

# **YOUR BENEFIT PLAN**

**University of Maryland Baltimore**

**All Students enrolled in the Vision Plan**

**Vision Insurance for You and Your Dependents**

**Certificate Date: August 1, 2024**

University of Maryland Baltimore  
620 W Lexington St  
Baltimore, MD 21201

TO OUR STUDENTS:

All of us appreciate the protection and security insurance provides.

This certificate describes the benefits that are available to you. We urge you to read it carefully.

University of Maryland Baltimore



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166

## **CERTIFICATE RIDER**

**Group Policy No.:** 260578-1-G  
**Policyholder:** University of Maryland Baltimore  
**Effective Date:** August 1, 2024

The Group Vision Certificate is changed as follows:

To add the following definition of Child to the certificate:

**Child** means the following:

Your natural or adopted child; Your stepchild (including the child of a Domestic Partner); or a child who resides with and is fully supported by You; and who, in each case, is under age 26 and unmarried.

The definition of Child includes newborns.

The definition of Child includes a child for whom You or Your Spouse is required by a Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order to provide Vision Insurance.

The definition of Child includes grandchildren, under the limiting age, who are unmarried, reside with and are principally supported by You, and are in Your court ordered custody.

The definition of Child includes a child who resides with and is principally supported by You and is under Your testamentary or court appointed guardianship, other than temporary guardianship of less than 12 months duration.

An adopted child includes a child placed in Your physical custody for purpose of adoption. If prior to completion of the legal adoption the child is removed from Your custody, the child's status as an adopted child will end.

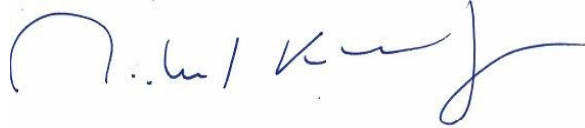
If You provide Us notice, a Child also includes a child for whom You must provide Vision Insurance due to a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined in the United States Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as amended.

The term includes a Student's Child who is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a mental or physical disability as defined by applicable law, and has been so disabled continuously since a date before the Child reached the limiting age and who otherwise qualifies as a Child except for the age limit. Proof of such disability must be sent to Us within 31 days after the date the Child becomes eligible for insurance and at reasonable intervals after such date.

For the purposes of determining who may become covered for insurance, the term does not include any person who:

- is on active duty in the military of any country or international authority; however, active duty for this purpose does not include weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; or
- Is insured under the Group Policy as a Student or eligible under another vision plan as a Student.

**This rider is to be attached to and made a part of the Certificate.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Khalaf", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michel Khalaf  
President



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
New York, New York

## CERTIFICATE RIDER

**Group Policy No.:** 260578-1-G  
**Policyholder:** University of Maryland Baltimore  
**Effective Date:** August 1, 2024

The certificate is changed as shown below:

The definition of Domestic Partner is added as follows:

**Domestic Partner** means each of two people, one of whom is a Student of the Policyholder, who:

- have registered as each other's domestic partner, civil union partner or reciprocal beneficiary with a government agency where such registration is available; or
- are of the same or opposite sex and have a mutually dependent relationship so that each has an insurable interest in the life of the other. Each person must be:
  1. 18 years of age or older;
  2. unmarried;
  3. the sole domestic partner of the other person and have been so for the immediately preceding 6 months;
  4. sharing a primary residence with the other person and have been so sharing for the immediately preceding 6 months; and
  5. not related to the other in a manner that would bar their marriage in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

A Domestic Partner affidavit attesting to the existence of an insurable interest in one another's lives must be completed and Signed by the Student.

**This rider is to be attached to and made a part of the Certificate**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michel Khalaf', written over a light blue grid background.

Michel Khalaf  
President



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
New York, New York

## CERTIFICATE RIDER

**Group Policy No.:** 260578-1-G  
**Policyholder:** University of Maryland Baltimore  
**Effective Date:** August 1, 2024

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company ("MetLife"), a stock company, issues this certificate rider to the Vision certificate under the above policy to make the following changes:

The definition of In-Network Vision Provider shall be changed to the following definition:

**"In-Network Vision Provider** means an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or optician who:

- is licensed and otherwise qualified to practice vision care and provide vision materials;
- is contracted with the Superior Vision Network to provide Plan Benefits to Covered Persons of MetLife; and
- accepts reimbursement at the negotiated rate."

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Khalaf', written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Michel Khalaf  
President & CEO



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166

## **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company ("MetLife"), a stock company, certifies that You and Your Dependents are insured for the benefits described in this certificate, subject to the provisions of this certificate. This certificate is issued to You under the Group Policy and it includes the terms and provisions of the Group Policy that describe Your insurance. **PLEASE READ THIS CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.**

This certificate is part of the Group Policy. The Group Policy is a legal contract between MetLife and the Policyholder and may be changed or ended without Your consent or notice to You.

**Policyholder:** University of Maryland Baltimore

**Group Policy Number:** 260578-1-G

**Type of Insurance:** Vision Insurance

**MetLife Toll Free Number(s):**  
**For Claim Information** FOR VISION CLAIMS: 1-833-EYE-LIFE (1-833-393-5433)

**THIS CERTIFICATE ONLY DESCRIBES VISION INSURANCE.**

**WE ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW TO INCLUDE THE NOTICE(S) WHICH APPEAR ON THIS PAGE AND IN THE NOTICE(S) SECTION WHICH FOLLOWS THIS PAGE. PLEASE READ THE(SE) NOTICE(S) CAREFULLY.**

# **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL STATES WHO ARE INSURED FOR VISION INSURANCE**

## **Notice Regarding Your Rights and Responsibilities**

### **Rights:**

- We will treat communications, financial records and records pertaining to Your care in accordance with all applicable laws relating to privacy.
- Decisions with respect to vision treatment are the responsibility of You and the Vision Provider. We neither require nor prohibit any specified treatment. However, only certain specified services are covered for benefits. Please see the Vision Insurance sections of this certificate for more details.
- You may request a written response from MetLife to any written concern or complaint.

### **Responsibilities:**

- You are responsible for the prompt payment of any charges for services performed by the Vision Provider not fully covered by your Vision Insurance.
- You should consult with the Vision Provider about treatment options, proposed and potential procedures, anticipated outcomes, potential risks, anticipated benefits and alternatives. You should share with the Vision Provider the most current, complete and accurate information about Your medical and vision history and current conditions and medications.
- You should follow the treatment plans and health care recommendations agreed upon by You and the Vision Provider.



## **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MARYLAND**

Any person who knowingly or willfully presents a false or fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit or who knowingly or willfully presents false information in an application for insurance is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in prison.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
CERTIFICATE FACE PAGE .....	1
NOTICES .....	2
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS .....	5
DEFINITIONS .....	8
ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU .....	10
Eligible Classes .....	10
Date You Are Eligible for Insurance .....	10
Enrollment Process For Vision Insurance .....	10
Date Your Insurance Takes Effect .....	10
Date Your Insurance Ends .....	11
ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS .....	12
Eligible Classes For Dependent Insurance .....	12
Date You Are Eligible For Dependent Insurance .....	12
Enrollment Process For Dependent Vision Insurance .....	12
Date Vision Insurance Takes Effect For Your Dependents .....	13
Date Your Insurance For Your Dependents Ends .....	14
CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT .....	15
For Mentally or Physically Incapacitated Children .....	15
VISION INSURANCE .....	16
VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS .....	19
VISION INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS .....	20
VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS .....	21
VISION INSURANCE: FILING A CLAIM .....	25
VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS .....	26
GENERAL PROVISIONS .....	30
Assignment .....	30
Vision Insurance: Who We Will Pay .....	30
Entire Contract .....	30
Contestability: Statements Made by You or the Policyholder .....	31
Conformity with Law .....	31

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

This schedule shows the benefits that are available under the Group Policy. You and Your Dependents are only covered for insurance:

- for which You become and remain eligible;
- which You elect, if subject to election; and
- which are in effect.

In addition, You are eligible for Dependent Insurance only while You have Dependents who qualify.

### BENEFIT

### BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Provider Network:

Superior Vision Network

### Vision Insurance For You and Your Dependents

	Exam	Lenses	Frame	Contacts
Service Interval	12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months

	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Exam Co-Payment</b> <i>Co-Payment shall not apply to Retinal Imaging</i>	\$10	\$0
<b>Materials Co-Payment</b> <i>Co-Payment shall not apply to Contact Lenses</i>	\$25	\$0

	In-Network Coverage (Using an In-Network Vision Provider)	Out-of-Network Coverage (Using an Out-of-Network Vision Provider)	
<b>EYE EXAMINATION</b> (one per frequency)	Covered in full after any applicable Co-Payment  Comprehensive examination of visual functions and prescription of corrective eyewear.	\$45 allowance after any applicable Co-Payment  Comprehensive examination of visual functions and prescription of corrective eyewear.	
<b>RETINAL IMAGING</b>	Covered in full with a Co-Payment not to exceed \$39.  Coverage for retinal imaging is an enhancement to eye examination.  Retinal imaging is not available at all provider locations – contact your In-Network Vision Provider to see if this technology (or equipment or service) is available.	Applied to the allowance for the eye examination	
<b>STANDARD CORRECTIVE LENSES</b>	Covered in full after any applicable Co-Payment  Lenses (Single, Lined Bifocal, Lined Trifocal or Lenticular)	Single Vision	\$30 allowance
		Lined Bifocal	\$50 allowance
		Lined Trifocal	\$65 allowance
		Lenticular	\$100 allowance

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS (continued)

	<b>In-Network Coverage (Using an In-Network Vision Provider)</b>		<b>Out-of-Network Coverage (Using an Out-of-Network Vision Provider)</b>
<b>STANDARD LENS OPTIONS</b>	Standard Polycarbonate (child up to age 18)	Covered in full	Applied to the allowance for the applicable corrective lens
These lens options are available with a "not to exceed" pricing/maximum member out of pocket amount. <sup>1</sup>	Progressive – Standard	\$55	\$50 allowance
	Progressive – Premium	\$110	
	Progressive – Ultra	\$150	
	Progressive – Ultimate	\$225	
	Ultra Violet Coating	\$12	Applied to the allowance for the applicable corrective lens
	Standard Polycarbonate (adult)	\$40	
	Scratch Resistant Coating	Tier 1 - \$15 Tier 2 - \$30	
	Anti-Reflective Coating	Tier 1 - \$50 Tier 2 - \$70 Tier 3 - \$85 Tier 4 - \$120	
	Tints/Dyes – Solid	\$15	
	Tints/Dyes – Gradient	\$18	
	Photochromic	\$80	
	Blue Light Filtering	\$15	
	Digital Single Vision	\$30	
	Polarized	\$75	
	High Index (1.67/1.74)	\$80/\$120	
<b>FRAMES</b>	Covered up to a \$130 allowance after any applicable Co-Payment		\$70 allowance after any applicable Co-Payment
<b>CONTACT LENSES</b>	The allowance will be applied to one contact lenses purchase. If part of the allowance remains after the first occurrence in a service interval, the remainder will be applied in later contact lens purchases in the same service interval		
<b>FITTING AND EVALUATION</b>	<b>Standard Fit:</b>  Covered in full after \$25 Co-Payment  <b>Specialty Fit:</b>  \$50 allowance after \$25 Co-Payment		Applied to the allowance for the applicable corrective lens

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS (continued)

<b>ELECTIVE</b>	<p>\$130 allowance</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>	<p>\$105 allowance</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>
<b>NECESSARY</b>	<p>Covered in full</p> <p>Necessary contact lenses are a Plan Benefit when specific benefit criteria are satisfied and when prescribed by Covered Person's In-Network Vision Provider.</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>	<p>\$210 allowance</p> <p>Necessary contact lenses are a Plan Benefit when specific benefit criteria are satisfied and when prescribed by Covered Person's Vision Provider.</p> <p>Contact lenses are provided in place of lens and frame benefits available herein.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Not all providers participate in vision program discounts, including the member out-of-pocket features. Call your provider prior to scheduling an appointment to confirm if the discount and member out-of-pocket features are offered at that location. Discounts and member out-of-pocket are not insurance and subject to change without notice.

<b>Value-Added Features</b> <b>Available At In-Network Vision Providers</b> <b>(These features are not insurance.)</b>	
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON GLASSES AND SUNGLASSES</b>	20% savings on additional pairs of prescription glasses and nonprescription sunglasses, including lens enhancements. <sup>2</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON LENS ENHANCEMENTS</b>	Average 20-25% savings on all lens enhancements not otherwise covered under the Superior Vision by MetLife vision benefit program. <sup>2</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON FRAMES</b>	20% off any amount over your frames allowance. <sup>2</sup>
<b>SAVINGS ON ADDITIONAL EXAMS</b>	30% savings on additional exams. <sup>2</sup>
<b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON CONTACTS</b>	<p>10% off any amount over your disposable contact lens allowance or 20% off any amount over your conventional contact lens allowance. <sup>2</sup></p> <p>10% - 20% discount on additional contacts. <sup>2</sup></p>

<sup>2</sup> These features may not be available in all states and with all In-Network Vision Providers. Please check with Your In-Network Vision Provider.

## DEFINITIONS

As used in this certificate, the terms listed below will have the meanings set forth below. When defined terms are used in this certificate, they will appear with initial capitalization. The plural use of a term defined in the singular will share the same meaning.

**Administrator** means HUB International.

**Anisometropia** means a condition of unequal refractive state of the two eyes, one eye requiring a different lens correction than the other.

**Child** - For the Child definition, please refer to the Child Definition Rider in the front of this certificate.

**Contributory Insurance** means insurance for which the Policyholder requires You to pay any part of the premium.

Contributory Insurance includes: Vision Insurance for You and Vision Insurance for Your Dependents.

**Co-Payment or Co-Pay** means a fixed dollar amount for which We are not responsible, as shown in the Schedule of Benefits. You must pay Your Co-Payment at the time services are rendered or materials ordered.

**Covered Person(s)** means a Student and/or a Dependent covered under this Certificate.

**Covered Services and Materials** mean a vision service or materials used to treat Your or Your Dependent's vision condition which is:

- prescribed or performed by a Vision Provider while such person is insured for Vision Insurance;
- Necessary to treat the condition; and
- described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS or VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS sections of this certificate.

**Dependent(s)** means Your Spouse and/or Child.

**Domestic Partner** - For the Domestic Partner Definition, please refer to the Domestic Partner Definition Rider in the front of this certificate.

**In-Network Vision Provider** means an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or optician licensed and otherwise qualified to practice vision care and/or provide vision care materials who is contracted to provide Plan Benefits to Covered Persons of MetLife and accepts reimbursement at the negotiated rate.

**Keratoconus** means a development or dystrophic deformity of the cornea in which it becomes cone shaped due to a thinning and stretching of the tissue in its central area.

**Maximum Benefit Allowance** means the maximum amount We will allow for Covered Services and Materials provided by a Vision Provider.

**Necessary** means Covered Services and Materials that are necessary and meet with professionally recognized standards of practice. The fact that a Vision Provider may prescribe, order, recommend or approve a service or material does not, in itself, make it medically necessary, or make it a Covered Service and Material even though it is listed in the Group Policy or the Benefit Schedule as Covered Service and Material.

**Out-of-Network Vision Provider/Non-Network Vision Provider** means any optometrist, optician, ophthalmologist or other licensed and qualified vision care provider who has not contracted to provide vision care services and/or vision care materials to Covered Persons of MetLife.

**Plan or Plan Benefits** means the vision care services and vision care materials which a Covered Person is entitled to receive by virtue of coverage under this Certificate.

## DEFINITIONS (continued)

**Progressive Lens** means a multifocal lens that makes the transition from distance to near vision by a gradual, progressive addition of power. The result is a lens with a seamless appearance.

**Proof** means Written evidence satisfactory to Us that a person has satisfied the conditions and requirements for any benefit described in this certificate. When a claim is made for any benefit described in this certificate, Proof must establish:

- the nature and extent of the loss or condition;
- Our obligation to pay the claim; and
- the claimant's right to receive payment.

Proof must be provided at the claimant's expense.

**Service Interval or Frequency** means a period of consecutive months, as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, in which You or Your Dependent may receive Covered Services and Materials. This period starts on Your or Your Dependent's effective date of coverage. A subsequent service interval starts after vision services or materials are received. Once Covered Services and Materials are received during any service interval, additional services are not covered during the same service interval and are subject to an additional charge.

**Signed** means any symbol or method executed or adopted by a person with the present intention to authenticate a record, which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

**Spouse** means Your lawful spouse. Wherever the term "Spouse" appears in the certificate it shall, unless otherwise specified, be read to include Your Domestic Partner.

For the purposes of determining who may become covered for insurance, the term does not include any person who:

- is on active duty in the military of any country or international authority. However, active duty for this purpose does not include weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; or
- is insured under the Group Policy as a Student.

**Student** means a student enrolled at the University of Maryland Baltimore who is eligible for the insurance described in this certificate.

**Vision Provider** means an eye care professional who is an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or registered dispensing optician, who:

- Is licensed as such by the proper authorities in the jurisdiction where such services are performed;
- Is acting within the scope of such license.

**We, Us and Our** mean MetLife.

**Written or Writing** means a record which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

**Year or Yearly**, for Vision Insurance, means the 12 month period that begins January 1.

**You and Your** mean a Student who is insured under the Group Policy for the insurance described in this certificate.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU**

### **ELIGIBLE CLASS(ES)**

**All Students enrolled in the Vision Plan.**

### **DATE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE**

You may only become eligible for the insurance available for Your eligible class as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If You are in an eligible class on August 1, 2024, You will be eligible for the insurance described in this certificate on that date.

If You are in an eligible class after August 1, 2024, You will be eligible for the insurance described in this certificate on that date.

### **ENROLLMENT PROCESS FOR VISION INSURANCE**

If You are eligible for insurance, You may enroll for such insurance by completing the required form in Writing. If You enroll for Contributory Insurance, You will be notified how much You will be required to contribute.

### **DATE YOUR INSURANCE TAKES EFFECT**

#### **Rules for Contributory Insurance**

When You complete the enrollment process for Contributory Vision Insurance, such insurance will take effect on the later of:

- the date You become eligible for such insurance; and
- the date You enroll.

#### **Enrollment Due to a Qualifying Event**

You may enroll for insurance for which You are eligible or change the amount of Your insurance if You have a Qualifying Event.

If You have a Qualifying Event, You will have 31 days from the date of that change to make a request. This request must be consistent with the nature of the Qualifying Event. The insurance enrolled for, or changes to Your insurance made as a result of a Qualifying Event, will take effect on the date of the Qualifying Event.

**Qualifying Event** includes:

- marriage; or
- the birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a dependent child; or
- divorce, legal separation or annulment; or
- the death of a dependent; or
- a change in Your or Your dependent's employment status, such as beginning or ending employment, strike, lockout, taking or ending a leave of absence, changes in worksite or work schedule, if it causes You or Your dependent to gain or lose eligibility for group coverage; or
- Your or Your dependent's loss of coverage under any group health coverage sponsored by a governmental or educational institution.



## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU (continued)**

### **DATE YOUR INSURANCE ENDS**

Your insurance will end on the earliest of:

1. the date the Group Policy ends;
2. the date insurance ends for Your class;
3. the date You cease to be in an eligible class;
4. the end of the period for which the last premium has been paid for You; or
5. the date You cease to be a Student.

In certain cases insurance may be continued as stated in the section entitled CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS**

### **ELIGIBLE CLASS(ES) FOR DEPENDENT INSURANCE**

**All Students enrolled in the Vision Plan.**

### **DATE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DEPENDENT INSURANCE**

You may only become eligible for the Dependent insurance available for Your eligible class as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If You are in an eligible class on August 1, 2024, You will be eligible for Dependent insurance on the later of:

1. August 1, 2024; and
2. the date You obtain a Dependent.

If You enter an eligible class after August 1, 2024, You will be eligible for Dependent insurance on the later of:

1. the date You enter a class eligible for insurance; and
2. the date You obtain a Dependent.

No person may be insured as a Dependent of more than one Student.

### **ENROLLMENT PROCESS FOR DEPENDENT VISION INSURANCE**

If You are eligible for Dependent Insurance, You may enroll for such insurance by completing the required form in Writing for each Dependent to be insured. If You enroll for Contributory Insurance, You will be notified how much You will be required to contribute.

In order to enroll for Vision Insurance for Your Dependents, You must either (a) already be enrolled for Vision Insurance for You or (b) enroll at the same time for Vision Insurance for You.

You may also enroll Your Dependents for Vision Insurance under this plan if you did not enroll them when they were first eligible and:

- Your Dependents had coverage under your Spouse's plan and Your Spouse dies or Your Spouse's employment was involuntarily terminated for reasons other than cause;
- You notify us within 6 months that coverage under the other plan has ended;
- You elect to enroll Your Dependents for Vision Insurance under this policy; and
- for any contributory Vision Insurance for Your Dependents, You give Written permission to deduct premiums from your pay.

If You or Your Spouse is required by a Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order to provide vision insurance for a Child and:

- You are not enrolled for vision insurance; and/or
- Your child is not enrolled for vision insurance,

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS (continued)**

We will enroll You and/or Your Child without regard to enrollment period restrictions.

If You do not make a request for coverage on a dependent child as required by a Child Health Enforcement Order; and:

- You are insured for vision insurance; and
- no other reasonable vision insurance is in effect on the child,

then a request for vision insurance may be made by:

- another parent of the child;
- the Maryland Support Enforcement Agency; or
- the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

You will not be denied insurance for a Child because the Child:

- was born out of wedlock;
- is not claimed as a dependent on the insuring parent's federal income tax return;
- does not reside with the insuring parent or in the service area of the entity; or
- is receiving benefits or is eligible to receive benefits under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

If a Child receives insurance through You, We will:

- provide to the noninsuring parent membership cards, claims forms, and any other information necessary for the child to obtain benefits through the health insurance coverage; and
- process the claims forms and make appropriate payment to the noninsuring parent, health care provider, or Department of Health and Mental Hygiene if the noninsuring parent incurs expenses for health care provided to the child.

### **DATE VISION INSURANCE TAKES EFFECT FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS**

#### **Rules for Contributory Insurance**

When You complete the enrollment process for Contributory Dependent Vision Insurance, such insurance will take effect on the later of:

- the date You become eligible for such insurance; and
- the date You enroll.

#### **Enrollment Due to a Qualifying Event**

You may enroll for Dependent Insurance for which You are eligible or change the amount of Your Dependent insurance if You have a Qualifying Event.

If You have a Qualifying Event, You will have 31 days from the date of that change to make a request. This request must be consistent with the nature of the Qualifying Event. The insurance enrolled for or changes to Your insurance made as a result of a Qualifying Event will take effect on the date of the Qualifying Event.

## **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS (continued)**

**Qualifying Event** includes:

- marriage; or
- the birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a dependent child; or
- divorce, legal separation or annulment; or
- the death of a dependent; or
- a change in Your or Your dependent's employment status, such as beginning or ending employment, strike, lockout, taking or ending a leave of absence, changes in worksite or work schedule, if it causes You or Your dependent to gain or lose eligibility for group coverage; or
- Your or Your dependent's loss of coverage under any group health coverage sponsored by a governmental or educational institution.

Once You have enrolled one Child for Dependent Insurance, each succeeding Child will automatically be insured for such insurance on the date the Child qualifies as a Dependent.

### **DATE YOUR INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS ENDS**

A Dependent's insurance will end on the earliest of:

1. the date You die;
2. the date Vision Insurance for You ends;
3. the date the Group Policy ends;
4. the You cease to be in an eligible class;
5. the date insurance for Your Dependents ends under the Group Policy;
6. the date insurance for Your Dependents ends for Your class;
7. the date You cease to be a Student;
8. the end of the period for which the last premium has been paid;
9. the date the person ceases to be a Dependent, except that in the case of a Child who has reached the maximum age, insurance will end on the last day of the calendar year.

If You are required by a Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order to provide vision insurance for a Child, We will not end the Child's vision insurance at Your request unless Written evidence is provided to Us that the Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order is no longer in effect or the Child has been or will be enrolled in other reasonable vision insurance coverage that will take effect on or before the effective date of the Child's termination.

In certain cases insurance may be continued as stated in the section entitled CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT.

## **CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT**

### **FOR MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED CHILDREN**

Insurance for a Dependent Child may be continued past the age limit if the child is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity as defined by applicable law. Proof of such incapacity must be sent to Us within 31 days after the date the Child attains the age limit and at reasonable intervals after such date.

Subject to the DATE YOUR INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS ENDS subsection of the section entitled ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS, insurance will continue while such Child:

- remains incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity; and
- continues to qualify as a Child, except for the age limit.

## **VISION INSURANCE**

Benefits are available for Covered Services and Materials provided by either In-Network Vision Providers or Out-of-Network Vision Providers. However, You may be able to reduce Your out-of-pocket costs by using In-Network Vision Providers because Out-of-Network Vision Providers have not entered into an agreement to limit their charges. You are always free to receive services from any Vision Provider. You do not need any authorization from Us before seeing a Vision Provider.

In-Network Vision Providers have agreed to provide Covered Services and Materials as listed in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If You or a Dependent incur a charge for Covered Services and Materials from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, Proof of such service must be sent to Us. When We receive such Proof, We will review the claim and if We approve it, will pay the insurance in effect on the date that service was completed.

The benefits available under this Vision Insurance are set forth on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS. In addition to the Co-Payment, if applicable, You may be responsible for:

- the cost of any services or materials that are not Covered Services and Materials; and
- the cost of any service or material that is in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

We do not provide vision services. Whether or not benefits are available for a particular service does not mean You should or should not receive the service. You and Your Vision Provider have the right and are responsible at all times for choosing the course of treatment and services to be performed.

When requesting Covered Services and Materials from an In-Network Vision Provider, We recommend that You confirm that the Vision Provider is currently an In-Network Vision Provider at the time that the Covered Services and Materials are provided.

You can obtain a customized listing of MetLife's In-Network Vision Providers either by calling 1-833-EYE-LIFE (1-833-393-5433) or by visiting Our website at [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits).

## **PLAN BENEFITS**

We will pay benefits for charges incurred by You or a Dependent for Covered Services and Materials as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, subject to the conditions set forth in this certificate.

If You receive Covered Services and Materials from an In-Network Vision Provider, We will pay the provider directly for all covered benefits.

If You or Your Dependent receive Covered Services and Materials from an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, and You assign payment of Vision Insurance benefits to Your or Your Dependent's Vision Provider, We will pay benefits directly to the Vision Provider. Otherwise, We will pay Vision Insurance benefits to You.

## **Referrals**

If You are diagnosed with a condition or disease that requires specialized care from a Vision Provider and either:

- there is no In-Network Vision Provider with professional training and expertise to provide Covered Services and Materials for the condition or disease; or
- We cannot provide reasonable access to a Vision Provider with the professional training and expertise to provide Covered Services and Materials for the condition or disease without unreasonable delay or travel.

## **VISION INSURANCE (continued)**

You may request a referral to an Out-of-Network specialist or nonphysician specialist. We will treat Covered Services and Materials received in accordance with this referral as if the Covered Services and Materials were provided by an In-Network Vision Provider.

### **In-Network**

If Covered Services and Materials are provided by an In-Network Vision Provider, We will base the benefit on the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If an In-Network Vision Provider provides Covered Services and Materials, You will be responsible for paying:

- the Co-Payment, if applicable; and
- the cost of any service or material that is in excess of the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

### **Out-of-Network**

If Covered Services and Materials are provided by an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, We will base the benefit on the Plan Benefits listed on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, subject to the Maximum Benefit Allowance.

Out-of-Network Vision Providers may charge You more than the Maximum Benefit Allowance. If an Out-of-Network Vision Provider provides Covered Services and Materials, You will be responsible for paying any amount in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance charged by the Out-of-Network Vision Provider.

### **Necessary Contact Lenses**

Necessary contact lenses are a Plan Benefit when specific benefit criteria are satisfied and when prescribed by Covered Person's In-Network Vision Provider. Generally, coverage will be authorized for the following reasons:

- Aphakia—379.31 or 743.35.
- Nystagmus—379.50 through 379.56, 386.11, 386.12 or 386.2.
- Keratoconus—371.60, 371.61, 371.62, 743.41, or 743.42.
- Corneal transplant—V42.5.
- Corneal dystrophies—371.50 through 371.58.
- Anisometropia greater than or equal to 2.00 diopters difference in any meridian based on the spectacle prescription.
- High ametropia greater than or equal to  $\pm 10.00$  diopters in either eye in any meridian based on the spectacle prescription.
- Irregular astigmatism—367.22.

The codes listed above are from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification and are used to describe diseases, injuries, symptoms and conditions. We may update the authorization requirements in accordance with professionally recognized standards of practice. If the International Classification of Diseases amends its requirements We will update these codes and terminology accordingly. If You have questions about the diagnoses listed above or the codes included with the diagnoses, please contact Your Vision Provider.

## **VISION INSURANCE (continued)**

### **Extension of Benefits**

If a Covered Person's insurance ends for any reason other than premium has not been paid for You, and the Covered Person has ordered glasses or Contact Lenses before the Covered Person's insurance ends, We will continue to provide covered benefits, in accordance with the policy in effect at the time the Covered Person's coverage terminates, for the glasses or Contact Lenses for 30 days after the Covered Person orders the glasses or Contact Lenses.

This extension will not be available to a Covered Person if coverage is terminated for fraud or material misrepresentation by the Covered Person; or if the Covered Person is provided vision insurance benefits by a succeeding vision insurance plan:

1. at a cost to the Covered Person that is less than or equal to the cost of the extended benefit; and
2. the Covered Person does not have any interruption of vision benefits.



## VISION INSURANCE: DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES AND MATERIALS

Subject to the Service Intervals and Plan Benefits indicated in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, the following will be Covered Services and Materials:

1. One complete visual examination, if indicated as a Covered Service on the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS. Dilation is included as a Covered Service when provided by an In-Network Vision Provider.
2. Standard corrective lenses. We will cover a pair of standard single vision, lined bifocal, lined trifocal or lenticular lenses that are necessary to correct vision. Standard corrective lenses are as follows:
  - eyesizes up to and including 60mm;
  - multi-focal lenses in all segment widths;
  - prism and slab off;
  - base curves (regardless of curve);
  - lenses with the combined power in any meridian is +/- .50 diopters or greater in at least one eye; and
  - plastic or glass lenses.
3. The following lens options described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS: tint (solid and gradient), standard plastic scratch coating, standard polycarbonate (if you are less than 18 years of age), standard anti-reflective coating, plastic photochromic, blue light filtering, digital single vision, polarized, high index (1.67/1.74).
4. Contact lenses.
  - A standard fitting and 1 follow-up visit by a Vision Provider.
  - The following contact lenses options, as described in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS: conventional, disposable, and Necessary.
5. Necessary low vision aids.
6. We do not cover costs above the Maximum Benefit Allowance shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS for frames. If frames are selected that are more expensive than that amount, You will be charged the difference between the Maximum Benefit Allowance and the Vision Provider's charge for the more expensive frame.
7. Necessary contact lenses in lieu of all benefits for vision materials.

## VISION INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS

We will not pay Vision Insurance benefits for charges incurred for:

1. Services and/or materials not specifically included in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS as covered Plan Benefits.
2. Any portion of a charge in excess of the Maximum Benefit Allowance or reimbursement indicated in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.
3. Plano lenses (lenses with refractive correction of less than  $\pm .50$  diopter).
4. Two pairs of glasses instead of bifocals.
5. Replacement of lenses, frames and/or contact lenses furnished under this Plan which are lost, stolen or damaged, except at the normal intervals when Plan Benefits are otherwise available.
6. Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
7. Medical or surgical treatment of the eye.
8. Prescription or non-prescription medications.
9. Contact lens insurance policies and service agreements.
10. Refitting of contact lenses after the initial (90-day) fitting period.
11. Contact lens modification, polishing and cleaning.
12. Any eye examination or any corrective eyewear required as a condition of employment.
13. Services or supplies received by You or Your Dependent before the Vision Insurance starts for that person.
14. Missed appointments.
15. Services or materials resulting from or in the course of a Covered Person's regular occupation for pay or profit for which the Covered Person is entitled to benefits under any Workers' Compensation Law, Employer's Liability Law or similar law. You must promptly claim and notify the Company of all such benefits.
16. Local, state and/or federal taxes, except where MetLife is required by law to pay.
17. Services:
  - for which the employer of the person receiving such services is required to pay by law; or
  - received at a facility maintained by the employer, labor union, mutual benefit association, or VA hospital.
18. Services or materials received as a result of disease, defect, or injury due to war or an act of war (declared or undeclared).
19. Services and materials obtained while outside the United States, except for emergency vision care.
20. Services, procedures, or materials for which a charge would not have been made in the absence of insurance.

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

When You or a Dependent incur charges for Covered Services and Materials, there may be other Plans, as defined below, that also provide benefits for those same charges. In that case, We may reduce what We pay based on what the other Plans pay. This Coordination of Benefits section explains how and when We do this.

### DEFINITIONS

In this section, the terms set forth below have the following meanings:

**Allowable Expense** means a necessary vision expense for which both of the following are true:

- a Covered Person must pay it; and
- it is at least partly covered by one or more of the Plans that provide benefits to the Covered Person.

If a Plan provides fixed benefits for specified events or conditions (instead of benefits based on expenses incurred), such benefits are Allowable Expenses.

If a Plan provides benefits in the form of services, We treat the reasonable cash value of each service performed as both an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid by that Plan.

**The term does not include:**

- expenses for services performed because of a Job-Related Injury or Sickness;
- any amount of expenses in excess of the higher reasonable and customary fee for a service, if two or more Plans compute their benefit payments on the basis of reasonable and customary fees;
- any amount of expenses in excess of the higher negotiated fee for a service, if two or more Plans compute their benefit payments on the basis of negotiated fees; and
- any amount of benefits that a Primary Plan does not pay because the covered person fails to comply with the Primary Plan's managed care or utilization review provisions, these include provisions requiring:
  - second surgical opinions;
  - pre-authorization of services;
  - use of providers in a Plan's network of providers; or
  - any other similar provisions.

If You or a Dependent are also covered under an HMO plan, We will not use this provision to refuse to pay benefits because an HMO member has elected to have vision services provided by a non-HMO provider and the HMO's contract does not require the HMO to pay for providing those services.

**Claim Determination Period** means a calendar year or plan year. A Claim Determination Period for any Covered Person will not include periods of time during which that person is not covered under This Plan.

**Custodial Parent** means a Parent awarded custody, other than joint custody, by a court decree. In the absence of a court decree, it means the Parent with whom the child resides more than half of the Year without regard to any temporary visitation.

**HMO** means a Health Maintenance Organization or Vision Health Maintenance Organization.

**Job-Related Injury or Sickness** means any injury or sickness:

- for which You are entitled to benefits under a workers' compensation or similar law, or
- any arrangement that provides for similar compensation; or arising out of employment for wage or profit.

**Parent** means a person who covers a child as a dependent under a Plan.

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

**Plan** means any of the following, if it provides benefits or services for an Allowable Expense:

- a group insurance plan;
- an HMO;
- a blanket plan;
- uninsured arrangements of group or group type coverage;
- a group practice plan;
- a group service plan;
- a group prepayment plan;
- any other plan that covers people as a group;
- any other coverage required or provided by any law or any governmental program, except Medicaid.

**The term does not include any of the following:**

- individual or family insurance or subscriber contracts;
- individual or family coverage through closed panel Plans or other prepayment, group practice or individual practice Plans;
- hospital indemnity coverage;
- a school blanket plan that only provides accident-type coverage on a 24 hour basis, or a "to and from school basis," to students in a grammar school, high school or college;
- accident only coverage;
- specified disease or specified accident coverage;
- nursing home or long term care coverage; or
- any government program or coverage if, by state or Federal law, its benefits are excess to those of any private insurance plan or other non-government plan.

The provisions of This Plan, which limit benefits based on benefits or services provided under Plans which the employer, Policyholder (or an affiliate) contributes to or sponsors will not be affected by these Coordination of Benefits provisions.

Each policy, contract or other arrangement for benefits is a separate Plan. If part of a Plan reserves the right to reduce what it pays based on benefits or services provided by other Plans, that part will be treated separately from any parts which do not.

**This Plan** means the vision benefits described in this certificate, except for any provisions in this certificate that limit insurance based on benefits for services provided under plans which the Policyholder (or an affiliate) contributes to or sponsors.

**Primary Plan** means a Plan that pays its benefits first under the "Rules to Decide Which Plan Is Primary" section. A Primary Plan pays benefits as if the Secondary Plans do not exist.

**Secondary Plan** means a Plan that is not a Primary Plan. A Secondary Plan may reduce its benefits by amounts payable by the Primary Plan. If there are more than two Plans that provide coverage, a Plan may be Primary to some plans, and Secondary to others.

### RULES TO DECIDE WHICH PLAN IS PRIMARY

When more than one Plan covers the person for whom Allowable Expenses were incurred, We determine which plan is primary by applying the rules in this section.

## VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

When there is a basis for claim under This Plan and another Plan, This Plan is Secondary unless:

- the other Plan has rules coordinating its benefits with those of This Plan; and
- this Plan is primary under This Plan's rules.

The first rule below, which will allow Us to determine which Plan is Primary, is the rule that We will use.

**Dependent or Non-Dependent:** A Plan that covers a person other than as a dependent (for example, as an employee, member, subscriber, or retiree) is Primary and shall pay its benefits before a Plan that covers the person as a dependent; except that if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law or regulations, Medicare is:

- Secondary to the Plan covering the person as a dependent; and
- Primary to the Plan covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g., a retired employee);

then the order of benefits between the two Plans is reversed and the Plan that covers the person as a dependent is Primary.

**Child Covered Under More Than One Plan – Court Decree:** When This Plan and another Plan cover the same Child as the Dependent of two or more Parents, and the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the Parents must provide health coverage or pay for the Child's health care expenses, that Parent's Plan is Primary, if the Plan has actual knowledge of those terms. This rule applies to Claim Determination Periods that start after the Plan is given notice of the court decree.

**Child Covered Under More Than One Plan – The Birthday Rule:** When This Plan and another Plan cover the same Child as the Dependent of two or more Parents, the Primary Plan is the Plan of the Parent whose birthday falls earlier in the Year if:

- the Parents are married; or
- the Parents are not separated (whether or not they have ever married); or
- a court decree awards joint custody without specifying which Parent must provide health coverage.

If both Parents have the same birthday, the Plan that covered either of the Parents longer is the Primary Plan.

However, if the other Plan does not have this rule, but instead has a rule based on the gender of the parent, and if as a result the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, the rule in the other Plan will determine the order of benefits.

**Child Covered Under More than One Plan – Custodial Parent:** When This Plan and another Plan cover the same Child as the Dependent of two or more Parents, if the Parents are not married, or are separated (whether or not they ever married), or are divorced, the Primary Plan is:

- the Plan of the Custodial Parent; then
- the Plan of the spouse of the Custodial Parent; then
- the Plan of the non-custodial Parent; and then
- the Plan of the spouse of the non-custodial Parent.

**Active or Inactive Employee:** A Plan that covers a person as an employee who is neither laid off nor retired is Primary to a Plan that covers the person as a laid-off or retired employee (or as that person's Dependent). If the other Plan does not have this rule and, if as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.

**Continuation Coverage:** The Plan that covers a person as an active employee, member or subscriber (or as that employee's Dependent) is Primary to a Plan that covers that person under a right of continuation pursuant to federal law (e.g., COBRA) or state law. If the Plan that covers the person has not adopted this rule, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule shall not apply.

## **VISION INSURANCE: COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (continued)**

**Longer/Shorter Time Covered:** If none of the above rules determine which Plan is Primary, the Plan that has covered the person for the longer time shall be Primary to a Plan that has covered the person for a shorter time.

**No Rules Apply:** If none of the above rules determine which Plan is Primary, the Allowable Expenses shall be shared equally between all the Plans. In no event will This Plan pay more than it would if it were Primary.

### **EFFECT ON BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN**

If This Plan is Secondary, when the total Allowable Expenses incurred by a covered person in any Claim Determination Period are less than the sum of:

- the benefits that would be payable under This Plan without applying this Coordination of Benefits provision; and
- the benefits that would be payable under all other Plans without applying Coordination of Benefits or similar provisions;

then We will reduce the benefits that would otherwise be payable under This Plan. The sum of these reduced benefits plus all benefits payable for such Allowable Expenses under all other Plans will not exceed the total of the Allowable Expenses. Benefits payable under all other Plans include all benefits that would be payable if the proper claims had been made on time.

### **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

A payment made under another Plan may include an amount which should have been paid under This Plan. If it does, We may pay that amount to the organization which made that payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under This Plan. We will not have to pay that amount again. The term "payment made" includes benefits provided in the form of services, in which case We may pay the reasonable cash value of the benefits provided in the form of services.

### **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

If the amount We pay is more than We should have paid under this Coordination of Benefits provision, We may recover the excess from one or more of:

- the person We have paid or for whom We have paid;
- insurance companies; or
- other organizations.

The amount of the payment includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

## **VISION INSURANCE: FILING A CLAIM**

### **CLAIMS FOR VISION INSURANCE**

If you select an In Network Vision Provider, You do not need to file a claim.

If you select an Out-of-Network Vision Provider, You may provide full payment to the Out-of-Network Vision Provider at the time of service and submit the invoice including an itemized statement of charges with Your claim form, or You may be able to assign the claim to the Out-of-Network Vision Provider. If the Out-of-Network Vision Provider accepts the assignment, the provider will submit the claim on your behalf. You will be responsible for any charges not covered by the Plan.

Out of network claim forms needed to file for benefits under the group insurance program can be obtained by calling the Administrator at 1-877-247-8817. If You do not receive the claim form before the expiration of 15 days after We receive the notice of any claim under the policy, You shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of the Group Policy if You submit, within the time fixed in the policy for filing Proof of loss, Written Proof of the occurrence, character, and extent of the loss for which the claim is made. Vision claim forms can also be downloaded from [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits). The instructions on the claim form should be followed carefully. This will expedite the processing of the claim.

When We receive the claim form and Proof, Your claim will be paid subject to the terms and provisions of this certificate and the Group Policy.

### **CLAIMS FOR VISION INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**When a claimant files a claim for Vision Insurance benefits described in this certificate**, both the notice of claim and the required Proof should be sent to Us within 180 days from the date of service. Failure to give notice within such time shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it shall be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice and that notice was given as soon as was reasonably possible.

Claim and Proof may be given to Us by following the steps set forth below:

#### **Step 1**

A claimant can request a claim form by downloading it from [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits).

#### **Step 2**

Complete the claim form as instructed and return it with the invoice.

#### **Step 3**

The claimant must give Us Proof as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity, later than one year from the time Proof is otherwise required. We will pay any claim within 30 days after We receive Written Proof. For out-of-network claims, We will pay You, unless You have assigned the claim to the Out-of-Network Vision Provider.

# VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS

## Routine Questions on Vision Insurance Claims

If there is any question about a claim payment, an explanation may be requested from MetLife by dialing 1-833-EYE-LIFE (1-833-393-5433).

## Claim Denial Appeals

If a claim is denied in whole or in part, under the terms of this certificate, a request may be submitted to Us by a Covered Person or a Covered Person's authorized representative for a full review of the denial. A Covered Person may designate any person, including their provider, as their authorized representative. References in this section to "Covered Person" include the Covered Person's authorized representative, where applicable.

**Initial Appeal.** After the Covered Person submits a claim for Vision Insurance benefits to MetLife, MetLife will review the claim and notify the Covered Person of its decision to approve or deny the claim. Such notification will be provided to You within 30 working days from the date You submitted Your claim.

**Notification of Initial Appeal Claim Denial.** If MetLife denies the claim in whole or in part, We will send the Covered Person a Written notice of the denial within 5 working days after the decision has been made or orally communicated to the Covered Person. For an Emergency Case denial, We will send the Covered Person a Written notice of the denial within 5 working days after the decision has been made or orally communicated to the Covered Person. This Written decision will:

- state the reason the claim was denied, reference the specific Plan provision(s) on which the denial is based, and provide Written details of the Covered Person's appeal options;
- inform the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider that he has a right to file a complaint with the Maryland Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") within 4 months after receipt of the denial;
- inform the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider that he has a right to file a complaint with the Commissioner without first filing an appeal if a compelling reason can be demonstrated as determined by the Commissioner; and
- include the following:
  - the name, business address and business phone number of the MetLife employee responsible for MetLife's internal appeal process;
  - a statement that the Maryland Health Advocacy Unit is available to assist the Covered Person or member's representative in both mediating and filing a complaint with the Commissioner;
  - the address, telephone number, facsimile number, and electronic mail address of the Maryland Health Advocacy Unit; and
  - the Commissioner's address, telephone number, and facsimile number.

If within 5 working days after the claim is filed the claim is denied because MetLife did not receive sufficient information, the claims decision will notify the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider that MetLife cannot proceed with reviewing the claim unless additional information is provided and describe the additional information needed and explain why such information is needed. MetLife can assist the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider in gathering the necessary information without further delay. If an internal rule, protocol, guideline or other criterion was relied upon in making the denial, the claims decision will state the rule, protocol, guideline or other criteria or indicate that such rule, protocol, guideline or other criteria was relied upon and that the Covered Person may request a copy free of charge.



## VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS (continued)

**Second Level Appeal.** If MetLife denies the claim, the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider may pursue an appeal. Upon the Covered Person's Written request, MetLife will provide the Covered Person free of charge with copies of documents, records and other information relevant to the claim. The Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider must submit the appeal to MetLife at the address indicated on the claim form within 180 days of receiving MetLife's decision. Appeals must be in Writing and must include at least the following information:

- Name of the Covered Person
- Name of the Plan
- Reference to the initial decision
- Whether the appeal is the first or second appeal of the initial determination
- An explanation why the Covered Person is appealing the initial determination.

As part of each appeal, the Covered Person may submit any Written comments, documents, records, or other information relating to the claim.

After MetLife receives the Covered Person's Written request appealing the initial determination or determination on the first appeal, MetLife will conduct a full and fair review of the claim. If the Covered Person does not provide sufficient information to complete Our internal appeal process, MetLife will notify the Covered Person within 5 working days of the filing date and provide assistance in gathering the necessary information without further delay. Upon receipt of all required information, MetLife's review will look at the claim anew and deference will not be given to initial denials. The review on appeal will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information that the Covered Person submits relating to the claim without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial determination. The person who will review the appeal will not be the same person as the person who made the initial decision to deny the claim. In addition, the person who is reviewing the appeal will not be a subordinate of the person who made the initial decision to deny the claim. If the initial denial is based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, MetLife will consult with a health care professional with appropriate training and experience in the vision field involved in the judgment. This health care professional will not have consulted on the initial determination, and will not be a subordinate of any person who was consulted on the initial determination.

MetLife will notify the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider in Writing of its final decision within 30 working days after the Covered Person's Written request for review was filed, unless:

- the claim is an Emergency Case Grievance, as explained below;
- the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider agrees in Writing to an extension for a period of no longer than 30 working days; or
- the claim involves a retrospective review, in which case We will provide a final decision in Writing within 45 working days after the date on which the claim is filed.

**Notification of Second Level Appeal Claim Denial.** If MetLife denies the claim in whole or in part, We will send the Covered Person a Written notice of the decision within 5 working days after the decision has been made or orally communicated to the Covered Person. For an Emergency Case denial, We will send the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider a Written notice of the decision within 5 working days after the decision has been made or orally communicated to the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider. This Written decision will:

- reference the specific criteria and standards, including interpretive guidelines, on which the denial is based;
- inform the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider that he has a right to file a complaint with the Maryland Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") within 4 months after receipt of the denial;
- inform the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider that he has a right to file a complaint with the Commissioner without first filing an appeal if a compelling reason can be demonstrated as determined by the Commissioner; and

## VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS (continued)

- include the following:
  - the name, business address and business phone number of the MetLife employee responsible for MetLife's internal appeal process;
  - a statement that the Maryland Health Advocacy Unit is available to assist the Covered Person in mediating and filing a complaint with the Commissioner;
  - the address, telephone number, facsimile number, and electronic mail address of the Maryland Health Advocacy Unit; and
  - the Commissioner's address, telephone number, and facsimile number.

If an internal rule, protocol, guideline or other criterion was relied upon in denying the claim on appeal, the final Written decision will state the rule, protocol, guideline or other criteria or indicate that such rule, protocol, guideline or other criteria was relied upon and that the Covered Person may request a copy free of charge. Upon Written request, MetLife will provide the Covered Person free of charge with copies of documents, records and other information relevant to the claim.

If a Covered Person needs assistance in preparing, mediating or filing an appeal, the Covered Person may contact the Health Education and Advocacy Unit either by dialing 877-261-8807 (phone) or 410-576-6571 (fax), via the Internet at [heau@oag.state.md.us](mailto:heau@oag.state.md.us) or by mail to the Health Education and Advocacy Unit / 200 St. Paul Place / Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

**Emergency Case Grievance.** If a Covered Person submits an Emergency Case claim for Vision Insurance benefits to MetLife, MetLife will review the claim, and, within 24 hours of the date the claim is filed with Us, We will notify the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider of the decision to approve or deny the claim. We will provide the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider Written notification of the decision within 1 day after the decision is initially communicated.

**Emergency Case** means services that are necessary to treat a condition or illness that, without immediate medical attention, would (i) seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Covered Person or the Covered Person's ability to regain maximum function; or (ii) cause the Covered Person to be in danger to self or others.

### COVERED PERSON'S RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

A Covered Person or member's representative may file a complaint with the Commissioner under the following conditions:

- the Covered Person has completed MetLife's internal review procedures, has received a final Written decision, and the appeal was not resolved to the Covered Person's satisfaction; or
- We have not complied with initial and second level appeals described in this section; or
- the Covered Person, member's representative or health care provider can demonstrate to the Commissioner a compelling reason to do so; or
- the Covered Person has not received a final Written decision from Us on or before the 30th working day after the date on which the grievance was filed with Us;
- We waive the requirement that initial and second level appeals be exhausted before filing a complaint with the Commissioner;
- for a retrospective review, the Covered Person has not received a final Written decision from Us on or before the 45th working day after the date on which the grievance was filed with Us; or
- for an Emergency Case Grievance, the Covered Person has not received a decision within 24 hours after the grievance was filed with Us.

If a Covered Person or member's representative files a complaint with the Commissioner, the Covered Person will be required to authorize the release of any medical records that may be required to be reviewed for the purpose of reaching a decision on the complaint.

## VISION INSURANCE: PROCEDURES FOR VISION CLAIMS (continued)

A Covered Person may request an external appeal by contacting the Maryland Insurance Administration at Appeals and Grievance Unit/ 200 St. Paul Place / Suite 2700/ Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The telephone number is 410-468-2000, or toll free at 800-492-6116, and the facsimile number is 410-468-2270.

**Other Remedies.** When a Covered Person has completed the appeals stated herein, additional voluntary alternative dispute resolution options may be available, including mediation or arbitration. Additional information is available from the U.S. Department of Labor or the insurance regulatory agency for the Covered Persons' state of residency. Additionally, under the provisions of ERISA (Section 502(a)(1)(B) 29 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B)), the Covered Person has the right to bring a civil action when all available levels of reviews, including the appeal process, have been completed. ERISA remedies may apply in those instances where the claims were not approved in whole or in part as the result of appeals under this Policy and the Covered Person disagrees with the outcome of such appeals.

**Time of Action.** No action in law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the claim and any applicable documentation has been filed with Us. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three (3) years from the last date that the claim and any applicable invoices were submitted to Us, and no such action shall be brought at all unless brought within three (3) years from the expiration of the time within which such materials are required to be submitted in accordance with the terms of this Policy.

**Insurance Fraud:** Any Covered Person who intends to defraud, knowingly facilitates a fraud, submits a claim containing false or deceptive information, or who commits any other similar act as defined by applicable state or federal law, is guilty of insurance fraud. Such an act is grounds for immediate termination of the coverage under this Policy of the Covered Person committing such fraud.

If you have any questions regarding the internal review process please contact:

MetLife  
P.O. Box 997100  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7100  
1-855-METEYE1

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Assignment**

The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable prior to a claim for benefits, except as required by law. We are not responsible for the validity of an assignment.

Upon receipt of a Covered Service, You may assign Vision Insurance benefits to the Vision Provider providing such service.

### **Vision Insurance: Who We Will Pay**

If You assign payment of Vision Insurance benefits to Your or Your Dependent's Vision Provider, We will pay benefits directly to the Vision Provider. Otherwise, We will pay Vision Insurance benefits to You.

If Vision Insurance benefits are paid on behalf of a Dependent Child who is covered by a Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order for which We have received Proof, We will pay such benefits according to the following order:

1. the Vision Provider, if the person or state agency which incurred the expenses for the Covered Service for the Child assigned the benefits to the Vision Provider;
2. the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene if it incurred the expenses or if it previously notified us that it is administering the coverage for the benefit of the Child and that the vision insurance benefits should be paid to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
3. the non-insuring parent, if the non-insuring parent incurred the expenses for Covered Services for the Child;
4. You, in all other cases.

If the person on whose behalf vision insurance benefits are paid is not a Dependent Child who is covered by a Child Health Insurance Enforcement Order for which We have received Proof, We will pay benefits for Covered Services to:

- the Vision Provider, if You have assigned benefits to the Vision Provider, or
- You, in all other cases.

### **Entire Contract**

Your insurance is provided under a contract of group insurance with the Policyholder. The entire contract with the Policyholder is made up of the following:

1. the Group Policy and its Exhibits, which include the certificate(s);
2. the Policyholder's application, attached to the Group Policy; and
3. any amendments and/or endorsements to the Group Policy.

A change in the policy will not be valid:

1. until approved by an executive officer of MetLife; and
2. unless the approval is endorsed on the policy or attached to the policy.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS (continued)**

### **Contestability: Statements Made by You or the Policyholder**

Any statement made by You or the Policyholder will be considered a representation and not a warranty.

Evidence of insurability will not be required nor will any statement made by You or the Policyholder, which relates to insurability, be used:

1. to contest the validity of the insurance benefits signed by You or the Policyholder; or
2. to reduce the insurance benefits.

Except concerning matters of a person's eligibility for coverage under the contract or upon other provisions in the contract, the policy may not be contested, except for nonpayment of premiums, after it has been in force for 2 years from its date of issue.

### **Conformity with Law**

If the terms and provisions of this certificate do not conform to any applicable law, this certificate shall be interpreted to so conform.

**THE PRECEDING PAGE IS THE END OF THE CERTIFICATE.  
THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**



Delaware American Life Insurance Company  
MetLife Health Plans, Inc.  
MetLife Legal Plans, Inc.  
MetLife Legal Plans of Florida, Inc.  
Metropolitan General Insurance Company

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
Metropolitan Tower Life Insurance Company  
SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc.  
SafeHealth Life Insurance Company

## **Our Privacy Notice**

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We know that you buy our products and services because you trust us. This notice explains how we protect your privacy and treat your personal information. It applies to current and former customers. "Personal information" as used here means anything we know about you personally.

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### **SECTION 1: Plan Sponsors and Group Insurance Contract Holders**

This privacy notice is for individuals who apply for or obtain our products and services under an employee benefit plan, group insurance or annuity contract, as an executive benefit, or as otherwise made available at your work or through an association to which you belong. In this notice "you" refers to these individuals.

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### **SECTION 2: Protecting Your Information**

We take important steps to protect your personal information. We treat it as confidential. We tell our employees to take care in handling it. We limit access to those who need it to perform their jobs. Our outside service providers must also protect it, and use it only to meet our business needs. We also take steps to protect our systems from unauthorized access. We comply with all laws that apply to us.

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### **SECTION 3: Collecting Your Information**

We typically collect your name, address, age, and other relevant information. We may also collect information about any business you have with us, our affiliates, or other companies. Our affiliates include life insurers, a legal plans company and a securities broker-dealer. In the future, we may also have affiliates in other businesses.

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### **SECTION 4: How We Get Your Information**

We get your personal information mostly from you. We may also use outside sources to help ensure our records are correct and complete. These sources may include consumer reporting agencies, employers, other financial institutions, adult relatives, and others. These sources may give us reports or share what they know with others. We don't control the accuracy of information outside sources give us. If you want to make any changes to information we receive from others about you, you must contact those sources.

We may ask for medical information. The Authorization that you sign when you request insurance permits these sources to tell us about you. We may also, at our expense:

- Ask for a medical exam
- Ask for blood and urine tests
- Ask health care providers to give us health data, including information about alcohol or drug abuse

We may also ask a consumer reporting agency for a "consumer report" about you (or anyone else to be insured). Consumer reports may tell us about a lot of things, including information about:

- Reputation
- Driving record
- Finances
- Work and work history
- Hobbies and dangerous activities

The information may be kept by the consumer reporting agency and later given to others as permitted by law. The agency will give you a copy of the report it provides to us, if you ask the agency and can provide adequate identification. If you write to us and we have asked for a consumer report about you, we will tell you so and give you the name, address and phone number of the consumer reporting agency.

Another source of information is MIB, LLC ("MIB"). It is a not-for-profit membership organization of insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its Members. We, or our reinsurers, may make a brief report to MIB. If you apply to another MIB Member company for life or health insurance coverage, or a claim for benefits is submitted, MIB, upon request, will supply such company with the information in its file. Upon receipt of a request from you MIB will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Please contact MIB at 866-692-6901. If you question the accuracy of information in MIB's

file, you may contact MIB and seek a correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. You may do so by writing to MIB, LLC, 50 Braintree Hill, Suite 400, Braintree, MA 02184-8734 or go to MIB website at [www.mib.com](http://www.mib.com).

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## **SECTION 5: Using Your Information**

We collect your personal information to help us decide if you're eligible for our products or services. We may also need it to verify identities to help deter fraud, money laundering, or other crimes. How we use this information depends on what products and services you have or want from us. It also depends on what laws apply to those products and services. For example, we may also use your information to:

- administer your products and services
  - perform business research
  - market new products to you
  - comply with applicable laws
  - process claims and other transactions
  - confirm or correct your information
  - help us run our business
- 

## **SECTION 6: Sharing Your Information With Others**

We may share your personal information with others with your consent, by agreement, or as permitted or required by law. We may share your personal information without your consent if permitted or required by law. For example, we may share your information with businesses hired to carry out services for us. We may also share it with our affiliated or unaffiliated business partners through joint marketing agreements. In those situations, we share your information to jointly offer you products and services or have others offer you products and services we endorse or sponsor. Before sharing your information with any affiliate or joint marketing partner for their own marketing purposes, however, we will first notify you and give you an opportunity to opt out.

Other reasons we may share your information include:

- doing what a court, law enforcement, or government agency requires us to do (for example, complying with search warrants or subpoenas)
  - telling another company what we know about you if we are selling or merging any part of our business
  - giving information to a governmental agency so it can decide if you are eligible for public benefits
  - giving your information to someone with a legal interest in your assets (for example, a creditor with a lien on your account)
  - giving your information to your health care provider
  - having a peer review organization evaluate your information, if you have health coverage with us
  - those listed in our "Using Your Information" section above
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## **SECTION 7: HIPAA**

We will not share your health information with any other company – even one of our affiliates – for their own marketing purposes. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") protects your information if you request or purchase dental, vision, long-term care and/or medical insurance from us. HIPAA limits our ability to use and disclose the information that we obtain as a result of your request or purchase of insurance. Information about your rights under HIPAA will be provided to you with any dental, vision, long-term care or medical coverage issued to you.

You may obtain a copy of our HIPAA Privacy Notice by visiting our website at [www.MetLife.com](http://www.MetLife.com). For additional information about your rights under HIPAA; or to have a HIPAA Privacy Notice mailed to you, contact us at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com), or call us at telephone number (212) 578-0299.

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## **SECTION 8: Accessing and Correcting Your Information**

You may ask us for a copy of the personal information we have about you. We will provide it as long as it is reasonably locatable and retrievable. You must make your request in writing listing the account or policy numbers with the information you want to access. For legal reasons, we may not show you privileged information relating to a claim or lawsuit, unless required by law.



If you tell us that what we know about you is incorrect, we will review it. If we agree, we will update our records. Otherwise, you may dispute our findings in writing, and we will include your statement whenever we give your disputed information to anyone outside MetLife.

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**SECTION 9: Questions**

We want you to understand how we protect your privacy. If you have any questions or want more information about this notice, please contact us. A detailed notice shall be furnished to you upon request. When you write, include your name, address, and policy or account number.

**Send privacy questions to:**

MetLife Privacy Office  
P. O. Box 489  
Warwick, RI 02887-9954  
[privacy@metlife.com](mailto:privacy@metlife.com)

We may revise this privacy notice. If we make any material changes, we will notify you as required by law. We provide this privacy notice to you on behalf of the MetLife companies listed at the top of the first page.

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## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED  
AND DISCLOSED, AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

Dear MetLife Customer:

This is your Health Information Privacy Notice from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or a member of the MetLife, Inc. family of companies, which includes SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc., SafeHealth Life Insurance Company, and Delaware American Life Insurance Company (collectively, “**MetLife**”). **Please read it carefully.** You have received this notice because of your Dental, Vision, Long-Term Care, Cancer and Specified Disease Expense Insurance, or Health coverage with us (your “**Coverage**”). MetLife strongly believes in protecting the confidentiality and security of information we collect about you. This notice refers to MetLife by using the terms “us,” “we,” or “our.”

This notice describes how we protect the personal health information we have about you which relates to your MetLife Coverage (“**Protected Health Information**” or “**PHI**”), and how we may use and disclose this information. PHI includes individually identifiable information which relates to your past, present or future health, treatment or payment for health care services. This notice also describes your rights with respect to the PHI and how you can exercise those rights.

We are required to provide this notice to you by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“**HIPAA**”). For additional information regarding our HIPAA Medical Information Privacy Policy or our general privacy policies, please see the privacy notices contained at our website, [www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com). You may submit questions to us there or you may write to us directly at MetLife, Americas – U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office, P.O. Box 902, New York, NY 10159-0902.

### **NOTICE SUMMARY**

**The following is a brief summary of the topics covered in this HIPAA notice. Please refer to the full notice below for details.**

As allowed by law, we may **use** and **disclose** PHI to:

- make, receive, or collect payments;
- conduct health care operations;
- administer benefits by sharing PHI with affiliates and Business Associates;
- assist plan sponsors in administering their plans; and
- inform persons who may be involved in or paying for another’s health care.

**In addition, we may use or disclose PHI:**

- where required by law or for public health activities;
- to avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- for health-related benefits or services;
- for law enforcement or specific government functions;
- when requested as part of a regulatory or legal proceeding; and
- to provide information about deceased persons to coroners, medical examiners, or funeral directors.

**You have the right to:**

- receive a copy of this notice;
- inspect and copy your PHI, or receive a copy of your PHI;
- amend your PHI if you believe the information is incorrect;
- obtain a list of disclosures we made about you (except for treatment, payment, or health care operations);

- ask us to restrict the information we share for treatment, payment, or health care operations;
- request that we communicate with you in a confidential manner; and
- complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

**We are required by law to:**

- maintain the privacy of PHI;
- provide this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI;
- notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured PHI; and
- follow the terms of this notice.

**NOTICE DETAILS**

We protect your PHI from inappropriate use or disclosure. Our employees, and those of companies that help us service your MetLife Coverage, are required to comply with our requirements that protect the confidentiality of PHI. They may look at your PHI only when there is an appropriate reason to do so, such as to administer our products or services.

Except in the case of Long-Term Care Coverage, we will **not use or disclose** PHI that is genetic information for underwriting purposes. For example, we will not use information from a genetic test (such as DNA or RNA analysis) of an individual or an individual's family members to determine eligibility, premiums or contribution amounts under your Coverage.

We will **not sell or disclose** your PHI to any other company for their use in marketing their products to you. However, as described below, we will use and disclose PHI about you for business purposes relating to your Coverage.

The main reasons we may **use** and **disclose** your PHI are to evaluate and process any requests for coverage and claims for benefits you may make or in connection with other health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you. The following describe these and other uses and disclosures.

- **For Payment:** We may use and disclose PHI to pay benefits under your Coverage. For example, we may review PHI contained in claims to reimburse providers for services rendered. We may also disclose PHI to other insurance carriers to coordinate benefits with respect to a particular claim. Additionally, we may disclose PHI to a health plan or an administrator of an employee welfare benefit plan for various payment-related functions, such as eligibility determination, audit and review, or to assist you with your inquiries or disputes.

- **For Health Care Operations:** We may also use and disclose PHI for our insurance operations. These purposes include evaluating a request for our products or services, administering those products or services, and processing transactions requested by you.

- **To Affiliates and Business Associates:** We may disclose PHI to Affiliates and to business associates outside of the MetLife family of companies if they need to receive PHI to provide a service to us and will agree to abide by specific HIPAA rules relating to the protection of PHI. Examples of business associates are: billing companies, data processing companies, companies that provide general administrative services, health information organizations, e-prescribing gateways, or personal health record vendors that provide services to covered entities. PHI may be disclosed to reinsurers for underwriting, audit or claim review reasons. PHI may also be disclosed as part of a potential merger or acquisition involving our business in order that the parties to the transaction may make an informed business decision.

- **To Plan Sponsors:** We may disclose summary health information such as claims history or claims expenses to a plan sponsor to enable it to obtain premium bids from health plans, or to modify, amend or terminate a group health plan. We may also disclose PHI to a plan sponsor to help administer its plan if the plan sponsor agrees to restrict its use and disclosure of PHI in accordance with federal law.

- **To Individuals Involved in Your Care:** We may disclose your PHI to a family member or other individual who is involved in your health care or payment of your health care. For example, we may disclose PHI to a covered family member whom you have authorized to contact us regarding payment of a claim.

- **Where Required by Law or for Public Health Activities:** We disclose PHI when required by federal, state or local law. Examples of such mandatory disclosures include notifying state or local health authorities regarding particular communicable diseases, or providing PHI to a governmental agency or regulator with health care oversight responsibilities.

- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may disclose PHI to avert a serious threat to someone's health or safety. We may also disclose PHI to federal, state or local agencies engaged in disaster relief, as well as to private disaster relief or disaster assistance agencies to allow such entities to carry out their responsibilities in specific disaster situations.

- **For Health-Related Benefits or Services:** We may use your PHI to provide you with information about benefits available to you under your current coverage or policy and, in limited situations, about health-related products or services that may be of

interest to you. However, we will not send marketing communications to you in exchange for financial remuneration from a third party without your authorization.

- **For Law Enforcement or Specific Government Functions:**

We may disclose PHI in response to a request by a law enforcement official made through a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process. We may disclose PHI about you to federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

- **When Requested as Part of a Regulatory or Legal Proceeding:**

If you or your estate are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose PHI about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose PHI about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the PHI requested. We may disclose PHI to any governmental agency or regulator with whom you have filed a complaint or as part of a regulatory agency examination.

- **PHI about Deceased Individuals:**

We may release PHI to a coroner or medical examiner to assist in identifying a deceased individual or to determine the cause of death. In addition, we may disclose a deceased's person's PHI to a family member or individual involved in the care or payment for care of the deceased person unless doing so is inconsistent with any prior expressed preference of the deceased person which is known to us.

- **Other Uses of PHI:**

Other uses and disclosures of PHI not covered by this notice and permitted by the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization or that of your legal representative. If we are authorized to use or disclose PHI about you, you or your legally authorized representative may revoke that authorization in writing at any time, except to the extent that we have taken action relying on the authorization or if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining your Coverage. You should understand that we will not be able to take back any disclosures we have already made with authorization.

### **Your Rights Regarding Protected Health Information That We Maintain About You**

The following are your various rights as a consumer under HIPAA concerning your PHI. Should you have questions about or wish to exercise a specific right, please contact us in writing at the applicable Contact Address listed on the last page.

- **Right to Inspect and Copy Your PHI:**

In most cases, you have the right to inspect and obtain a copy

of the PHI that we maintain about you. If we maintain the requested PHI electronically, you may ask us to provide you with the PHI in electronic format, if readily producible; or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format agreed to by you and us. To receive a copy of your PHI, you may be charged a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, electronic media, or other supplies associated with your request. You may also direct us to send the PHI you have requested to another person designated by you, so long as your request is in writing and clearly identifies the designated individual. However, certain types of PHI will not be made available for inspection and copying. This includes psychotherapy notes or PHI collected by us in connection with, or in reasonable anticipation of, any claim or legal proceeding. In very limited circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and obtain a copy of your PHI. If we do, you may request that the denial be reviewed. The review will be conducted by an individual chosen by us who was not involved in the original decision to deny your request. We will comply with the outcome of that review.

- **Right to Amend Your PHI:**

If you believe that your PHI is incorrect or that an important part of it is missing, you have the right to ask us to amend your PHI while it is kept by or for us. You must specify the reason for your request. We may deny your request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason that supports the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend PHI that:

- is accurate and complete;
- was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the PHI is no longer available to make the amendment;
- is not part of the PHI kept by or for us; or
- is not part of the PHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy.

- **Right to a List of Disclosures:**

You have the right to request a list of the disclosures we have made of your PHI. This list will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, health care operations, purposes of national security, to law enforcement, to corrections personnel, pursuant to your authorization, or directly to you. To request this list, you must submit your request in writing. Your request must state the time period for which you want to receive a list of disclosures. You may only request an accounting of disclosures for a period of time less than six years prior to the date of your request. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, paper or electronic). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. We may charge you for responding to any additional requests. We will notify you of the cost involved, and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before you incur any cost.

- **Right to Request Restrictions:**

You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on PHI we

Use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations, or that we disclose to someone who may be involved in your care or payment for your care, like a family member or friend. While we will consider your request, **we are not required to agree to it.** If we do agree to it, we will comply with your request. To request a restriction, you must make your request in writing. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply (for example, disclosures to your spouse or parent). We will not agree to restrictions on PHI uses or disclosures that are legally required, or which are necessary to administer our business.

- **Right to Request Confidential**

**Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about PHI in a certain way or at a certain location if you tell us that communication in another manner may endanger you. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing and specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

- **Contact Addresses:** If you have any questions about a specific individual right or you want to exercise one of your individual rights, please submit your request in writing to the address below which applies to your Coverage:

**MetLife or SafeGuard Dental & Vision**  
**P.O. Box 14587**  
**Lexington, KY 40512-4587**

**MetLife LTC Privacy Coordinator**  
**1300 Hall Boulevard, 3rd Floor**  
**Bloomfield, CT 06002**

**Delaware American Life Insurance**  
**Company**  
**MetLife Worldwide Benefits**  
**P.O. Box 1449**  
**Wilmington, DE 19899-1449**

**Cancer and Specified Disease**  
**Expense Insurance**  
**c/o Bay Bridge Administrators, LLC**  
**P.O. Box 161690**  
**Austin, TX 78716**

- **Right to File a Complaint:** If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us or with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with us, please contact MetLife, Americas – U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office, P.O. Box 902, New York, NY 10159-0902. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint. If you have questions as to how to file a complaint, please contact us at telephone number (212) 578-0299 or at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com).

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Changes to This Notice:** We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for PHI we already have about you, as well as any PHI we receive in the future. The effective date of this notice and any revised or changed notice may be found on the last page, on the bottom right-hand corner of the notice. You will receive a copy of any revised notice from MetLife by mail or by e-mail, if e-mail delivery is offered by MetLife and you agree to such delivery.

**Further Information:** You may have additional rights under other applicable laws. For additional information regarding our HIPAA Medical Information Privacy Policy or our general privacy policies, please e-mail us at [HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com](mailto:HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com) or call us at telephone number (212) 578-0299, or write us at:

MetLife, Americas  
U.S. HIPAA Privacy Office  
P.O. Box 902  
New York, NY 10159-0902

## **Uniformed Services Employment And Reemployment Rights Act**

This section describes the right that you may have to continue coverage for yourself and your covered dependents under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

### **Continuation of Group Vision Insurance:**

If you take a leave from employment for “service in the uniformed services,” as that term is defined in USERRA, and as a consequence your vision insurance coverage under your employer’s group vision insurance policy ends, you may elect to continue vision insurance for yourself and your covered dependents, for a limited period of time, as described below.

The law requires that your employer notify you of your rights, benefits and obligations under USERRA including instructions on how to elect to continue insurance, the amount and procedure for payment of premium. If permitted by USERRA, your employer may require that you elect to continue coverage within a period of time specified by your employer.

You may be responsible for payment of the required premium to continue insurance. If your leave from employment for service in the uniformed services lasts less than 31 days, your required premium will be no more than the amount you were required to pay for vision insurance before the leave began; for a leave lasting 31 or more days, you may be required to pay up to 102% of the total vision insurance premium, including any amount that your employer was paying before the leave began.

Your and your covered dependents’ insurance that is continued pursuant to USERRA will end on the earliest of the following:

- the end of 24 consecutive months from the date your leave from employment for service in the uniformed services begins; or
- the day after the date on which you fail to apply for, or return to employment, in accordance with USERRA.

You and your covered dependent may become entitled to continuation of coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (“COBRA”) while you have vision insurance coverage under your employer’s group vision insurance policy pursuant to USERRA. Contact your employer for more information.

