the provision to which they apply.

B005.0526

**Active Work or  
Actively At Work or  
Actively Working:** These terms mean Your performance of all the duties that pertain to Your work at the place: (1) where it is normally done; or (2) where it is required to be done by Your Employer

B045.0405

**Benefit Year:** This term means a 12 month period which starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

B005.0695

**Complications of  
Pregnancy:** This term means:

- (1) Conditions requiring Confinement to a Hospital or treatment in an Outpatient Surgery facility (when the pregnancy is not terminated) whose diagnoses are distinct from pregnancy, but are adversely affected by, or caused by, pregnancy, including but not limited to: non-scheduled cesarean section, acute nephritis, nephrosis, cardiac decompensation, hyperemesis gravidarum, pre-eclampsia, missed abortion, and similar medical and surgical conditions of comparable severity.
- (2) Termination of ectopic pregnancy and spontaneous termination of pregnancy occurring during a time that a viable birth is not possible.

Complications of Pregnancy does not mean: false labor, occasional spotting, Doctor-prescribed rest during the period of pregnancy, morning sickness, scheduled cesarean section, and similar conditions associated with the management of a difficult pregnancy.

B005.0529

**Confined/  
Confinement:** This term means the admission to, and subsequent continued stay in, a Hospital as an overnight bed patient and a charge for room and board is made. If death occurs before a Covered Person completes one overnight stay, that person will be deemed to have been Confined for one day.

B005.0530

**Covered Dependent  
Child:** This term means Your eligible dependent child covered under this Plan.

B005.0531

**Covered Family:** This term means You, and all of Your covered dependents.

B005.0532



**Covered Person:** This term means You, if You are covered under this Plan and Your covered dependents.

B005.0535

**Covered Sickness:** This term means an illness or disease, including Complications of Pregnancy, which occurs on or after the Covered Person's effective date of this coverage and while this Plan is in force; and is not excluded by name or specific description in the Plan. All related conditions and recurring symptoms of Sickness to the same person will be considered one Sickness.

B005.0537

**Diagnosis/ Diagnose:** This term means the establishment of the presence or existence of a Covered Sickness or Injury by a Doctor through the use of clinical and/or lab findings, as described in the Covered Benefits section of this Plan.

B005.0539

**Doctor:** This term means any medical practitioner We are required by law to recognize. He or she must: (1) be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and (2) provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice.

B005.0540

**Domestic Partner:** This term means an opposite or same sex partner who has met all of the following requirements for at least 12 months: (1) resides with the Covered Person; (2) shares financial assets and obligations with the Covered Person; (3) is not related by blood to the Covered Person to a degree of closeness that would prohibit a legal marriage; (4) is at least the age of consent in the state in which they reside; and (5) neither the Covered Person or Domestic Partner is married to anyone else, nor has any other Domestic Partner. The Company requires proof of the Domestic Partner relationship in the form of a signed and completed Affidavit of Domestic Partnership.

B005.0541

**Elective Surgery:** This term means surgery that:

- (1) is not Medically Necessary;
- (2) does not promote the proper function of the Covered Person's body or prevent or treat Sickness; or
- (3) is directed at improving appearance; unless such surgery is needed to correct a deformity resulting from: (a) a congenital abnormality; or (b) a disfiguring Sickness, physical disease or Injury.

Laser correction or other surgery to correct vision or hearing will be deemed Elective Surgery when similar results could be provided by use of eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aid or other device. Medically Necessary surgery for glaucoma, cataracts or other Sickness or Injury is not considered Elective Surgery.

B005.0542

**Eligibility Date:** For Employee coverage, this term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Plan. For dependent coverage, this term means the earliest date on which You: (1) have Initial Dependents; and (2) are eligible for dependent coverage.

B005.0543

**Emergency Room:** This term means a department of the Hospital that is designated for emergency care. This area must be staffed and equipped to handle trauma, be supervised and provide treatment by Doctors, and provide care seven days per week, 24 hours per day.

B005.0545

**Employee:** This term means a person who works for the Employer and whose income is reported for tax purposes using a W-2 form.

**Employer:** This term means WILLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT .

B045.0422

**Full-Time:** This term means You regularly work at least the number of hours in the normal work week set by the Employer (but not less than 30 hours per week) at: (1) Your Employer's place of business; (2) some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or (3) any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.

B045.0607

**Hospital:** This term means a short-term, acute care general facility, which:

- (1) is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the continuous supervision of Doctors, to Inpatients, Diagnostic services and therapeutic services, for Diagnosis, treatment and care of sick or injured persons;
- (2) has organized departments of medicine and major surgery;
- (3) has a requirement that every patient must be under the care of a Doctor or dentist;
- (4) provides 24 hour Nursing service by or under the supervision of a registered professional Nurse (R.N.);
- (5) is duly licensed by the agency responsible for licensing such Hospitals; and
- (6) is not, other than incidentally: (a) a place of rest; (b) a place primarily for the treatment of tuberculosis; (c) a place for the aged; (d) a place for drug addicts or alcoholics; or (e) a place for convalescent, custodial, educational or rehabilitative care.

B005.0550

**Hospital Intensive Care Unit:** This term means a designated area of a Hospital that:

- (1) provides the highest quality of medical care and is restricted to patients who are critically ill and who require intensive comprehensive observation and care;

- (2) is separate and apart from the surgical recovery room and from rooms, beds, wards, and units customarily used for patient Confinement;
- (3) is permanently equipped with special lifesaving equipment for the care of the critically ill;
- (4) is under continuous observation by a specially trained Nursing staff assigned exclusively to the Intensive Care Unit on a 24 hour basis and is assigned a Doctor on a full-time basis.

B005.0551

**Initial Dependents:** This term means those eligible dependents You have at the time You first become eligible for Employee coverage. If at this time You do not have any eligible dependents, but You later acquire them, the first eligible dependents You acquire are Your Initial Dependents.

B005.0552

**Injury:** This term means unintentional physical damage or harm caused directly to the Covered Person's body; not due to Sickness or disease. The Injury must occur while You or Your covered dependents are insured under this Plan.

B005.0553

**Inpatient:** This term means a patient who is admitted to a Hospital, as an overnight bed patient with a charge for room and board for a Covered Sickness or Injury.

B005.0555

**Medically Necessary:** This term means health services, treatment and supplies that are all of the following:

- (1) medically appropriate;
- (2) needed to Diagnose or treat a Covered Sickness or Injury;
- (3) consistent in type, frequency, and length of treatment with scientifically based guidelines of national medical research or health care coverage organizations or government agencies;
- (4) needed for reasons other than comfort or convenience of the Covered Person or Doctor;
- (5) of proven medical value; and
- (6) done with the appropriate level of service or supply needed to provide safe and adequate care.

B005.0557

**Newly Acquired Dependent:** This term means an eligible dependent You acquire after You already have coverage in force for Initial Dependents.

B005.0558

**Nurse:** This term means either a professional, licensed, graduate registered Nurse (R.N.) or a professional, licensed practical Nurse (L.P.N.).

B005.0559

**Observation Unit:** This term means a specified area within a Hospital, apart from the Emergency Room, where a patient can be monitored following Outpatient Surgery or treatment in the Emergency Room by a Doctor, and that fully meets each of the following requirements:

- (1) It is under the direct supervision of a Doctor or registered Nurse.
- (2) It is staffed by Nurses assigned specifically to that unit.
- (3) It provides care seven days per week, 24 hours per day.

B005.0560

**Outpatient Treatment:** This term means medical services that a Covered Person receives when not Confined as an Inpatient in a Hospital.

B005.0562

**Plan:** This term means the group Hospital Indemnity coverage described in the policy and this Certificate.

B005.0564

**Rehabilitation Unit Confinement:** This term means an appropriately licensed facility or separate section of a Hospital that provides rehabilitation care services on an Inpatient basis and is designated, staffed and equipped to provide restorative services under the supervision of a trained and experienced rehabilitation Doctor. A Rehabilitation Unit is not: a nursing home; an extended care facility; a skilled nursing facility; a rest home or home for the aged; a hospice care facility; a place for alcoholics or drug addicts; or an assisted living facility.

B005.0565

**Spouse:** This term means Your lawful spouse, which shall include the marriage between opposite or same-sex partners legally performed in other jurisdictions. This term shall also include registered Domestic Partners.

B005.0566

**We, Us, Our and Guardian:** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

**You or Your:** These terms mean the covered Employee.

B005.0570

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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B005.0033

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### Applicable Benefits

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This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. In the event that the Certificate includes such multiple benefit options and types of benefits, each Covered Person will only be covered for those applicable benefits that (1) were previously selected in a manner and mode acceptable to Guardian such as an enrollment form and (2) for which applicable premium has been received by Guardian.

B005.0034

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### Limitation of Authority

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No person, except by a writing signed by the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us to: (1) determine whether any contract, Plan or certificate is to be issued; (2) waive or alter any provisions of any contract or plan, or any of Our requirements; (3) bind Us by any statement or promise relating to the contract issued or to be issued; or (4) accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

B005.0573

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### Incontestability

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The Plan is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums.

No statement in any application, except a fraudulent statement, made by a Covered Person will be used to contest the validity of his or her insurance or to deny a claim for a loss incurred after such insurance has been in force for two years during his or her lifetime.

If the Plan replaces a plan Your Employer had with another insurer, We may rescind the Plan based on misrepresentations made by the Employer or an Employee in a signed application for up to two years from the effective date of the Plan.

In the event Your insurance is rescinded due to a fraudulent statement made in Your application We will refund premiums paid for the periods such insurance is void. The premium paid by You will be sent to Your last known address on file with Your Employer or Us.

B045.0449

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## Examination and Autopsy

We have the right to have a Doctor of Our choice conduct a physical examination of the person for whom a claim is being made under the Plan as often as we reasonably require. We also have the right to have an autopsy performed in the case of death where allowed by law. We will pay for all such examinations and autopsies.

B045.0451

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## Hospital Indemnity Claim Provisions

Your right to make a claim for Hospital Indemnity benefits provided by this Plan is governed as follows:

**Notice** You must send Us written notice of a Covered Sickness or Injury for which a claim is being made within 20 days of the date the Covered Sickness starts or Injury occurs. This notice should include Your name and the Policy number. If the claim is being made for any other Covered Person, his or her name should also be shown.

**Claim Forms** We will furnish You with forms for filing proof of loss within 15 days of receipt of notice. If We do not furnish the forms on time, We will accept a written description and adequate proof of the Covered Sickness or Injury that is the basis of the claim as proof of loss. You must detail the nature and extent of the loss for which the claim is being made.

**Proof Of Loss** You must send written proof to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss.

**Late Notice Of Proof** We will not void or reduce Your claim if You cannot send Us notice and proof of loss within the required time. In that case, You must send Us notice and proof as soon as reasonably possible.

**Payment Of Benefits** We will pay Hospital Indemnity benefits as soon as We receive written proof of loss.

Unless otherwise required by law or regulation or you have made a written assignment, We pay all Hospital Indemnity benefits to You if You are living. If You are not living, We have the right to pay all Hospital Indemnity benefits to one of the following: (1) Your estate; (2) Your Spouse; (3) Your parents; (4) Your children; or (5) Your brothers and sisters.

All benefits payable under this Plan will be paid not later than 60 days after the proof of loss is received by Us.

**Legal Actions** No legal action against this Plan shall be brought until 60 days from the date proof of loss has been given as shown above. No legal action shall be brought against this Plan after three years from the date written proof of loss is required to be given.

**Workers' Compensation** The Hospital Indemnity benefits provided by this Plan are not in place of and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

B045.0453

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE - EMPLOYEE

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### Eligible Employees

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Subject to the conditions of eligibility set forth below, and to all of the other conditions of this Plan, You are eligible if You are in an eligible class of Employees and are an active Full-Time Employee.

If You are a partner or proprietor, We will treat You like an Employee if You meet this Plan's conditions of eligibility.

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### Conditions of Eligibility

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You are eligible for Hospital Indemnity coverage if You are:

- Legally working in the United States, or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us; and
- Regularly working at least the number of hours in the normal work week set by the Employer (but not less than 30 hours per week) at: (1) the Employer' place of business; (2) some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or (3) any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.
- Age 69 or below at the time of Your enrollment.

You are **not** eligible for Hospital Indemnity coverage if You are:

- A temporary or seasonal Employee ;
- Age 70 or older at the time of Your enrollment

**Enrollment Requirement:** If You must pay all or part of the cost of Your coverage, We will not cover You until You enroll and agree to make the required payments.

B045.0456

**The Service Waiting Period** If You are in an eligible class, You are eligible for Hospital Indemnity coverage under this Plan after You complete the Service Waiting Period, if any, established by the Employer.

B045.0458

**Multiple Employment** If You work for both the Employer and a covered associated company, or for more than one covered associated company, We will treat You as if only one firm employs You. You will not have multiple Hospital Indemnity coverages under this Plan. But, if this Plan uses the amount of Your earnings to set the rates, determine class, figure coverage amounts, or for any other reason, such earnings will be figured as the sum of Your earnings from all covered Employers.

B045.0465

**Coverage During Temporary Layoff or Leave of Absence:** If Your active Full-Time service ends because You were laid off or go on a leave of absence approved by Your Employer, You may continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of premium, until the earlier of: (a) the end of the temporary layoff or Employer approved leave of absence; and (b) 1 months following the date the temporary layoff or approved leave of absence begins. If You become Disabled under this Plan while Your coverage is being continued during a temporary layoff or leave of absence, Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the term of this Plan.

B045.0464

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### **When Employee Coverage Starts**

Your Eligibility Date is the date You have met all of the conditions of eligibility.

Whether You must pay all or part of the cost of Your coverage, You must elect to enroll and agree to make the required payments before Your coverage will start. If You do this on or before Your Eligibility Date, Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date. If You do this within 31 days after Your Eligibility Date, Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date. If You do not elect this coverage within 31 days of Your Eligibility Date, You must wait until the next scheduled group enrollment period. Once each year, during the group enrollment period You may elect to enroll in this coverage as offered by Your Employer. As used here, "group enrollment period" means an annual open enrollment period set by Your Employer and agreed to by Us. During this period, You can choose the Hospital Indemnity coverage Your Employer offers. An open enrollment period is usually held once a year and usually lasts for 30 days.



On the date all or part of Your coverage is scheduled to start, You must be: (1) Actively At Work; (2) fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation; and (3) working Your regular number of hours. In that case, Your coverage will start at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on that date. In any other case, We will postpone the start of Your coverage until the date You: (a) return to Active Work; (b) are working Your regular number of hours; and (c) are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation. Sometimes, a scheduled effective date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled effective date falls: on a holiday; on a vacation day; on a non-scheduled work day; during a layoff of less than 180 days in duration; during an approved leave of absence not due to Sickness or Injury, of 90 days or less; or on a day during a period of absence that is less than 7 days in duration; and if: (a) You were fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for the Employer on a Full-Time basis at 12:01 AM standard time for Your place of residence on the scheduled effective date; and (b) You were performing the major duties of Your regular occupation and working Your regular number of hours on Your last regularly scheduled work day; Your coverage will start on the scheduled effective date.

**Exception to When  
Employee Coverage  
Starts:**

If You are not capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for Your Employer on a Full-Time basis on the date Your coverage is scheduled to start, You will be insured for Hospital Indemnity insurance if:

1. You were insured under the prior insurer's group or individual Hospital Indemnity policy at the time of the transfer;
2. You are a member of an eligible class;
3. premiums for You were paid up to date; and
4. You are not receiving or eligible to receive benefits under the prior insurer's group or individual Hospital Indemnity policy.

Any Hospital Indemnity benefit payable will be the lesser of:

1. the Hospital Indemnity benefit payable under the Group Policy; or
2. the Hospital Indemnity benefit payable under the prior insurer's group Hospital Indemnity or individual policy had it remained in force.

B045.0460

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## When Employee Coverage Ends

Your coverage will end on the first of the following dates:

- The last day of the month Your active service ends for any reason. Your active service ends when You are no longer: (1) Actively At Work; and (2) working Your regular number of hours.
- The last day of the month You stop being an eligible Employee under this Plan.
- The date You are no longer working in the United States or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us.
- The date this group Plan ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for You.

B045.0612

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## Your Right to Continue Hospital Indemnity Coverage During a Family Leave of Absence

**Important Notice:** This section may not apply to Your Employer's Plan. You must contact Your Employer to find out if he or she must allow for a family leave of absence under federal law. If he or she must allow for such leave, this section applies.

**If Your Coverage Would End:** Your Hospital Indemnity coverage would normally end because You cease work due to an approved leave of absence. But, You may continue Your coverage if the leave has been granted to: (1) allow You to care for a seriously injured or ill Spouse, child or parent; (2) after the birth or adoption of a child; (3) due to Your own serious health condition; or (4) because of a Serious Injury or Illness arising out of the fact that Your Spouse, child, parent or Next of Kin who is a Covered Service Member is on Active Duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to Active Duty, in the Armed Forces in support of a Contingency Operation. To continue Your coverage, You will be required to pay the same share of the premium as You paid before the leave of absence.

**When Continuation Ends:** Continued coverage will end on the earliest of the following:

- The date You return to Active Work.
- In the case of a leave granted to You to care for a Covered Service Member, the end of a total leave period of 26 weeks in one 12 month period. This 26 week total leave period applies to all leaves granted to You under this section for all reasons. If You take an additional leave of absence in a subsequent 12 month period, continued coverage will cease at the end of a total leave period of 12 weeks.
- In any other case, the end of a total leave period of 12 weeks in any 12 month period.

- The date on which Your Employer's Plan is terminated or You are no longer eligible for coverage under this Plan.
- The end of the period for which premium has been paid.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below:

- **Active Duty:** This term means duty under a call or order to Active Duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- **Contingency Operation:** This term means a military operation that: (1) is designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which members of the Armed Forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force; or (2) results in the call or order to, or retention on, Active Duty of members of the uniformed services under any provision of law or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.
- **Covered Service Member:** This term means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who for a Serious Injury or Illness is: (1) undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy; (2) otherwise in Outpatient Status; or (3) otherwise on the temporary disability retired list.
- **Next Of Kin:** This term means Your nearest blood relative.
- **Outpatient Status:** This term means, in the case of a Covered Service Member, that he or she is assigned to: (1) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or (2) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.
- **Serious Injury Or Illness:** This term means, in the case of a Covered Service Member, an Injury or illness incurred by him or her in line of duty on Active Duty in the Armed Forces that may render him or her medically unfit to perform the duties of his or her: (1) office; (2) grade; (3) rank; or (4) rating.

B045.0470

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## **ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE - DEPENDENT**

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### **Eligible Dependents**

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Your eligible dependents are Your Spouse and Your unmarried dependent child(ren) from birth, until the age of 26.

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### **Adopted Children, Grandchildren and Step-Children**

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Your unmarried dependent children include (a) Your legally adopted children; (b) Your grandchildren who are dependents for federal income tax purposes at the time application for coverage of the grandchildren is made, (c) Your step-children; and (d) a child for whom a medical support order has been issued. We treat a child as legally adopted from the time You are a party to a suit in which the adoption of such child is sought. We treat such a child this way whether or not final adoption order is ever issued.

B045.0474

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### **Handicapped Children**

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You may have an unmarried child (a) with a mental or physical handicap or developmental disability and (b) chiefly dependent upon You for support and maintenance. In that case such a child may remain eligible for dependent benefits past the age limit subject to the conditions shown below.

- His or her condition started before he or she reached the age limit.
- He or she became covered for dependent Hospital Indemnity benefits before he or she reached the age limit, and remained continuously covered until he or she reached the age limit.
- He or she is unmarried and remains: (i) incapable of self-sustaining employment; and (ii) dependent upon You for most of his or her support and maintenance.
- You send Us written proof, and We approve such proof, of the child's disability and dependence within 31 days from the date he or she reaches the age limit. After the two year period following the child's attainment of the age limit, We can ask for periodic proof that the child's condition continues, but We cannot ask for this proof more than once a year.

The child's coverage ends when Your coverage ends.

B005.0599

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## **Dependents Not Eligible**

We exclude:

- A dependent who is on Active Duty in any armed force;
- A dependent who is covered by this Plan as an Employee.

A child may be an eligible dependent of more than one Employee who is insured under this Plan. In that case, the child may be insured for dependent Hospital Indemnity benefits by only one Employee at a time.

B005.0601

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## **When Dependent Coverage Starts**

In order for Your dependent coverage to start, You must already be covered for Employee coverage, or enroll for Employee and dependent coverage at the same time.

Subject to the Exception below and to all of the other terms of this Plan, the date Your dependent coverage starts depends on when You elect to enroll Your Initial Dependents and agree to make any required payments.

If You do this on or before Your Eligibility Date, the dependent's coverage is scheduled to start on the later of Your Eligibility Date and the date You become covered for Employee coverage.

If You do this within 31 days of Your Eligibility Date, the coverage is scheduled to start on the later of Your Eligibility Date and the date You become covered for Employee coverage.

If You do not elect dependent coverage within 31 days of Your Eligibility Date, You must wait until the next scheduled group enrollment period to add dependent coverage. Once each year, during the group enrollment period You may elect to enroll dependents in this coverage as offered by Your Employer. As used here, "group enrollment period" means an annual open enrollment period set by Your Employer and agreed to by Us. During this period, You can choose the dependent Hospital Indemnity coverage Your Employer offers. An open enrollment period is usually held once a year and usually lasts for 30 days.

You may enroll Your dependents outside of the group enrollment period only as follows:

- You may enroll a new Spouse within 31 days of marriage;
- You may enroll for dependent child coverage within 31 days of the birth or adoption of Your first eligible child.

Once You have dependent child coverage for Your Initial Dependent child(ren) any Newly Acquired Dependent children will be covered as of the date he or she is first eligible.

**Exception:** We will postpone the effective date of a dependent's, other than a newborn child's, coverage if, on that date, he or she is: (1) Confined to a Hospital or other health care facility or (2) home confined. In that case, We will postpone the effective date of his or her coverage until the day after the date: (a) of his or her discharge from such facility or (b) his or her home confinement ends. If a dependent was covered under a prior plan at transfer, this language will not apply to the amount of coverage that was in force with the prior plan.

B045.0477

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## When Dependent Coverage Ends

Dependent coverage ends for all of Your dependents when Your Employee coverage ends. Dependent coverage also ends for all of Your dependents when You stop being a member of a class of Employees eligible for such coverage. And, it ends when this Plan ends, or when dependent coverage is dropped from this Plan for all Employees or for Your class.

If You are required to pay all or part of the cost of dependent coverage, and You fail to do so, Your dependent coverage ends. It ends on the last day of the period for which You made the required payments, unless coverage ends earlier for other reasons.

Your dependent's coverage ends when he or she stops being an eligible dependent. This happens to a child at 12:01 A.M. on the date the child attains this Plan's age limit, when he or she marries, or when a step-child is no longer dependent on You for support and maintenance or for Your handicapped child who has reached the age limit, when he or she marries or is no longer dependent on You for support and maintenance. It happens to a Spouse when a marriage ends in legal divorce or annulment or a Domestic Partnership ends or no longer qualifies as a Domestic Partnership.

B005.0605

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## HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE

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This Certificate includes the Schedule of Benefits. Your class and benefit options are shown in the Schedule of Benefits that applies to You. Subject to all of this Plan's terms, We will pay the benefits described below if a Covered Person receives care or treatment for a Covered Sickness or Injury. The care or treatment must occur while the Covered Person is insured by this Plan. This Plan pays no benefits for the treatment of a Covered Sickness or Injury other than those listed below in Covered Benefits.

B005.0607

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### Covered Benefits

B005.0608

**Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission:** We pay the amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits if a Covered Person is admitted to a Hospital as a result of a Covered Sickness or Injury. We limit what We cover to 1 day(s) of benefits per Covered Person per Benefit Year for either Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission. We limit what We cover to 3 day(s) of benefits per Covered Family per Benefit Year. If a Covered Person is admitted to the Hospital or the Intensive Care Unit for the same or related condition within 30 day(s) of an Admission for which this Plan has paid a benefit, We will treat this later Admission as a continuation of the previous Admission and no additional benefit will be paid. If more than 30 day(s) have passed between the periods of Hospital or Intensive Care Unit Admission, We will treat this later Admission as a new and separate Hospital or Intensive Care Unit Admission. This benefit is not payable for Emergency Room treatment, Outpatient Surgery or Treatment, or a Hospital stay of less than 20 hours in an Observation Unit, or when a charge for room and board is not made. We will pay the higher of the Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission benefit if both occur on the same day or same Benefit Year. Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission does not include Hospice Care in a Hospice facility. The admission must be within 180 day(s) of an Injury.

B005.0629

**Hospital Confinement or Intensive Care Unit Confinement** We will pay the amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits for days of Hospital Confinement or Intensive Care Unit Confinement following a Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission, if a Covered Person is Confined in a Hospital or Intensive Care Unit for the treatment of a Covered Sickness or Injury. We limit what We cover to 15 day(s) of benefits per Covered Person per Benefit Year. We do not pay the Hospital Confinement or Intensive Care Unit Confinement benefit on the same day as the Hospital Admission or Intensive Care Unit Admission.

We will pay the higher of the Hospital Confinement or Intensive Care Unit Confinement benefit if both occur on the same day. Hospital Confinement or Intensive Care Unit Confinement does not include Hospice Care in a Hospice facility.

B005.0631

## Limitations

B005.0668

**Pre-Existing Conditions** A pre-existing condition is a Covered Sickness or Injury, for which in the 3 months before a person becomes covered by this Plan he or she: (1) receives advice or treatment from a Doctor or (2) receives other medical care or treatment, including consultation with a Doctor. This Plan will not pay benefits for a condition that is caused by, or results from, a Pre-Existing Condition until the earlier of (a) the first 6 months that the person is covered by this Plan during which the person does not receive medical advice or treatment in connection with the Covered Sickness or Injury; or (b) the 12 month period commencing on the effective date of the person's coverage.

This Plan also limits the Covered Person's benefits under this Plan if a condition that is caused by, or results from, a Pre-Existing Condition occurs after: (a) a change which provides for an increase in the benefits payable by this Plan; or (b) a change in Your benefit election which increased the benefit payable by this Plan. In this case, Your benefit will be limited to the amount that would have been payable had the change not taken place. This limit does not apply if the condition occurs after the Covered Person completes at least one full day of Active Work after the change has been in force for 12 months in a row.

B045.0542

**If This Plan Replaces Another Plan** This Plan may be replacing a similar plan that the Employer had with some other carrier. In that case, the Pre-Existing Condition limitation will not apply to any Covered Person who: (1) was covered under the Employer's old plan on the day before this Plan started; and (2) has met the requirements of any Pre-Existing Condition or limitation of the old plan; and (3) in Your case, are Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis on the effective date of this Plan.

This Plan will credit any time used to meet the old plan's Pre-Existing Condition provision toward meeting this Plan's Pre-Existing Condition provision, if the Covered Person: (1) was covered under the old plan when it ended; (2) enrolls for coverage under this Plan on or before this Plan's effective date; and (3) is Actively Working on the effective date of this Plan; but (4) has not fulfilled the requirements of any Pre-Existing Condition provision of the old plan.

But, this Plan limits a Covered Person's benefit under this Plan if: (1) it is more than the Hospital Indemnity benefit for which he or she was covered under the old plan; (2) the Sickness is due to a Pre-Existing Condition; and (3) this Plan pays benefits because this Plan credits time as explained above. In this case, this Plan limits the benefit to the amount the Covered Person to which he or she would have been entitled under the old plan.

B005.0680



This Pre-existing Conditions provision only applies to the following benefits. It will not apply to any other provisions covered under this Plan.

- Hospital Admission

B005.0696

- Hospital Confinement

B005.0697

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## **Exclusions**

This Plan will not pay benefits for the treatment of any Covered Sickness or Injury caused by, or resulting from any of the following:

- Suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted Injury;
- Participation in a riot or insurrection;
- Declared or undeclared war, or act of war;
- Commission of, or attempt to commit, a felony, or participating in an illegal occupation;
- Commission of, or attempt to commit, an act of terrorism

And this Plan will not pay benefits for:

- Elective Surgery;
- Dental care, dental x-rays, or dental treatment;
- Gastric or intestinal bypass services including lap banding, gastric stapling, and other similar procedures to facilitate weight loss; the reversal, or revision of such procedures; or services required for the treatment of complications from such procedures.
- Rest cures or custodial care, or treatment of sleep disorders;
- Services, treatment or supplies rendered outside the United States or Canada;
- Hospital Confinement and/or Hospital Admission and Inpatient Surgery due to any Covered Person's giving birth within the first 9 months after the Covered Person's effective date under this Plan as a result of a normal pregnancy, including cesarean section. Complications of Pregnancy will be covered to the same extent as any other Covered Sickness;
- Treatment of a Covered Dependent Child's child(ren);
- Cosmetic surgery. This Exclusion does not apply to reconstructive surgery:
  - (a) on an injured part of the body following infection or disease of the involved part;
  - (b) of a congenital disease or anomaly of a covered dependent newborn or adopted infant; or

- (c) on a non-diseased breast to restore and achieve symmetry between two breasts following a covered mastectomy;
- Treatment or removal of warts, moles, boils, skin blemishes or birthmarks, bunions, acne, corns, calluses, the cutting and trimming of toenails, care for flat feet, fallen arches or chronic foot strain;
  - Service, treatment or loss related to alcoholism or drug addiction, except for drugs prescribed by the Covered Person's Doctor and taken as prescribed;
  - Care or treatment for mental or nervous disorders;
  - Services, treatment or loss rendered in any Veterans Administration or Federal Hospital, except if there is a legal obligation to pay;
  - Services or treatment provided by a Doctor, Nurse or any other person who is employed or retained by a Covered Person or who is a Covered Person's Spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, Domestic Partner, or partner in a civil union;
  - Sickness or Injury sustained while on Active Duty in the armed forces of any country. This does not include Reserve or National Guard duty for training;
  - Surgery and treatment, procedures, products or services that are Experimental or Investigative. "Experimental or Investigative" means a drug, device or medical treatment or procedure that:

(a) Cannot lawfully be marketed without approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time of being furnished;

(b) Has Reliable Evidence indicating it is the subject of ongoing clinical trials or is under study to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, safety, efficacy, or its efficacy as compared with the standard means of treatments or Diagnosis; or

(c) Has Reliable Evidence indicating that the consensus of opinion among experts is that further studies or clinical trials are necessary to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, efficacy, or its efficacy as compared with the standard means of treatment or Diagnosis.

"Reliable Evidence" means (i) published reports and articles in authoritative medical and scientific literature; (ii) the written protocol(s) of the treating facility or the protocols of another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical treatment or procedure; or (iii) the written informed consent used by the treating facility or by another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, or medical treatment or procedure.

B005.0685

## **Waiver of Premium Benefit**

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After the Covered Person has been Confined to a Hospital due to a Covered Sickness or Injury for more than 30 continuous days while this Plan is in force, We will waive the premium for the Plan for as long as the Covered Person remains Confined to a Hospital or Rehabilitation Unit.

The Covered Person must pay all premiums to keep the Plan in force until he or she has been Confined to a Hospital for more than 30 continuous days and the waiver becomes effective.

The Waiver of Premium Benefit does not apply to any period that the Covered Person is Confined to a Hospital or Rehabilitation Unit due to a Sickness or Injury which is excluded by name or specific description in this Plan. This benefit does not apply to the Hospital Confinement of a Spouse or Covered Dependent Child. We will waive the premium only if the Covered Person insured is Confined to a Hospital for more than 30 continuous days, and the premium will be waived for the entire Plan, including the premium for any covered Spouse or Covered Dependent Child if insured under the Plan.

B005.0694

**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

**HOSPITAL INDEMNITY**

Effective on the latter of (i) the original effective date of the Policy; or (ii) the effective date of any applicable amendment requested by the Policyholder and approved by the Insurance Company, this rider amends the Hospital Indemnity provisions of the Group Policy as follows:

B005.0703

**Covered Benefits**

**Hospital Admission:** \$1,500.00 per day  
Limited to 1 days per Benefit Year and 3 days per Covered Family combined with Hospital ICU Admission.

**Hospital Confinement:** \$300.00 per day  
for first 15 days Hospital Confinement combined with Hospital ICU Confinement.

**Hospital ICU Admission:** \$1,500.00 per day  
Limited to 1 days per Benefit Year combined with Hospital Admission.

**Hospital ICU Confinement:** \$600.00 per day  
for first 15 days Hospital ICU Confinement combined with Hospital Confinement.

**Initial Election**

When You first become eligible for this Plan You must choose to be covered for a Plan Option as described below. You may only be covered under one plan at a time. You must notify Your Employer of Your election and pay the required premium.

B045.0591

**EMPLOYEE VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE**

**Election of Hospital Indemnity Plan Option Based on Age** If You are less than age 69 you may elect Hospital Indemnity coverage. If you are age 70 or above, you may not elect Hospital Indemnity coverage.

B005.0732

**DEPENDENT VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL INDEMNITY COVERAGE**

**Election of Hospital Indemnity Plan Option Based on Age** If You, as the Employee, are less than age 69, You may elect Hospital Indemnity coverage for Your Dependent(s). If You as the Employee are age 70 or above, You may not elect Hospital Indemnity coverage for Your Dependent(s).

## Changes To Coverage

**Changes in Coverage Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your coverage or the coverage on a covered dependent will not become effective prior to the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, coverage will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are: (1) Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and (2) make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which greater coverage is provided, You must make the required contribution for the new coverage within 31 days of the change. If You do not make the required contribution within 31 days of the change or within 31 days of becoming Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, if You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, when Your classification changes, no increase will be allowed due to such change or any later change. In that case, in order to become covered for the greater coverage, You must: (1) make the required contribution for the greater coverage; and (2) furnish Proof of Insurability to Us, which We approve in writing.

B045.0603

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## CERTIFICATE RIDER

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Effective on the latter of (i) the original effective date of the Policy; or (ii) the effective date of any applicable amendment requested by the Planholder and approved by the Insurance Company, this rider amends this Certificate by the addition of the following:

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### PORTABILITY PRIVILEGE

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**Definition:** As used in this provision, the terms "port" and "to port" mean to choose a portable certificate of coverage which provides group Hospital Indemnity coverage.

**Portability Conditions:** Portability is subject to all of the conditions described below.

- You may port if Your coverage under this Plan ends because: (1) You have terminated employment; (2) You stop being a member of an eligible class of Employees; or (3) this Plan ends.
- You may **not** port Your coverage if You have reached Your 70th birthday on the date coverage under this Plan ends.
- You may **not** port coverage for any of Your dependents if he or she has reached his or her 70th birthday on the date coverage under this Plan ends.
- You may **not** port if coverage under this Plan ends due to Your failure to pay any required premium.

**Portability Options:** You may port Your Hospital Indemnity coverage, subject to any benefit amount reductions based on age, less the amount of any Hospital Indemnity benefits paid by this Plan.

You may port Your dependent's Hospital Indemnity coverage, less the amount of any Hospital Indemnity benefits paid by this Plan.

You may port: (1) Your coverage only; (2) Your coverage and coverage of Your covered Spouse; (3) Your coverage and the coverage of all of Your covered dependents; or (4) if You are a single parent, Your coverage and the coverage of all of Your covered dependent children. No other combinations will be allowed.

A dependent must be covered as of the date Your coverage under this Plan ends in order to be eligible for portability.

If You die while covered for dependent Hospital Indemnity coverage, Your Spouse may port Your dependent Hospital Indemnity coverage as described above. Your Spouse and dependent children must be covered under this Plan on the date of Your death. But, this option is not available if: (1) there is no surviving Spouse; or (2) Your surviving Spouse has reached his or her 70th birthday on the date of Your death.

**The Portable Certificate of Coverage:** The portable certificate of coverage provides group Hospital Indemnity. The benefits provided by the portable certificate of coverage are the same as the benefits provided by this Plan. The portable certificate provides seamless coverage. Benefit limits, maximums and timeframes do not reset when someone becomes covered under the portable certificate. The premium for the portable certificate of coverage will be based on: (1) the Covered Person's rate class under this Plan; and (2) Your or Your surviving Spouse's age bracket as shown in the Hospital Indemnity Portability Coverage Premium Notice.

**How to Port:** You or Your surviving Spouse must: (1) apply to Us in writing; and (2) pay the required premium. You or Your surviving Spouse must do this within 31 days from the date Your coverage under this Plan ends. We will not ask for proof that You or Your surviving Spouse are in good health.

This rider is a part of this Certificate. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or affects any other terms of this Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Marra".

Raymond Marra, Senior Vice President, Group and Worksite Markets

GC-R-HI-PORT-15

B005.0740

GC-R-HI-PORT-15





**The following notice applies if your plan is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and its amendments. This notice is not part of the Guardian plan of insurance or any employer funded benefits, not insured by Guardian.**

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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As a participant, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

### **Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

- (a) Examine, without charge, at the plan administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and 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, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, collective bargaining agreements and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- (c) Receive a summary of the plan's annual financial report. The plan administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

### **Prudent Actions By Plan Fiduciaries**

In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your employer, your union, or any other person may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

## Statement of Erisa Rights (Cont.)

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**Enforcement Of Your Rights** If your claim for a welfare 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.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 federal court. 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

**Assistance with Questions** If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the plan administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor listed in your telephone directory or the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

B800.0093

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## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure

If you seek benefits under the plan you should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from the Plan Administrator.

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe the terms of the plan with respect to claims. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

**Definitions** "Adverse Benefit Determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

"Group Health Benefits" means any accident, cancer, critical illness, specified disease or hospital indemnity coverages which are a part of this plan.

**Timing For Initial Benefit Determination** The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

**Claims.** Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 30 days after receipt of a claim. If a claimant fails to provide all information needed to make a benefit determination, Guardian will notify the claimant of the specific information that is needed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after receipt of the claim.

The time period for completing a benefit determination may be extended by up to 15 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 30-day period.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**Adverse Benefit Determination** If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- reference to the specific plan provision(s) on which the determination is based;

## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

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- a description of any additional material or information necessary to make the claim valid and an explanation of why such material or information is needed;
- a description of the plan's claim review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement indicating that the claimant has the right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination;
- identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an adverse benefit determination, or a statement that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request.

### **Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations**

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal.

Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- the opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relating to the claim; and
- a review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- in deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision regarding review of an appeal as follows:

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## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

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**Claims.** Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 60 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse benefit determination.

**Alternative Dispute  
Options**

The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S. Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

B055.0061

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## Termination of This Group Plan

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Your *employer* may terminate this group *plan* at any time by giving us 31 days advance written notice. This *plan* will also end if your *employer* fails to pay a premium due by the end of this grace period.

We may have the option to terminate this *plan* if the number of people insured falls below a certain level.

When this *plan* ends, you may be eligible to continue your insurance coverage. Your rights upon termination of the *plan* are explained in this booklet.

B800.0086

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## **YOUR BENEFITS INFORMATION - ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

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**[www.GuardianAnytime.com](http://www.GuardianAnytime.com)**

Insured employees and their dependents can access helpful, secure information about their Guardian benefits(s) online at:

[GuardianAnytime.com](http://GuardianAnytime.com) - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Anytime, anywhere you have an internet connection you will be able to:

- Review your benefits
- Look up coverage amounts
- Check the status of a claim
- Print forms and plan materials
- And so much more!

To register, go to [www.GuardianAnytime.com](http://www.GuardianAnytime.com)



**The Guardian Life Insurance  
Company of America**  
7 Hanover Square  
New York, New York 10004-2616