

## SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare Health Plans Individual Health Maintenance Organization Plan Description

This coverage is provided by SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare Health Plans (herein called "Issuer"). This coverage provides Health Maintenance Organization benefits.

This information is intended only as a summary and should not be relied upon to determine coverage. The Evidence of Coverage contains a complete listing of benefits, limitations, exclusions, and a description of all the terms and conditions of coverage. Changes in state or federal law or regulations, or interpretations thereof, may change the terms and conditions of coverage.

### Toll-free Telephone Number

You can call customer service at any time. The number is:

855-572-7238

or

for additional information, write to:

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare Health Plans

12940 North Highway 183

Austin, TX 78750

### Covered Benefits Provided by the Evidence of Coverage

Plan Year	[Calendar] [Contract] Year
<b>Medical Deductible</b>	[\$0 - \$10,000] per Member [\$0 - \$20,000] per Family
<b>Pharmacy Deductible</b>	[ACA preventive drugs] [Tier [1][2][3][4]] [Preferred diabetes test strips for blood glucose monitors] [Non-preferred diabetes test strips for blood glucose monitors] [\$0 - \$1,000] [per Member] [Integrated with Medical Deductible] [\$0 - \$3,000] [per Family] [Integrated with Medical Deductible]
<b>Maximum Out of Pocket</b> <i>Includes [Medical Deductible, Pharmacy Deductible and] Copayments.</i>	[\$100 - \$8,550] per Member [\$200 - \$17,100] per Family
<b>Annual Maximum</b>	Unlimited

Medical Benefits	Participating Provider Member Copayment
<p><b>Adult PCP Office Visit</b> <i>Office visit charge applies when seen by a physician and/or a licensed clinician under the supervision of the physician.</i></p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit] for the first [1-10] [non-preventive] [sick] visit[s] in the plan year] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit] for subsequent visits in that plan year] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>
<p><b>Pediatric PCP Office Visit</b> For a covered dependent through the age of 18. <i>Office visit charge applies when seen by a physician and/or a licensed clinician under the supervision of the physician.</i></p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit] for the first [1-10] [non-preventive] [sick] visit[s] in the plan year] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit] for subsequent visits in that plan year] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>
<p><b>Specialist Physician Office Visit</b> <i>Office visit charge applies when seen by a physician and/or a licensed clinician under the supervision of the physician.</i></p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>
<p><b>[Adult Annual Routine Eye Exam]</b></p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per exam] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Not covered]</p>
<p><b>[Pediatric Annual Routine Eye Exam]</b> For a covered dependent through the age of 18.</p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per exam] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>
<p><b>[Pediatric Prescription Eyewear*]</b> For a covered dependent through the age of 18.</p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per pair]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>
<p><b>[Dental Care]</b> [For a covered dependent through the age of 18.] [See dental plans available through the Issuer]</p>	<p>[Not covered]</p>
<p><b>Preventive Care</b> Routine Annual Physical Exam, Immunizations, Well-Baby Care, Well-Child Care, Cancer Screening Mammography, Bone Mass Measurement for Osteoporosis, Prostate Cancer Screening Exam, Colorectal Cancer Screening Exam, Ovarian and Cervical Cancer Screening Exam, Prenatal Visits, Tubal Ligation, Cardiovascular Disease Screening*, any evidence-based items or services that have in effect a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.</p>	<p>No charge</p>
<p><b>Allergy Testing, Serum, and Injections</b></p>	<p>[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]</p>

Medical Benefits	Participating Provider Member Copayment
<b>Diagnostic Test</b> [Routine] lab, [EKG] and x-rays.	[No charge] [\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per test] [per visit] [for lab] [for x-rays] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Imaging and Radiology</b> (Including Facility and Physician charges) [Angiography], [CT Scans], [MRIs], [Myelography], [PET Scans], [Stress Tests].	[No charge] [\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per test] [per visit] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Outpatient [Surgery] [Procedure]</b> (Including Facility charges) [Medical Injectables], [Medical Supplies], [Observation Unit], [Surgical Procedures], [Pain Management].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per procedure] [per service]] [not to exceed [\$0 - \$1,000] [per procedure] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Outpatient Physician Services</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per procedure] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Emergency Care</b> [Copayment waived if episode results in hospitalization for the same condition within 24 hours.]	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Ambulance Transportation</b> [Ground], [Sea] or [Air]	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Urgent Care</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Inpatient Care</b> (Including Facility and Physician charges) [Pre-admission Testing], [Prescription Drugs], [Specialty Pharmacy Drugs], [Medical Injectables], [Medical Supplies], [Blood and Blood Products], [Laboratory Tests and X-rays], [Pain Management], [Maternity Labor and Delivery], [Surgical Procedures], [Operating and Recovery Room], [Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)], [Intensive Care Unit (ICU)], [Coronary Care Unit], [Rehabilitation Facility], [Mental Health Care], [Serious Mental Illness], [Chemical Dependency].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per day] [per procedure] [per service]] [not to exceed [\$0 - \$10,000] per hospital stay]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility*</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per visit] [per day]] [not to exceed [\$0 - \$10,000] per hospital stay]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Outpatient Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness and Chemical Dependency</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit] [per office visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per visit]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [for all other services] [after deductible] [deductible waived]

Medical Benefits	Participating Provider Member Copayment
<b>Maternity Care and Family Planning</b> Postnatal Care, Family Planning (as medically necessary).	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Infertility (Diagnosis Only)</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Rehabilitation*</b> [Physical Therapy], [Occupational Therapy], [Speech Therapy], [Chiropractic Care].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Habilitation*</b> [Physical Therapy], [Occupational Therapy], [Speech Therapy], [Chiropractic Care].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and][or][plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Home Health Care*</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$250] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Hospice Care</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per day] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Durable Medical Equipment (DME)</b> [Orthotics]; [Prosthetics]	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [per device]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Diabetes Management</b> [Diabetes Self-Management Training], [Diabetes Education], [Diabetes Care Management].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Diabetes Equipment and Supplies</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per device]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [Same as DME or pharmacy, as appropriate] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Nutritional Counseling</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Hearing Aids* and Cochlear Implants</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Telehealth Service and Virtual Visits</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [The amount of the [deductible or] copayment may not exceed the amount of

Medical Benefits	<i>Participating Provider Member Copayment</i>
	the [deductible or] copayment required for a comparable medical benefit provided through a face-to-face consultation.]
<b>Other Telehealth Service and Telemedicine Medical Service</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$100] [copayment] [per visit]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [The amount of the [deductible or] copayment may not exceed the amount of the [deductible or] copayment required for a comparable medical benefit provided through a face-to-face consultation.]
<b>Amino Acid Based Elemental Formulas</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$500] [copayment] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Same as DME or pharmacy as appropriate]
<b>Other Medical Benefits</b> Including, but not limited to [Acquired Brain Injury], [Autism Spectrum Disorder], [Chemotherapy], [Craniofacial Abnormalities], [Limited Accidental Dental], [Organ and Tissue Transplants], [Phenylketonuria (PKU) or Heritable Metabolic Disease], [Temporomandibular Joint Pain Dysfunction Syndrome (TMJ)].	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per day] [per procedure] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Depending upon location of service, benefits will be the same as those stated under each covered benefit category in this Schedule of Benefits.]
<b>All Other Covered Medical Benefits</b> (not specified herein)	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$1,000] [copayment] [per day] [per procedure] [per service]] [and] [or] [plus] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]

Pharmacy Benefits	<i>Participating Provider Member Copayment</i>	
	<b>30-day Standard</b>	<b>90-day Maintenance**</b>
<b>[ACA preventive drugs]</b>	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$125] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[No charge] [[\$0 - \$375] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Tier 1</b> [Generic drugs]	[[\$0 - \$200] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[[\$0 - \$600] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]

Pharmacy Benefits	Participating Provider Member Copayment	
	30-day Standard	90-day Maintenance**
<b>Tier 2</b> [Preferred brand name drugs]	[[ $\$0 - \$500$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[[ $\$0 - \$1,500$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Tier 3</b> [Non-preferred drugs]	[[ $\$0 - \$1,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[[ $\$0 - \$3,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>Tier 4</b> [Specialty pharmacy drugs] [and] [oral anticancer medications]	[[ $\$0 - \$2,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[[ $\$0 - \$6,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Not covered]
<b>[Preferred diabetes test strips for blood glucose monitors]</b>	[[ $\$0 - \$500$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]	[[ $\$0 - \$1,500$ ] [copayment] [per prescription] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived]
<b>[Non-preferred diabetes test strips for blood glucose monitors]</b>	[[ $\$0 - \$1,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Not covered] [Non-formulary]	[[ $\$0 - \$3,000$ ] [copayment] [per prescription]] [0% - 50%] [of charges] [after deductible] [deductible waived] [Not covered] [Non-formulary]
<p>[**Maintenance drugs are allowed up to a 90-day supply if obtained through a Baylor Scott and White Pharmacy or participating pharmacy.] [Mail Order: Available for a 1- to 90-day supply. Non-maintenance drugs obtained through mail order are limited to a 30-day supply maximum.] [Some specialty pharmacy drugs may require preauthorization. 30-day supply only.] More information on Pharmacy Benefits is available at <a href="https://www.firstcare.com/en/Individuals-and-Families/Marketplace-Plans/2020-Pharmacy-Information">https://www.firstcare.com/en/Individuals-and-Families/Marketplace-Plans/2020-Pharmacy-Information</a>.</p>		

## Covered Benefit Limitations\*

### **[Cardiovascular Disease Screening**

*[Limited to once every 5 years.]*

### **[Rehabilitation**

*[Limited to [10-100] combined visits per plan year.]*

*Limits may not apply for therapies for children with developmental delays, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and mental health services.]*

### **[Habilitation**

*[Limited to [10-100] combined visits per plan year.]*

*Limits may not apply for therapies for children with developmental delays, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and mental health services.]*

### **[Hearing Aids**

*[Limited to one device per ear every [1-3] years.]*

### **[Home Health Care**

*[Limited to [60-100] visits per plan year.]*

### **[Skilled Nursing Facility**

*[Limited to [10-100] days per plan year.]*

### **[Pediatric Prescription Eyewear**

*[Limited to one pair of glasses or contact lenses per plan year. Refer to plan document for details.]*

## Emergency Care

In the case of an emergency, Members may go to a Participating Provider or a Non-Participating Provider. The Plan will provide benefits for the Emergency Care received from a Non-Participating Provider to the same extent as would have been provided if care and Treatment were provided by a Participating Provider. However, follow-up care or Treatment by a Non-Participating Provider will be treated as Network coverage only to the extent it is Medically Necessary and appropriate care or Treatment rendered before the Member can return to Participating Provider in the Service Area. If a Member receives care and Treatment for an emergency from a Non-Participating Provider, the Member should notify Us as soon as reasonably possible to receive assistance transitioning care to a Participating Provider.

Medically Necessary Emergency Care received from a Non-Participating Provider, including diagnostic imaging and laboratory providers will be reimbursed according to the terms of the Evidence of Coverage at the Usual and Customary Rate or agreed upon rate, except for Copayments, and charges for non-covered benefits. The Member will be held harmless for any amounts beyond the Copayment or other Out of Pocket Expenses that the Member would have paid had the Network included Participating Providers from whom the Member could obtain care.

Medically Necessary Emergency Care is provided by the Evidence of Coverage and includes the following benefits:

- An initial medical screening examination or other evaluation required by Texas or federal law that takes place in a Hospital emergency Facility or comparable Facility, and that is necessary to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists.
- Treatment and Stabilization of an emergency medical condition; and

- Post-Stabilization care originating in a Hospital emergency room, Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility, or comparable emergency Facility, if approved by the Us, provided that We must approve or deny coverage within the time appropriate to the circumstances relating to the delivery of care and the condition of the patient not to exceed one (1) hour of a request for approval by the treating Physician or the Hospital emergency room.

Examples of medical emergencies for which Emergency Care would be covered include but are not limited to:

- Heart attacks.
- Cardiovascular accidents.
- Poisoning.
- Loss of consciousness or breathing.
- Convulsions.
- Severe bleeding; and
- Broken bones.

Once a Member's condition is stabilized and as medically appropriate, We, upon authorization of Our Medical Director, may facilitate transportation to a Participating Facility. Where Stabilization of an emergency medical condition originates in a Hospital emergency Facility or comparable Facility, further Treatment following such Stabilization will require approval by Us.

### **Provider Network Required Disclosure**

A facility-based physician or other health care practitioner may not be included in the health benefit plan's physician and provider network. The facility-based physician or other health care practitioner may balance bill the Member for amounts not paid by the health benefit plan. If the Member receives a balance bill, the Member should contact the HMO.

### **Required Payments**

You will be responsible for expenses incurred that are limited or not a covered benefit under the Plan. Participating Providers will not look to the Member for payment outside of the Member's Cost Share.

#### **[Deductibles]**

[Except where stated otherwise, a Member must pay the Deductible shown in the Schedule of Benefits during each Plan Year before this Plan provides payments for benefits.

The individual Deductible applies to each Member. Once a Member within a family meets the individual Deductible, no further Deductible is required for the Member that has met the individual Deductible for that Plan Year. However, after Deductible payments for Members collectively total the family Deductible amount in the Schedule of Benefits in a Plan Year, no further Deductible will be required for any Member covered for the remainder of that Plan Year.]

#### **Copayments**

Some benefits Members receive under the Plan will require that a Copayment amount be paid at the time Members receive the benefits. Refer to the Schedule of Benefits for specific Plan information. The Schedule of Benefits will indicate the basis of which a Copayment amount is calculated. It may be per visit, per day, per service, or any combination thereof.



[A Copayment will not exceed 50% of the total cost of benefits provided. Copayments made by the Member in a Plan Year will not total more than 200% of the total annual Premium paid during the Plan Year, if the Member can demonstrate the amount that has been paid.]

## **Maximum Out of Pocket**

Most of the Member's payment obligations, including [Deductibles and] Copayment amounts are applied to the Maximum Out of Pocket.

The Member's Maximum Out of Pocket will not include:

- Cost-sharing for Non-Participating Providers, except for Emergency Care and Medically Necessary covered benefits when those benefits are not available from a Participating Provider.
- Benefits limited or excluded by the Plan.
- Expenses not covered because a benefit maximum has been reached.
- Any expenses paid by the primary plan when the Member's Plan is the secondary plan for purposes of coordination of benefits.
- Penalties applied for failure to Preauthorize.

### *Individual Maximum Out of Pocket*

When the Maximum Out of Pocket for a Member in a Plan Year equals the "Individual" "Maximum Out of Pocket" shown on the Schedule of Benefits for that level, the Plan will provide coverage for 100% of the Usual and Customary Rate for benefits for the remainder of the Plan Year.

### *Family Maximum Out of Pocket*

When the Maximum Out of Pocket for all Members under the Subscriber's coverage in a Plan Year equals the "Family" "Maximum Out of Pocket" shown on the Schedule of Benefits for that level, the Plan will provide coverage for 100% of the Usual and Customary Rate for benefits for the remainder of the Plan Year. No Member will be required to contribute more than the individual Maximum Out of Pocket to the family Maximum Out of Pocket.

## **Actuarial Value**

The use of a metallic name, such as Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze, or other statements with respect to a Plan's actuarial value, is not an indicator of the actual amount of expenses that a Member will be responsible to pay out of his or her own pocket. A Member's Out of Pocket Expenses will vary depending on many factors, such as the benefits, Plan, and Participating Providers chosen. Please note that metallic names reflect only an approximation of the actuarial value of a Plan.

## **Cost Share Variance**

Upon termination of federal reimbursement, any applicable cost share variance will terminate the first of the month following thirty (30) days written notice from the Issuer.

## **Premiums**

Premiums are due to the Issuer, 12940 North Highway 183, Austin, Texas 78750 on or before the date indicated in the monthly billing statement. The Subscriber is responsible for remitting all Premiums due under the Agreement to Us when due. Only Members for whom the stipulated Premium is received by Us shall be eligible for coverage under the Agreement. Premiums are Required Payments.

Payment of Premiums for individual plans are a personal expense to be paid for directly by individual and family plan Subscribers using personal funds. Personal funds do not include payment from a business account for a sole

proprietorship or Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). In compliance with federal guidance, the Issuer will accept third-party payment for Premium from the following entities:

- The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program under title XXVI of the Public Health Services Act.
- Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or urban Indian organizations; and
- State and federal Government programs.

Except as provided above, third-party entities shall not pay the Issuer directly for any or all a Member's Premium. Premium payments from any other party will not be credited to Your account which may result in termination or cancellation of coverage in accordance with the termination provisions of the Evidence of Coverage. If You purchased your coverage on the Exchange, the Exchange may offer You a choice of multiple payment options, which may include an electronic payment option. If You receive advance payment of a Premium Tax Credit, We will receive payments from two different sources (i.e., the Treasury Department and either You or the Exchange) on Your behalf.

If the Subscriber changes their place of residence and such change results in a change in Premium, the Premium applicable to this Plan shall automatically change to the rate applicable to the new place of residence effective on the first day of the Plan month following the date of such change in residence. If such change is to a lower Premium rate and the Subscriber fails to notify Us in writing of such change prior to the date of change, the Subscriber's right to refund of overpayment shall be limited to the overpayment for the six (6) months immediately preceding the date of notification to Us.

If the Subscriber and/or Covered Dependents attain an age resulting in an increased Premium rate, the Premium applicable to this Plan shall automatically change to the rate applicable to the new age effective on the anniversary date of the Plan.

### **Grace Period and Cancellation of Coverage**

If a Member is not receiving a Premium Tax Credit through the Texas Federally Facilitated Exchange, then if any Premium is not received by Us within thirty (30) days of the due date, We may terminate coverage under the Agreement after the 30th day. During the 30-day grace period, coverage shall remain in force. However, if payment is not received, We shall have no obligation to pay for any benefits provided to a Member during the 30-day grace period or thereafter; and the Subscriber shall be liable to the provider for the cost of those benefits.

If a Member is receiving a Premium Tax Credit through the Texas Federally Facilitated Exchange, then if any Premium amount for which You are responsible beyond the Premium subsidy is not received by the Issuer within three (3) months of the due date, the Issuer may terminate coverage under the Agreement after the third month. During the three-month grace period, coverage shall remain in force; however, any Physicians or providers who file Claims or who see Preauthorization for benefits to a Member will be notified that You have lapsed in payment of Premiums. If Premium is not received in full, coverage under the Plan will automatically terminate on the last day of the first month of the three (3) month grace period. We shall have no obligation to pay for any benefits provided to Members on or after the date of termination, and You shall be liable to the Physician or provider for the cost of those benefits.

## **Exclusions and Limitations**

The benefits under the Evidence of Coverage shall not include or shall be limited by the following:

### **Abortions**

Elective abortions, non-therapeutic termination of pregnancy, including any abortion-inducing medications are excluded except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were to be carried to term or a medical emergency that places the woman in danger of serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function unless an abortion is performed.

**Ambulance Transportation** is excluded when another mode of transportation is clinically appropriate; for stable, non-emergency conditions, unless Preauthorized; when provided for the convenience of the Member, the Member's family, Ambulance provider, Hospital, or attending Physician, where no transportation of a Member occurs. Additionally, air or sea Ambulance transportation is excluded when ground Ambulance is clinically appropriate, and to locations other than an acute care Hospital. All forms of Medically Necessary ambulance transportation that are for non-emergency situations must be Preauthorized.

**Assistant Surgeons** are excluded unless determined to be Medically Necessary.

#### **Breast Implants**

Non-Medically Necessary implantation of breast augmentation devices, removal of breast implants, and replacement of breast implants are excluded.

**Circumcision** in any male other than a newborn, age 30 days or less, is excluded unless Medically Necessary.

**Chiropractic Services** other than those described in the Manipulative Therapy and Chiropractic Care provision is excluded.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening Exam** excludes Colorguard®

#### **Complications of non-covered procedures**

Treatment related to complication of non-covered procedures are excluded.

#### **Cosmetic or Reconstructive Procedures or Treatment**

Cosmetic, plastic, medical or surgical procedures, and cosmetic therapy and related supplies, including, but not limited to Hospital confinement, Prescription Drugs, diagnostic laboratory tests and x-rays or surgery and other reconstructive procedures, including any related prostheses, except breast prostheses after mastectomy, are excluded, unless specifically covered in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage. Among the procedures that are excluded are:

- Excision or reformation of any skin on any part of the body, removal of port wine stains, removal of superficial veins, tattoos or tattoo removal, the enlargement, reduction implantation or change in the appearance of any portion of the body unless determined to be Medically Necessary.
- Removing or altering sagging skin.
- Changing the appearance of any part of the Member's body, such as enlargement, reduction, or implantation, except for breast construction following a mastectomy.
- Hair transplants or removal.
- Peeling or abrasion of the skin.
- Any procedure that does not repair a functional disorder; and
- Rhinoplasty as associated surgery except when Medically Necessary to treat craniofacial abnormalities as described in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage.

#### **Court Ordered Care**

Benefits provided solely because of the order of a court or administrative body, which benefits would otherwise not be covered under the Evidence of Coverage are excluded.

**Cryotherapy devices** such as PolarCare™ are excluded.

**Custodial Care** as follows is excluded:

- Any services, supply, care, or Treatment that the Medical Director determines to be incurred for rest, domiciliary, convalescent, or Custodial Care.

- Any assistance with activities of daily living which include activities such as walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, and taking Prescription Drugs; and
- Any Care that can be performed safely and effectively by a person who does not require a license or certification or the presence of a supervisory nurse.

Such services will not be covered benefits no matter who provides, prescribes, recommends, or performs those services. The fact that certain benefits are provided while a Member is receiving Custodial Care does not require Us to cover Custodial Care.

### **Dental Care**

All dental care or oral surgery is excluded, except for corrective Treatment of craniofacial abnormalities or an Accidental Injury to natural teeth, or any Treatment relating to the teeth, jaw, or adjacent structures, including but not limited to:

- Cleaning of teeth.
- Any services related to crowns, bridges, fillings, or periodontics.
- Rapid palatal expanders.
- X-rays or exams.
- Dentures or dental implants.
- Dental prostheses or shortening or lengthening of the mandible or maxillae for Members over the age of 18, correction of malocclusion, and any non-surgical dental care involved in the Treatment of temporomandibular joint pain dysfunction syndrome (TMJ), such as oral appliance and devices.
- Treatment of dental abscess or granuloma.
- Treatment of gingival tissues, other than for tumors.
- Surgery or Treatment for overbite or under bite and any malocclusion associated thereto, including those deemed congenital or development abnormalities; and
- Orthodontics, such as splints, positioners, extracting teeth, or repairing teeth.

The only dental related coverage We provide is described in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage.

### **Disaster or Epidemic**

In the event of a major disaster or epidemic, benefits shall be provided to the extent that is practical, according to the best judgment of Participating Providers and within the limitations of facilities and personnel available; but neither the Issuer, nor any Participating Providers shall have any liability for delay or failure to provide or to arrange for services due to a lack of available facilities or personnel.

### **Exceeding Medical Benefit Limits**

Any services provided to a Member who has exceeded a Medical Benefit maximum are excluded from coverage, regardless of authorization status, as permitted by law.

### **Experimental or Investigational Treatment**

A Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure that is Experimental or Investigational is excluded. We consider a Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure to be Experimental or Investigational if:

- It cannot be lawfully marketed without the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and approval for marketing has not been given at the time it is provided.
- It was reviewed, and approved by the treating Facility's Institutional Review Board, or similar committee, or if federal law required it is be reviewed and approved by that committee. This exclusion also applies if the informed consent form used with the Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure was or was requested by federal law to be reviewed and approved by that committee.
- Reliable evidence shows that the Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure is the subject of ongoing Phase I or Phase II clinical trials, is the research, Experimental study, or Investigational arm of ongoing Phase I or Phase II clinical trials; or is otherwise under study to determine its maximum tolerated

dose, its toxicity, its safety, its effectiveness, or its effectiveness compared to a standard method of Treatment or diagnosis.

- The safety and/or efficacy has not been established by reliable, accepted medical evidence, or
- Reliable evidence shows that the prevailing opinion among experts is that further studies or clinical trials of the Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure are needed to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its effectiveness, or its effectiveness compared to a standard method of Treatment or diagnosis.

“Reliable evidence” includes only published reports and articles in authoritative medical and scientific literature, and written protocols and informed consent forms used by the treating Facility or by another Facility studying substantially the same Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure.

Additionally, any Prescription Drug, device, Treatment, or procedure that would not be used in the absence of an Experimental or Investigational drug, device, Treatment, or procedure is excluded.

#### **Family Member (Service Provided by)**

Treatments or services furnished by a Physician or provider who is related to You, or Your Covered Dependent, by blood or marriage, and who dwells in the Member’s household, or any services or supplies for which the Member would have no legal obligation to pay in the absence of the Evidence of Coverage or any similar coverage; or for which no charge or different charge is usually made in the absence of health care coverage, are excluded.

#### **Family Planning Treatment**

The reversal of an elective sterilization procedure, and condoms for males are excluded.

#### **Foot Care (Routine)**

Treatment of weak, strained, or flat fee, corns, calluses, or medications for the Treatment of uncomplicated nail fungus are excluded. Corrective orthopedic shoes, arch supports, splints, or other foot care items are excluded, except as noted in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage. This will not apply to the removal of nail roots.

#### **Genetic Testing**

Genetic testing relating to pre-implantation of embryos for in-vitro fertilization is excluded, except for those required under applicable state or federal law and Medically Necessary prenatal genetic counseling. Genetic testing results or the refusal to submit to genetic testing will not be sued to reject, deny, limit, cancel, refuse to renew, increase Premiums for, or otherwise adversely affect eligibility for or coverage under this plan.

#### **Hearing Devices**

The following exclusions include hearing aid batteries or cords, temporary or disposable hearing aids, repair, or replacement of hearing aids due to normal wear, loss, or damage, a hearing aid that does not meet the specifications prescribed for correction of hearing loss.

#### **Household Equipment**

The following **devices, equipment, and supplies** are excluded:

- Corrective shoes, shoe inserts, arch supports, and Orthotic inserts, except as provided for in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage and for the Treatment of diabetes.
- Equipment and appliances considered disposable or convenient for use in the home, such as over-the-counter bandages and dressings.
- Comfort or convenience items, such as bathtub chairs, whirlpool tubs, safety grab bars, stair gliders or elevators, over-the-bed tables, bed boards, saunas, and exercise equipment.
- Environmental control equipment, such as air conditioners, purifiers, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, electrostatic machines, and heat lamps.

- Consumable medical supplies, such as over-the-counter bandages, dressings, and other disposable supplies, skin preparations, surgical leggings, elastic stockings, TED stockings, stump socks and compression garments.
- Foam cervical collars.
- Stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, and recording or hand-held pulse oximeters.
- Hygienic or self-help items or equipment; and
- Electric, deluxe, and custom wheelchairs or auto tilt chairs.

### **Illegal Acts**

Charges for services received as a result of injury or sickness caused by or contributed to by the Member engaging in an illegal act or occupation or by committing or attempting to commit a crime, criminal act, assault, or other felonious behavior, regardless of whether charged, are excluded. For purposes of this exclusion, an act is “illegal” if it is contrary to or in violation of law, and includes, but is not limited to, operating a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or watercraft while intoxicated. Intoxication includes situations in which the Member has a blood alcohol content or concentration (BAC) which exceeds the applicable legal limit. This exclusion does not apply if the injury resulted from an act of domestic violence or medical condition (including both physical and mental health), or in case of emergency, the initial medical screening examination, Treatment and Stabilization of an emergency condition.

### **Infertility Treatment**

The following Infertility services are excluded:

- in vitro fertilization.
- artificial insemination.
- gamete intrafallopian transfer, and similar procedures.
- zygote intrafallopian transfer, and similar procedures.
- drugs whose primary purpose is the Treatment of Infertility.
- reversal of voluntarily induced sterility.
- surrogate parent services and fertilization.
- donor egg or sperm.
- any costs related to surrogate parenting, sperm banking for future use, or any assisted reproductive technology or related Treatment that is not specified in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage.

### **Mental Health**

Services for mental illness or disorders are limited to those services described in the “Mental Health Care” provision of the Evidence of Coverage including counseling and related services. Coverage for services for or in connection with a Court Order or condition of parole or probation are subject to the same limitation.

### **Miscellaneous**

Artificial aids, corrective appliances, other than those provided as Orthotic Devices. Non-prescribed medical supplies, such as take home and over the counter drugs, batteries, condoms, syringes (other than insulin syringes), dentures, eyeglasses, and corrective lenses, unless specified in the Plan, are excluded.

### **Non-Payment for Excess Charges**

No payment will be made for any portion of the charge for a service or supply in excess of the Usual and Customary Rate for such services or supply prevailing in the area in which the service or supply was received.

**Orthotripsy** and related procedures are excluded.

### **Personal Comfort Items**

Personal items; comfort items; food products; guest meals; accommodations; telephone charges; travel expenses; private rooms, unless Medically Necessary; take home supplies; barber and beauty services; radio, television, or

videos of procedures; vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements; and similar products except to the extent specifically listed as covered under the Evidence of Coverage, are excluded.

**Pharmacy Benefit** excludes the following:

- Covered drugs, devices, or other pharmacy services which a Member may properly obtain at no cost through a local, state, or federal government program, except if provided through Medicaid or this exclusion is specifically prohibited by law.
- “Over-the-counter” drugs which do not require a Participating Provider or Participating Health Professional's Prescription Order for dispensing. The exception is insulin and if the drug is listed on Our Formulary.
- Anything which is not specified as covered or not defined as a drug, such as therapeutic devices, appliances, support garments, glucometers, asthma spacers and machines, including syringes (except disposable syringes for insulin dependent Members) unless listed on Our Formulary.
- Experimental or Investigational drugs or other drugs which, in the opinion of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee or Medical Director, have not been proven to be effective. NOTE: Denials based upon Experimental or Investigational use are considered Adverse Determinations and are subject to the Appeal of Adverse Determination and Independent Review provisions of the Evidence of Coverage.
- Drugs not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in humans or for the condition, dose, route, duration, and frequency being treated.
- Drugs used for cosmetic purposes.
- Drugs used for Treatments or medical conditions not covered by the Evidence of Coverage.
- Drugs used primarily for the Treatment of Infertility.
- Vitamins except if drug is listed on Our Formulary.
- Any initial or refill prescription dispensed more than one (1) year after the date of the Participating Provider or Participating Health Professional's Prescription Order.
- Except for medical emergencies, drugs not obtained at a Participating Pharmacy.
- Drugs given or administered to a Member while at a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, or other Facility.
- A prescription that has an over-the-counter alternative.
- Initial or refill prescriptions the supply of which would extend past the termination of the Evidence of Coverage, even if the Participating Provider or Participating Health Professional's Prescription Order was issued prior to termination.
- Drugs for the Treatment of sexual dysfunction, impotence, or inadequacy; or,
- High-cost drugs that are chemically similar drugs and share the same mechanism of action to an existing, approved chemical entity and offer no significant clinical benefit.

### **Physical and Mental Exams**

Physical, psychiatric, psychological, other testing or examinations and reports for the following are excluded:

- obtaining or maintaining employment.
- obtaining or maintaining license of any type.
- obtaining or maintaining insurance.
- otherwise relating to insurance purposes and the like.
- educational purposes.
- services for non-Medically Necessary special education and developmental programs.
- premarital and pre-adoptive purposes by court order.
- relating to any judicial or administrative proceeding.
- medical research; and
- qualifying for participation in athletic activities, such as school sports.

**Surgery for Refractive Keratotomy** is excluded.

### **Reimbursement**

We shall not pay any provider or reimburse Member for any Medical Benefit or Pharmacy Benefit for which a Member would have no obligation to pay in the absence of coverage under the Evidence of Coverage.

### **Speech and Hearing Loss**

Services for the loss or impairment of speech or hearing are limited to those rehabilitation services described in the Rehabilitation Therapy provision.

**Sports Rehabilitation** refers to continued Treatment for sports related injuries to improve above and beyond normal ability to perform activities of daily living (ADLs). Sports-related rehabilitation or other similar avocational activities is excluded because it is not considered Treatment of disease. This includes, but is not limited to baseball, pitching/throwing, cheerleading, golfing, martial arts of all types, organized football, baseball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, swimming, track, and field, etc. at a college, high school, or other school or community setting, professional and amateur tennis, professional and amateur/hobby/academic dance, and competitive weightlifting and similar activities.

### **Therapies and Treatments**

The following therapies and Treatments are excluded: Equine therapy; cranial sacral therapy; recreational therapy; exercise programs; hypnotherapy, music therapy; reading therapy; sensory integration therapy; vision therapy; vision training; orthoptic therapy; orthoptic training; behavioral vision therapy; visual integration; vision therapy; orthotripsy; oral allergy therapy; acupuncture; naturopathy; hypnotherapy or hypnotic anesthesia; Christian Science Practitioner Services; Biofeedback services, except for the Treatment of Acquired Brain Injury and for rehabilitation of Acquired Brain Injury; massage therapy, unless associated with a physical therapy modality provided by a licensed physical therapist.

### **Transplants**

Organ and bone marrow transplants and associated donor/procurement costs for a Member are excluded except to the extent specifically listed as covered in the Evidence of Coverage.

### **Treatment Received in State or Federal Facilities or Institutions**

No payment will be made for services, except Emergency Care, received in Federal Facilities or for any items or services provided in any institutions operated by any state, government, or agency when Member has no legal obligation to pay for such items or services; except, however, payment will be made to the extent required by law provided such care is approved in advance by a Participating Provider and Preauthorized, if required, by Our Medical Director.

### **Unauthorized Services**

Non-emergency Medical Benefits or Pharmacy Benefits which are not provided, ordered, prescribed, or authorized by a Participating Provider or Participating Health Professional are excluded.

### **Vision Care – Adult**

Eye exercises, training, orthoptics, multiphase testing, eyeglasses, including eyeglasses and contact lenses prescribed following vision surgery, contact lenses for Members over the age of 18, except for Treatment of Keratoconus, and any other items or services for the correction of the Member's eyesight, including but not limited to orthoptics, vision training, vision therapy, radial keratotomy (RK), automated lamellar keratoplasty (ALK or LK), astigmatic keratotomy (AK), laser vision corrective surgery and photo refractive keratectomy (PRK-laser) are excluded unless specifically provided in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage, or provided by a Rider.

### **Vision Care – Pediatric**

- Routine eye exams do not include professional services for contact lenses.
- Laser eye surgery (LASIK) is excluded.
- Any vision service, Treatment or materials not specifically listed as a covered Medical Benefit is excluded.
- Services and materials not meeting accepted standards of optometric practice are excluded.



- Telephone consultations are excluded.

**War, Insurrection or Riot**

Medical Benefits or Pharmacy Benefits provided as a result of any injury or illness caused by any act of declared or undeclared war, or Member's participation in a riot or insurrection are excluded.

If the rendition of a Medical Benefit or Pharmacy Benefit is delayed or rendered impractical due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Issuer, such as complete or partial destruction of facilities due to war, riot, or civil insurrection; an act of terrorism; labor dispute; government order; national, state or local state of emergency; pandemic; or the like, neither We, nor any Participating Provider, Participating Health Professional, nor any Facility shall have any liability to Members.

**Weight Reduction**

Weight reduction programs, supplements, services, supplies, surgeries including but not limited to Gastric Bypass, gastric stapling, Vertical Banding, and gym memberships are excluded, even if the Member has medical condition or is prescribed by a Physician or Health Care Professional.

## Utilization Review

The Plan includes a Utilization Review program to evaluate inpatient and outpatient Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical Center admissions and specified non-emergency outpatient surgeries, diagnostic procedures, and other services. This program ensures that Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical Center care is received in the most appropriate setting, and that any other specified surgery or services are Medically Necessary. Utilization Review includes all review activities and may be undertaken by:

- Preauthorization review which takes place before a service is provided that requires Preauthorization.
- Admission review which takes place before a Hospital admission or after an emergency admission.
- Continued stay review which takes place during a Hospital stay.
- Retrospective review which takes place following discharge from a Hospital or after any services are performed.

Certain benefits require Preauthorization in order to be covered. For a complete list of benefits that require Preauthorization, visit Our website at [firstcare.com](http://firstcare.com).

We will accept requests for renewal of an existing Preauthorization beginning sixty (60) days from the date that the existing Preauthorization is set to expire. Upon receipt of a request for renewal of an existing Preauthorization, We will, to the extent possible, review the request and issue a determination indicating whether the benefit is Preauthorized before the existing authorization expires.

**Preauthorization Review**

To satisfy Preauthorization review requirements, the Member or Participating Provider should contact Us at the authorization phone number listed on the Member ID Card on business days between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT and on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. CT at least three (3) calendar days prior to any admission or scheduled date of a proposed benefit that requires Preauthorization. Participating Providers may Preauthorize benefits for Members, when required, but it is the Member's responsibility to ensure Preauthorization requirements are satisfied.

Subject to the notice requirements and prior to the issuance of an Adverse Determination, if We question the Medical Necessity or appropriateness of a service, We will give the Participating Provider who ordered it a reasonable opportunity to discuss with Our Medical Director the Member's Treatment plan and the clinical basis of

Our determination. If We determine the proposed benefit is not Medically Necessary, the Member or Participating Provider will be notified in writing within three (3) days. The written notice will include:

- the principal reason(s) for the Adverse Determination.
- the clinical basis for the Adverse Determination.
- a description of the source of the screening criteria used as guidelines in making the Adverse Determination; and
- description of the procedure for the Complaint and Appeal process, including the Member's rights and the procedure to Appeal to an Independent Review Organization.

For an Emergency admission or procedure, We must be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the admission or procedure or as soon as reasonably possible. We may consider whether the Member's condition was severe enough to prevent the Member from notifying Us, or whether a family member was available to notify Us for the Member.

If the Member has a Life-Threatening Disease or Condition, including emergency Treatment or continued hospitalization, or in circumstances involving Prescription Drugs or intravenous infusions, the Member has the right to an immediate review by an Independent Review Organization and the Member is not required to first request an internal review by Us.

#### *Admission Review*

If Preauthorization review is not performed, We will determine at the time of admission if the Hospital admission or specified non-emergency outpatient surgery or diagnostic procedure is Medically Necessary.

#### *Continued Stay Review*

We also will determine if a continued Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility stay is Medically Necessary. We will provide notice of Our determination within twenty-four (24) hours by either telephone or electronic transmission to the provider of record followed by written notice within three (3) working days to the Member or provider of record. If We are approving or denying Post Stabilization care subsequent to Emergency Care related to a Life-Threatening Disease or Condition, We will notify the treating Physician or other provider within the time appropriate to the circumstances relating to the delivery of the services and the condition of the Member, but in no case to exceed one (1) hour after the request for approval is made.

#### *Retrospective Review*

In the event services are determined to be Medically Necessary, benefits will be provided as described in the Plan. If it is determined that a Hospital stay or any other service was not Medically Necessary, You are responsible for payment of the charges for those services. We will provide notice of Our Adverse Determination in writing to the Member and the provider of record within a reasonable period, but not later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the Claim is received, provided We may extend the 30-day period for up to fifteen (15) days if:

- We determine that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond Our control; and
- We notify You and the provider of record within the initial 30-day period of circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which We expect to make a decision.

If the period is extended because of Your failure or the failure of the provider of record to submit the information necessary to make the determination, the period for making the determination is tolled from the date We send Our notice of the extension to You or the provider until the earlier of the date You or the provider responds to Our request, or the date by which the specified information was to have been submitted.

### **Failure to Preauthorize**

If any benefit requiring Preauthorization is not Preauthorized and it is determined that the benefit was not Medically Necessary, the benefit may be reduced or denied. The Member may also be charged additional amounts which will not count toward the Member's [Deductible or] Maximum Out of Pocket.

## Prescription Drugs and Intravenous Infusions

We will determine if the use of Prescription Drugs or intravenous infusions is Medically Necessary.

### Appeal of an Adverse Determination

#### Internal Appeal of an Adverse Determination

Our determination that the care the Member requested or received was not Medically Necessary or appropriate or was Experimental or Investigational based on Our Utilization Review standards is an Adverse Determination, which means the Member's request for coverage of the care is denied. Once We have all the information to make a decision, Our failure to make a Utilization Review determination within the applicable time frames set forth above will be deemed an Adverse Determination subject to an internal Appeal.

The Member, a person acting on the Member's behalf, or the Member's Physician may request an internal Appeal of an Adverse Determination to Us orally or in writing in accordance with Our internal Appeal procedures. Members will have one hundred eighty (180) days following receipt of a notification of an Adverse Determination within which to Appeal the determination. We will acknowledge the Member's request for an internal Appeal within five (5) working days of receipt. This acknowledgment will, if necessary, inform the Member of any additional information needed before a decision can be made. A clinical peer reviewer who is a Physician or a Health Professional in the same or similar specialty as the provider, who typically manages the disease or condition at issue and who is not subordinate to the clinical peer reviewer who made the initial Adverse Determination will perform the Appeal.

If the Member's Appeal is denied, Our notice will include a clean and concise statement of the clinical basis for the denial and the Member's right to seek review of the denial from an Independent Review Organization and the procedures for obtaining that review.

If the Member has a Life-Threatening Disease or Condition or in circumstances involving Prescription Drugs or intravenous infusions, the Member has the right to an immediate review by an Independent Review Organization and the Member is not required to first request an internal review by Us.

#### *Adverse Determination Appeal*

If the Member's Appeal relates to an Adverse Determination, We will decide the Appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Appeal request. Written notice of the determination will be provided to the Member, or the Member's designee, and where appropriate, the Member's Provider, within two (2) business days after the determination is made, but no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the Appeal request.

#### *Expedited Appeal*

An Appeal regarding continued or extended benefits, additional benefits provided in the course of continued Treatment, Home Health Care benefits following discharge from an inpatient Hospital admission, benefits in which a provider requests an immediate review, or any other urgent matter will be handled on an expedited basis.

The Member can additionally request an expedited Appeal for the denial of Emergency Care, continued hospitalization, Prescription Drugs for which the Member is receiving benefits through the Plan and a step therapy exception request. For an expedited Appeal, the Member's provider will have reasonable access to the clinical peer reviewer assigned to the Appeal within one (1) business day of receipt of the request for an Appeal. The Member's provider and a clinical peer reviewer may exchange information by telephone or fax. An expedited Appeal will be determined within the earlier of 72 hours of receipt of the Appeal or one (1) business day of receipt of the information necessary to conduct the Appeal.

If a Member has any questions about the Appeals procedures or the review procedure, contact Us at 800-321-7947.

### **Appeal of an Adverse Determination to an Independent Review Organization**

An Adverse Determination means a determination by Us or Our designated Utilization Review organization that the benefits provided or proposed to be provided are not Medically Necessary or are Experimental or Investigational.

A Final Internal Adverse Determination means an Adverse Determination that has been upheld by Us at the completion of Our internal review and Appeal process. This procedure pertains only to Appeals of Adverse Determinations.

The Member or an individual acting on the Member's behalf or the Member's provider has the right to request an immediate review of Our Appeal decision by an IRO by submitting a request to Our HHS administered external review contractor, MAXIMUS, within four (4) months after receipt of the notice of the determination of the Member's Appeal. There is no cost to the Member for the independent review.

The Member will not be required to exhaust Our Appeal process before requesting an IRO if:

- the Appeal process timelines are not met; or
- in an Urgent Care situation.

Under non-urgent circumstances, the Member may request a standard external review. For Urgent Care, the Member may request an expedited external review.

The IRO examiner will contact Us upon receipt of the request for external review. For a standard external review, We will provide the examiner all documents and information used to make the final internal Adverse Determination within three (3) business days. For an expedited external review, We will provide the examiner all documents and information used to make the final internal Adverse Determination as soon as possible.

The IRO examiner will give the Member and Us written notice of the final external review decision as soon as possible, but no later than twenty (20) days after the examiner receives the request for a standard external review. For an expedited external review, the examiner will give the Member and Us the external review decision as quickly as medical circumstances require, but no later than within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving the request.

The Member may request an external review for an Adverse Determination for Prescription Drug exception requests. The IRO will issue a response to the Member or the Member's legal representative no later than seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of the Member's request. For an expedited Appeal for Prescription Drug exception requests, the IRO will issue a response to the Member or the Member's legal representative no later than twenty-four (24) hours from receipt.

## **Continuity of Care**

Except as specified in the **Medical Benefits** section of the Evidence of Coverage, if Participating Providers fail to, or become unable to, provide the covered benefits which they have agreed to provide, We agree to coordinate through Our Medical Director the provision of Medical Benefits to Members.

If a Member is receiving covered benefits from a Participating Provider whose relationship with the Issuer as a Participating Provider is terminated by the provider, We will give the Member no less than thirty (30) days' advance notice of the termination after notification from the provider. However, if a provider is terminated for reasons related to imminent harm, We will notify the Member immediately.

Except for medical incompetence or unprofessional behavior, the termination does not release the Issuer from reimbursing the Participating Provider for providing Treatment to a Member in certain special circumstances. Special circumstance means a condition which a Member's Physician or provider reasonably believes could cause harm to the Member if the Physician or provider discontinues Treatment of the Member, and includes a disability, acute condition, Life-Threatening Disease or Condition, or being past the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) week of pregnancy. However, the Participating Provider must first identify the special circumstance and submit a request to Our Medical Director that the Member be permitted to continue Treatment under the Participating Provider's care. The Participating Provider must agree not to seek payment from the Member of any amounts for which the Subscriber would not be responsible if the Participating Provider were still under contract with Us. If the request is granted, Our obligation to pay for the services of the Participating Provider shall not exceed ninety (90) days from the date of termination or nine (9) months in the case of a terminal illness with which the Member was diagnosed at the time of the termination and shall not exceed the contract rate. If a Member is past the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) week of pregnancy at the time of termination, Our obligation to reimburse a terminated Participating Provider for services extends through delivery of the child, immediate postpartum care, and the follow-up checkup within the first six (6) weeks of delivery.

## Complaint Procedure

We recognize that a Member, Physician, provider, or other person designated to act on behalf of a Member may encounter an event in which performance under the Agreement does not meet expectations. It is important that such an event be brought to the attention of Issuer. We are dedicated to addressing problems quickly, managing the delivery of benefits effectively, and preventing future Complaints and Appeals. We will not retaliate against a Member because the Member, the Member's provider, or a person acting on the Member's behalf files a Complaint or appeals a decision made by Us.

We offer Members the opportunity to file a Complaint within one hundred eighty (180) days to dispute the benefit/Claim processing. Members are required to file a Complaint in writing and can call Customer Service to begin the process. If Our resolution of the Complaint is unsatisfactory Member, the Member will be afforded the opportunity to Appeal that Complaint.

In some cases, We may ask for additional time to process a Member's Complaint. If a Member does not wish to allow additional time, We will decide a Member's Complaint based on the information We have. This may result in a denial of a Member's Complaint.

We will send an acknowledgment letter upon receipt of oral or written Complaints no later than five (5) business days after the date of the receipt. The acknowledgment letter will include a description of Our Complaint procedures and time frames. If the Complaint is received orally, We will also enclose a one-page Complaint form, which must be returned for prompt resolution of the Complaint.

We will acknowledge, investigate, and resolve all Complaints within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of receipt of the written Complaint or one-page Complaint form.

The Complaint resolution letter will include the specific reason(s) for Our determination. The response letter will also contain a full description of the process for Appeal, including the time frames for the Appeals process and the time frames for the final decision on the Appeal.

Complaints concerning an emergency, or a denial of continued hospitalization are resolved no later than one (1) business day after We receive the Complaint.

## Appeal of Complaints

If the Complainant is not satisfied with Our resolution of the Complaint, the Complainant will be given the opportunity to appear in person before an Appeal panel at the site of which the Member normally receives benefits or at another site agreed to by the Complainant or address a written Appeal to an Appeal panel.

We will send an acknowledgment letter of the receipt of oral or written Appeal from Complainants no later than five (5) business days after the date of the receipt of the Appeal. The acknowledgment letter will include a description of Our Appeal procedures and time frames. If the Appeal is received orally, We will also enclose a one-page Appeal form, which must be returned for prompt resolution of the Appeal.

We will appoint members to the Complaint Appeal panel, which shall advise Us on the resolution of the Complaint. The Complaint Appeal panel shall be composed of one Issuer staff member, one Participating Provider, and one Member. No member of the Complaint Appeal panel may have been previously involved in the disputed decision. The Participating Provider must have experience in the same or similar specialty that typically treats the medical condition, performs the procedure, or provides the Treatment in the area of care that is in dispute and must be independent of any Physician or provider who made any prior determination. If specialty care is in dispute, the Participating Provider serving on the Appeal panel must be a specialist in the field of care to which the Appeal relates. The Member may not be an employee of Issuer.

No later than five (5) business days before the scheduled meeting of the panel, unless the Complainant agrees otherwise, We will provide to the Complainant or the Complainant's designated representative:

- any documentation to be presented to the panel Our staff.
- the specialization of any Physicians or providers consulted during the investigation; and
- the name and affiliation of each Issuer representative on the panel.

The Complainant, or designated representative if the Member is a minor or disabled, is entitled to:

- appear before the Complaint Appeal panel in person or by other appropriate means.
- present alternative expert testimony; and
- request the presence of and question any person responsible for making the prior determination that resulted in the Appeal.

Notice of the final decision of the Issuer on the Appeal will include a statement of:

- The specific medical determination.
- The clinical basis for the Appeal's denial.
- The contractual criteria used to reach the final decision.
- The notice will also include the toll-free telephone number and the address of the Texas Department of Insurance.

We will complete the Appeals Process no later than the thirty (30) calendar days after the date of receipt of the written request for Appeal or one-page Appeal form.

## Physicians and Providers

A current list of physicians and providers, including behavioral health providers and substance abuse treatment providers can be accessed through [firstcare.com](http://firstcare.com).

## Service Area

The following counties are included in the Service Area:

Andrews	Comanche	Floyd	Hockley	Martin	Potter	Taylor
Armstrong	Coryell	Freestone	Howard	McCulloch	Randall	Terry
Bell	Cottle	Gaines	Hutchinson	McLennan	Reagan	Throckmorton
Borden	Crane	Garza	Jones	Midland	Reeves	Upton
Bosque	Crosby	Glasscock	Kent	Mills	Roberts	Ward
Brewster	Dallam	Gray	King	Mitchell	Runnels	Wheeler
Briscoe	Dawson	Hale	Knox	Moore	San Saba	Winkler
Callahan	Deaf Smith	Hall	Lamb	Motley	Scurry	Yoakum
Carson	Dickens	Hamilton	Lampasas	Navarro	Shackelford	
Castro	Donley	Hansford	Limestone	Nolan	Sherman	
Childress	Eastland	Hartley	Lipscomb	Ochiltree	Somervell	
Coke	Ector	Haskell	Loving	Oldham	Stephens	
Coleman	Falls	Hemphill	Lubbock	Parmer	Stonewall	
Collingsworth	Fisher	Hill	Lynn	Pecos	Swisher	

## Access to Obstetrical or Gynecological Care

ATTENTION FEMALE ENROLLEES: You have the right to select and visit an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) without first obtaining a referral from your PCP. SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare Health Plans has opted not to limit your selection of an OB-GYN to your PCP's network. You are not required to select an OB-GYN. You may elect to receive your OB-GYN services from your PCP.

## Balance Billing Notification

Some Facility-based providers such as anesthesiologist, pathologist, and radiologists may not be included in the Plan's Network. In certain circumstances We may authorize the Member to receive Treatment from a Non-Participating Provider. The Member will not be responsible for an amount greater than the applicable Copayment [and Deductible] under the Plan on the initial amount determined to be payable by the Plan. A Member should contact the Issuer if the Member receives a balance bill from a Facility-based provider, Non-Participating Facility-based provider, or other Health Professional that may balance bill the Member. In order to determine the contract status of providers, Members may consult the provider directory on Our website at [firstcare.com](http://firstcare.com) or contact Us at 855-572-7238.

## Hospital Services

Members are entitled to Medically Necessary benefits of any Participating Hospital to which Members may be admitted by a Participating Provider. If a Member is admitted to a Non-Participating Hospital by a Participating Provider to whom the Member was referred in accordance with Our procedures, the services of the Non-Participating Hospital will be covered on the same bases as admission to a Participating Hospital, provided admission to the Non-Participating Hospital was approved in accordance with the Evidence of Coverage.

For a service provided in a Hospital to be a covered benefit, the Hospital should be the medically appropriate setting for that service.

If a Member is hospitalized at a Non-Participating Hospital, the Member must notify Us within forty-eight (48) hours of admission or as soon as is reasonably possible, and We shall review the admission and the stay for Medical Necessity under the Evidence of Coverage. Failure to provide notification may result in denial of payment unless it is shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice.

Examples of Hospital benefits may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Semiprivate room, or the equivalent, for routine acute care.
- Inpatient meals and special diets, when Medically Necessary.
- Inpatient medications and biologicals.
- Intensive care units.
- Nursing care, including private duty nursing, when Medically Necessary.
- Short term rehabilitation therapy services in the acute Hospital setting.
- Inpatient lab, x-ray, and other diagnostic tests.
- Inpatient medical supplies and dressings.
- Anesthesia.
- Oxygen.
- Operating room and recovery room.
- Inpatient physical therapy.
- Inpatient radiation therapy.
- Inpatient inhalation therapy.
- Cost of and administration of whole blood, blood plasma, and blood plasma expanders.

Prescription Drugs administered while admitted to a Participating Hospital will be covered as part of the Member's inpatient benefit, and no additional [Deductible or] Copayments are required for the administered Prescription Drugs.

## Texas Department of Insurance Notice of Rights

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare Health Plans provides no benefits for services you receive from out-of-network physicians or providers, with specific exceptions as described in your evidence of coverage and below.

- You have the right to an adequate network of in-network physicians and providers (known as network providers).
- If you believe that the network is inadequate, you may file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance at: [www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/complfrm.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/complfrm.html).
- If your HMO approves a referral for out-of-network services because no network physician or provider is available, or if you have received out-of-network emergency care, the HMO must, in most cases, resolve the out-of-network physician's or provider's bill so that you only have to pay any applicable copayment, coinsurance, and deductible amounts.
- You may obtain a current directory of network physician and providers at the following website: <http://firstcare.com/en/Find-a-Provider> or by calling 855-572-7238 for assistance in finding available network physicians and providers. If you relied on materially inaccurate directory information, you may be entitled to have a claim by an out-of-network physician or provider paid as if it were from a network physician or provider, if you present a copy of the inaccurate directory information to the HMO, dated not more than 30 days before you received the service.