

**SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**  
**DENTAL BENEFIT FUND**  
**OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY**



**October 1, 2023**

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This booklet is the Summary Plan Description (“SPD”) of the Dental Benefit Fund of the Electrical Industry (the “Plan”). This Summary Plan Description is presented to Participants and eligible dependents to explain, in plain language, who is eligible to receive benefits under the Plan, how to apply for benefits and what your rights are under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). This information applies to the Plan effective as of October 1, 2023, except as noted herein.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name of Plan: Dental Benefit Fund of the Electrical Industry

Plan Sponsor Identification No. 11-2585905

Plan Number: 507

Plan Year: July 1 through June 30

Plan Administrator and Agent for Legal Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry (“*Joint Industry Board*”)

Process: 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11365  
(718) 591-2000

Service may also be made on any Trustee at  
158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11365  
(718) 591-2000

Type of Plan: Multiemployer employee welfare benefit plan providing dental benefits to covered employees and their eligible dependents.

The Plan is maintained by a Board of Trustees (the “Trustees”) whose names and office addresses are listed below:

STEPHEN GIANOTTI  
Arcadia Electric  
1005 Wyckoff Avenue  
Ridgewood, NY 11385

CRAIG GILSTON  
Gilston Electric  
338 E. 95 Street  
New York, NY 10128

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Uptown Electric Inc.  
22 Mary Avenue  
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

SANDRA MILAD-GIBSON  
Milad Contracting Corp  
118 Cherry Lane  
New Hyde Park, NY 11001

CHRISTIAN PETERSON  
Certified Multi-Media Solutions  
95 Toledo Street  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

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Staten Island, NY 10314

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Assistant Business Manager  
Local Union No. 3, I.B.E.W.  
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Flushing, NY 11365

LANCE VAN ARSDALE  
Assistant Business Manager  
Local Union No. 3, I.B.E.W.  
158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Ave.  
Flushing, NY 11365

## **SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Plan was established and is maintained under collective bargaining agreements between Local Union No. 3, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO, 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365 (the “Union”), and the New York Electrical Contractors Association, Inc., 633 Third Avenue, Suite 9F, New York, NY 10017, and other employers who are not members of the New York Electrical Contractors Association, Inc. Upon a written request from any Participant or beneficiary, the Plan Administrator will state in writing whether a particular employer is obligated to contribute to the Plan (a “Contributing Employer”), the employer’s principal business address and the level of benefits applicable to the particular Contributing Employer. The Plan Administrator will also provide, upon a written request from a Participant or beneficiary, a copy of the collective bargaining agreement between the Union and the Participant’s Contributing Employer. Copies of collective bargaining agreements are available for inspection at the office of the Plan Administrator during normal business hours.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF BENEFITS**

Benefits under the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Fee-for-service Program (the “Fee-For-Service Program”) are self-insured by the Dental Benefit Fund and administered by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Benefits under the Empire Dental Managed Network Program are insured and administered by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, P.O. Box 810, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0810. Benefits under the DDS, Inc. Program are self-insured by the Dental Benefit Fund and administered by DDS, Inc.

## DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS

The Plan provides three optional Programs under which a Participant may elect to be covered as follows:

### 1. EMPIRE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM

The Fee-For-Service Program, administered by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, covers a complete range of dental services performed by a duly licensed dentist anywhere in the world. A partial schedule of covered services is included in this booklet. Under this Program, you and your eligible dependents may visit the dentist of your choice. You are responsible for the payment of fees that exceed the Plan's maximum allowance per procedure, as well as for costs exceeding the calendar year limit applicable to covered prosthetic services and the lifetime limit covering orthodontic services.

### 2. EMPIRE DENTAL MANAGED NETWORK PROGRAM

This alternative dental delivery Program uses a network of private dental practice offices throughout New York and New Jersey and is administered by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Each year, you and your eligible dependents are able to choose from a list of network-affiliated dental offices. **Once enrolled, you and your family must remain with the office you have selected for one year.** Under this Program, individuals are encouraged to obtain preventive dental care. There are no out-of-pocket expenses for covered services, except for general anesthesia, and the annual and lifetime limitations applicable to prosthetic and orthodontic services.

### 3. THE DDS, INC. PROGRAM

This alternative dental delivery Program has a panel of dentists in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area who have agreed to accept the amounts the Plan pays as payment in full for covered services. Unlike the Empire network described above, there is no specified time period for your selection of a particular DDS, Inc. dentist. Instead, you may choose a different dentist whenever you need to have dental work performed. Under

this Program, there are no out-of-pocket expenses, except for the annual and lifetime limitations applicable to prosthetic and orthodontic services. **If you elect to enroll in the Empire Dental Managed Network Program, you are not eligible to use the DDS, Inc. Program.**

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS**

The following eligibility rules apply to Participants who are or were covered under a collective bargaining agreement that is recognized by the Plan, and to those employed by the Union and the Joint Industry Board. In addition, certain non-bargaining unit employees, as described on page 6, may also be covered by the Plan. In order to receive the benefits provided by the Plan, you must be an eligible active employee or eligible retiree (a “Participant”).

Generally, initial eligibility is attained by having worked on a full-time basis for a Contributing Employer to this Plan, the Union, the Joint Industry Board, or any other Contributing Employer that has signed a participation agreement, and occurs upon the earlier of (1) a date no more than 90 days after the Participant achieves 1,200 hours of service or (2) the date immediately following the employee’s completion of 26 consecutive weeks of work on a full-time basis, during which time contributions were received on his or her behalf, unless the service and contribution requirement is waived by the Trustees. Thereafter, a Participant must have been employed on a full-time basis during which time contributions were made to this Plan for at least 26 consecutive weeks immediately prior to incurring a reimbursable expense, or, if unemployed during all or any portion of such period, the Participant must have been registered as available for employment with the Joint Industry Board Employment Department or with the Union’s designated referral service.

In order to be eligible for benefits, you must complete an enrollment form and submit applicable documentation. If you wish to elect not to receive benefits, simply do not submit an enrollment form. Benefits will not be paid until appropriate documentation is received by the Joint Industry Board.

Eligibility for benefits terminates as of the day when contributions cease to be made on behalf of the Participant. However, a Participant who is

covered by a collective bargaining agreement and who is unemployed and has registered with and continues to remain available with the Union's designated referral service as available for employment may remain eligible under this Plan for up to 39 weeks after the period for which the last contribution was made to the Plan.

A Participant on whose behalf contributions are no longer being made, who restricts availability for employment to a specific type of job, location, or time, will not be deemed to be available and will cease to be covered as of the date such restriction occurs. Former Participants will be responsible for expenses incurred and any benefit payments erroneously made by the Plan after eligibility for coverage terminates.

Benefits may be reinstated following a termination of eligibility once the Participant works again for a Contributing Employer to this Plan, the Union, the Joint Industry Board or other employer that has signed a participation agreement for at least 26 weeks in an 18-month period during which contributions are paid. The 18-month period provision will begin when the individual is first re-employed.

You are an eligible retired Participant if you are receiving a Standard Pension, Early Retirement Standard Pension or Disability Pension under the Pension Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry and were covered under this Plan immediately prior to the effective date of retirement. Except as provided in the next sentence, a Participant who is receiving an Early Retirement Standard Pension will cease to be entitled to any dental benefits under this Plan if employed in any capacity, and will not be eligible for reinstatement, even after he or she terminates employment. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, those Participants who retire between ages 58 – 60 on June 1, 2007, or later on an Early Retirement Standard Pension may work outside the electrical industry and maintain their eligibility for dental coverage under this Plan. If health coverage is provided by the new employer, please see the Coordination of Benefits section on pages 18-19.

A Contributing Employer may elect to remit premium payments to the Plan for all eligible non-bargaining unit employees that are exempt, confidential or supervisory employees, as defined by the National Labor Relations Act and who perform job functions that are directly related to or in direct support of the work performed by bargaining unit employees



upon whose behalf contributions are made to the Plan by the Contributing Employer. The premium rate will be established by the Plan. A Contributing Employer who elects coverage for such eligible non-bargaining unit employees will be responsible for remitting premium payments as of the first of the month following approval of the application for all of its non-bargaining unit employees. Such non bargaining unit employees will be eligible for all benefits under this Plan only after 26 consecutive weeks of premium payments have been remitted by their Contributing Employer. Employees of the Joint Industry Board and the Union are also eligible for coverage under the Plan if their employers contribute to the Plan at the rates established by the Plan on behalf of such employees. Employees of the Union and the Joint Industry Board will be eligible for all benefits under the Plan only after 26 consecutive weeks of contributions have been paid on their behalf.

### **DEPENDENTS' ELIGIBILITY**

Once you satisfy the eligibility requirements previously described, you become a Participant and your eligible dependents, as defined below, are covered under the Plan, provided you completed the applicable enrollment cards and submitted the appropriate documents on their behalf.

Eligible dependents are:

1. Your lawful spouse.
2. Your unmarried children from birth up to their 19th birthday. However, unmarried full-time dependent students attending approved institutions of higher learning shall be covered up to age 26.

An original letter from the registrar's office of the applicable institution shall be required as proof of current college or school attendance after each spring and fall semester commences. Dental expenses incurred during the months of July and August will be processed after receiving the necessary documentation of a child's full-time student status for the next semester.

The term "children" shall mean natural children or children placed for adoption with a Participant. A child may be considered

an eligible dependent on the conditional basis that proof of the child's being placed for adoption is submitted to the Plan Administrator and the Participant periodically furnishes the Plan Administrator with information as to the status of the proceeding and demonstrating that the Participant is actively pursuing a final adoption decree.

3. Your stepchildren, if you elect to purchase coverage for them at the premium rates established by the Plan; provided, however, that you show proof to the Plan that no other group dental coverage is available to such children. Stepchildren are covered for the same period as natural or adopted children, as described in paragraph 2.
4. Coverage will be extended to your spouse and eligible children for up to 60 months following your death **if your death occurs while you are an eligible retiree**, or until your spouse remarries, if sooner. If after 60 months your surviving spouse has not remarried, he or she may elect to purchase coverage for him or herself and/or eligible children for the rest of his or her life, or until remarriage, by paying the premium rates established by the Plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if your surviving spouse remarries during the first 60 months after your death, he or she will be entitled to purchase coverage for him or herself (and for any eligible children) for the balance of the 60 months under COBRA. (See pages 22-29 for more details on COBRA.)
5. Coverage will be extended to your spouse and eligible children for up to 72 months following your death, **if your death occurs while you were actively employed or registered as available for employment**, or until your spouse remarries, if sooner. If after 72 months your surviving spouse has not remarried, he or she may elect to purchase coverage for him or herself and/or eligible children for the rest of his or her life, or until remarriage, by paying the premium rates established by the Plan. If your surviving spouse remarries during the first 72 months after **your death while actively employed or registered as available for employment**, he or she will be entitled to purchase coverage for him or herself for the balance of the 72 months under the same

rules as apply under COBRA. (See pages 22-29 for more details on COBRA.)

6. If a Participant dies while at work as a result of injuries suffered at work, his or her surviving spouse and dependent children will be entitled to continued coverage under the Plan, subject to the following:
  - a. Benefits to the spouse shall continue for his or her life unless he or she remarries; upon remarriage the benefits will cease, provided that if the remarriage happens within 72 months of the Participant's death, the spouse will be entitled to purchase coverage for him or herself for the balance of the 72 months under COBRA (see pages 22-29 for more details on COBRA), and
  - b. Benefits to the dependent children shall continue in accordance with the rules of the Plan as if the Participant was still alive, regardless of whether the surviving spouse remarries or dies.

If an eligible Participant needs to add a new dependent, they may enroll the dependent by submitting to the Members' Records Department of the Joint Industry Board, at 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365, a copy of the marriage or birth certificate, as applicable. Coverage is effective as of the date of marriage or birth of a natural child only, provided the Participant was then eligible. During a pending adoption proceeding, eligibility will begin when the process commences and is being actively pursued to conclusion and not as of the date of birth. Dependent eligibility terminates at the same time as the Participant's eligibility, unless a Participant's spouse ceases to be the Participant's spouse or a child between the ages of 19 and 26 is not a full-time student or if the dependent gets married in which case, continuation coverage may be available under COBRA (see pages 22-29 for details)

## **COVERED DENTAL SERVICES**

- A) Diagnostic and Preventive Services
  1. Clinical Oral Examinations
    - not more than twice annually

2. Cleaning, Scaling and Polishing
  - not more than twice annually
3. Fluoride Treatment (up to age 19)
4. X-rays (bitewing)
  - not more than twice annually
5. Full Mouth Series
  - once every three years

B) Palliative Services

- Emergency treatment for relief of pain

C) Restorative Services

- Fillings, amalgam or composites
- Stainless steel crowns (up to age 19)

D) Oral Surgery

- Extractions
- Fractures
- Other oral surgical procedures

E) Endodontic Services

- Root Canal treatment

F) Space Maintainers

- Simple (up to age 19)

G) Periodontic Services

- Curettage
- Gum Surgery

H) Repair of Dentures and Bridges

- Repair of broken full or partial dentures
- Repair of bridgework

I) Prosthetic Services

- Dentures, full or partial (once in 4 years)
- Crowns and inlays (once in 5 years)
- Bridges, fixed or removable (once in 5 years)
- Implants (once in 5 years)

J) Orthodontics

- Diagnosis
- Active treatment
- Retention treatment

## **HOW TO OBTAIN BENEFITS UNDER THE EMPIRE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM**

When you know that it will be necessary for you or an eligible dependent to be treated by a dentist, or in cases where emergency treatment was performed, you should get a Dental Claim Report form from the Joint Industry Board Members' Records Department at 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365, or visit the JIB website at [www.jibei.org](http://www.jibei.org).

You fill out the patient's portion of the form and the dentist completes the rest. The dentist should keep one copy for his records. The form should then be sent to Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Benefit Program located at P.O. Box 810, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0810.

Pre-Determination of Benefits is required for all prosthetic and orthodontic Procedures.

The pre-determination of benefits procedure requires that your dentist fill out a claim form (Treatment Plan), before treatment begins. Be sure that the dentist includes the patient's X-rays. This will reduce the processing time. The Treatment Plan and X-rays should be sent directly to the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Benefit Program.

The Fee-For-Service Program will process the Treatment Plan, and the dentist will receive a pre-determination of benefits form showing which services are covered by the Program. Services not covered will also be indicated on the pre-determination form. When treatment is completed, the dentist must insert the dates the authorized services were performed and return the pre-determination of benefits form for payment.

**SUMMARY OF COVERED DENTAL SERVICES AND  
ALLOWANCES  
Effective October 1, 2023**

| <b>PROCEDURE .....</b> | <b>MAXIMUM<br/>ALLOWANCE</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
|------------------------|------------------------------|

**A. DIAGNOSTIC AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Comprehensive oral examination<br>(Not more than twice annually) .....          | \$58.00  |
| Periodic Oral Exam.....<br>(Limit 2 exams annually)                             | \$43.00  |
| Cleaning, scaling and polishing (Not more than twice annually)                  |          |
| Adults.....   | \$84.00  |
| Children.....   | \$60.00  |
| X-Rays - periapical first film, individual films<br>not to exceed the allowance |          |
| for full mouth series (10 or more films).....                                   | \$25.00  |
| Full mouth complete series - not more than one in three years.....              | \$110.00 |
| Fluoride treatment up to age 19 .....   | \$37.00  |
| Bitewing First film.....  | \$18.00  |
| Two Films .....   | \$34.00  |
| Each additional film.....   | \$20.00  |
| Intraoral occlusal (edentulous jaw) each.....                                   | \$41.00  |

**B. PALLIATIVE SERVICES**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Emergency treatment for relief of pain ..... | \$76.00 |
|--|---------|

**C. RESTORATIVE SERVICES**

Fillings

*Amalgam Fillings (Primary or Permanent Tooth)*

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| One surface .....    | \$86.00  |
| Two surfaces .....   | \$121.00 |
| Three surfaces ..... | \$156.00 |
| Four surfaces.....   | \$194.00 |

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>PROCEDURE .....</b> | <b>MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|

*Composite fillings (Resin)*

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 surface anterior..... | \$115.00 |
| 2 surface anterior..... | \$156.00 |
| 3 surface anterior..... | \$193.00 |
| 4 or more anterior..... | \$223.00 |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Stainless steel crowns, each (up to age 19)..... | \$218.00 |
| Core buildup (tooth restoration).....            | \$96.00  |

**D. ORAL SURGERY -  
INCLUDING X-RAYS, ANESTHESIA AND  
POST-OPERATIVE TREATMENT**

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Extractions Routine or simple..... | \$121.00 |
| Soft tissue impaction.....         | \$249.00 |
| Partial bony impaction .....       | \$353.00 |
| Complete bony impaction .....      | \$462.00 |

**Other oral surgical procedures:**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Alveoloplasty not in conjunction with extractions (four or more teeth<br>or tooth spaces per quadrant) ..... | \$340.00 |
| Alveoloplasty not in conjunction with extractions (one to three teeth<br>or tooth spaces per quadrant) ..... | \$204.00 |
| Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions (four or more teeth<br>or tooth spaces per quadrant) .....     | \$209.00 |
| Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions (one to three teeth<br>or tooth spaces per quadrant) .....     | \$129.00 |
| Apicoectomy .....  | \$480.00 |
| Biopsy, including report   |          |
| Hard tissue .....  | \$257.00 |
| Soft tissue.....   | \$200.00 |
| Frenulectomy .....   | \$311.00 |

(Deep sedation/general anesthesia is covered as per fee schedule)

**E. ROOT CANAL TREATMENT**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Anterior (excluding Final Restoration).....  | \$593.00 |
| Bicuspid (excluding Final Restoration) ..... | \$677.00 |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Molar (excluding Final Restoration) ..... | \$869.00 |
| Molar (Retreatment).....                  | \$556.00 |

**MAXIMUM**

**PROCEDURE..... ALLOWANCE**

**F. SPACE MAINTAINERS, SIMPLE (UP TO AGE 19)**

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Fixed (unilateral).....     | \$277.00 |
| Fixed (bilateral).....      | \$360.00 |
| Removable (unilateral)..... | \$230.00 |
| Removable (bilateral).....  | \$322.00 |

**G. PERIODONTIC SERVICES  
(TREATMENT OF GUMS AND ASSOCIATED TISSUES)**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Periodontal root scaling and Planing, including medications<br>One to three teeth Per Quadrant.....                      | \$89.00  |
| Periodontal root scaling and Planing, including medications<br>Four or more teeth Per Quadrant.....                      | \$146.00 |
| Gum or bone surgery, including post-operative visits (per quadrant)<br>Four or more teeth Per Quadrant Gingivectomy..... | \$396.00 |
| Four or more teeth Per Quadrant Osseous surgery .....  | \$935.00 |

(Guided tissue regeneration is covered as per fee schedule)

**H. REPAIR OF DENTURES AND BRIDGES**

*Repairs to Partial Dentures*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Repair acrylic saddle or base .....        | \$110.00 |
| Repair cast framework .....                | \$131.00 |
| Repair or replace broken clasp.....        | \$118.00 |
| Replace broken teeth - per tooth .....     | \$74.00  |
| Add tooth to existing partial denture..... | \$103.00 |
| Add clasp to existing partial denture..... | \$129.00 |

*Relining upper or lower full or partial denture*

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Full upper or lower.....              | \$208.00 |
| Partial upper or lower.....           | \$195.00 |
| Re-cement crowns.....                 | \$61.00  |
| Re-cement inlays/onlays/veneers ..... | \$67.00  |



## PROSTHETIC SERVICES

The maximum amount payable for covered prosthetic services is \$6,000 per calendar year. Each covered member of the family is entitled to a separate maximum.

| PROCEDURE..... | MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE |
|----------------|-------------------|
|----------------|-------------------|

### INLAYS, METALLIC

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| One Surface.....  | \$454.00 |
| Two Surfaces .....                                      | \$605.00 |
| Three or more surfaces metallic, Maximum per tooth..... | \$705.00 |

### A. DENTURES, FULL (Including supplying, inserting, and fitting)

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Upper, once in four years ..... | \$954.00 |
| 2. Lower, once in four years.....  | \$954.00 |

### B. DENTURES, PARTIAL

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Bilateral acrylic or comparable base, either jaw, two or more full clasps, and rests, each .....         | \$761.00   |
| Upper bilateral, cast metal framework, two or more clasps and rests, acrylic attachment, each.....       | \$1,001.00 |
| Lower, bilateral, cast metal framework, two or more cast clasps and rests, acrylic attachment, each..... | \$972.00   |

### C. CROWN AND BRIDGEWORK

#### 1. REMOVABLE Unilateral

(one piece casting with clasps and rests)

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| One tooth replaced ..... | \$597.00 |
|--------------------------|----------|

#### 2. FIXED Partial Denture retainers - crowns

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| (a) Three-quarter crown ..... | \$799.00 |
| (b) Full cast crown .....     | \$866.00 |

#### 3. PONTICS

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| (a) Pontic (porcelain facing with cast backing).....  | \$727.00   |
| (b) Pontic (cast high noble metal) .....              | \$847.00   |
| (c) Pontic (porcelain fused to high noble metal)..... | \$1,039.00 |

4. CROWNS

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Porcelain ceramic.....          | \$822.00 |
| Clinical crown lengthening..... | \$267.00 |

**D. IMPLANT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES (Effective October 1, 2023)**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Implants.....           | \$1,800.00 |
| Sinus Augmentation..... | \$1,509.00 |

(Associated abutments are covered as per fee schedule.)

(Associated bone graft is covered as per fee schedule.)

**ORTHODONTIC BENEFITS**

The orthodontic benefits provide for the correction of irregularities in the positioning of teeth. Orthodontic services will be provided subject to the following:

- A. The need for Orthodontic Services must be diagnosed by a dentist and must indicate that the orthodontic condition consists of handicapping malocclusion, which is abnormal and is correctable.
- B. A detailed Treatment Plan must be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of treatment.

*The benefits provided will be:*

For handicapping malocclusion

- 1. For diagnosis, including models and photographs, all necessary appliances and all adjustments (not to exceed 24 months) ..... \$ 147.00  
Per Month
- 2. For retention treatment following active treatment (not to exceed 24 months) ..... \$ 20.00  
Per Month
- 3. Maximum Amount Payable..... \$ 4,000.00

The maximum number of months for which benefits will be provided for active or retention treatment will be reduced by the number of months such treatment received before commencement of coverage.

*Exclusions and limitations:*

If orthodontic services are terminated before completion of the approved orthodontic treatment for any reason, the responsibility of the Program will cease with payment through the month of termination.

Any charges for the replacement and/or repair of any appliances furnished under the Treatment Plan will be excluded.

**EMPIRE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD  
DENTAL MANAGED NETWORK PROGRAM**

Participants are permitted to elect coverage under this network Program and may do so by requesting an enrollment form from the Members' Records Department at the Joint Industry Board. Once you have elected to enroll in this Program, you (and all of your eligible dependents) must continue to stay enrolled in the Program for a minimum of one year. Instead of receiving a fixed reimbursement amount for a given dental service under this Program, you receive necessary covered dental care on a prepaid basis through a network of private dental practice offices. For as long as you are enrolled, you will receive all necessary covered dental services at the office selected by you, except for specialty care arranged for you by your network dentist or for an out-of-area emergency. All Plan limits as described in this booklet apply to this Program.

**THE DDS, INC. PROGRAM**

If you are not enrolled in the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Managed Network Program, you may enroll in the DDS, Inc. program at any time during the year by calling the Members' Records Department at the Joint Industry Board. You will be given a number to call that will enable you to select a dentist from the DDS, Inc. Panel. Once eligibility has been verified with the Members' Records Department, simply contact the DDS, Inc. provider you have selected and make an appointment.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

Occasionally, a Participant or eligible dependent will also be eligible for dental benefits under another group health plan. If this happens, the two plans will coordinate their benefit payments so that the combined payments of both plans will not exceed the actual expenses incurred by the Participant or eligible dependent. One plan (the primary plan) will pay its full benefits. If this Plan is the other plan (the secondary plan), the Plan will pay any expenses in excess of the primary plan's benefits, up to a maximum amount that it would pay if the Coordination of Benefits ("COB") provision was not in effect. If this Plan is the primary plan, the secondary plan may pay something less than the balance of the expenses, depending on that plan's rules. A Participant must report to this Plan other group coverage on the claim form submitted for reimbursement of dental expenses.

The order in which this Plan will coordinate with other plans, that is, whether this Plan is primary or secondary, is described below:

1. A Plan with no rules for coordination with other benefit plans will be deemed to pay its benefits before a plan that contains such rules, such as this Plan.
2. A plan that covers a person other than as a dependent will be deemed to pay its benefits before a plan that covers the person as a dependent. For example: If Participant John's spouse Mary is covered for dental insurance through her job, her own insurance would be her primary plan and this Plan (John's dental coverage) would be her secondary plan.
3. A plan which covers the person as a dependent of a person whose birthday comes first in a calendar year will be primary to the plan that covers the person as a dependent of a person whose birthday comes later in that calendar year. If a plan does not have this provision regarding birthdays, then the rule set forth in that plan will determine the order of benefits. For example: using the situation in item 2 above, John's birthday is January 1 and Mary's birthday is June 1. John's insurance (this Plan) would be primary for their children because it comes first in the calendar year. Mary's insurance would be secondary for their children.

If 1, 2 and 3 above do not establish an order of payment, the plan under which the person has been covered for the longest will be deemed to pay its benefits first, except that the benefits of a plan which covers the person as a retired employee or the dependent of a retiree shall be determined after the benefits of any other plan which covers such person as an employee who is not retired or a dependent of such person. If either plan does not have a provision regarding employees and as a result each plan determines its benefits after the other, then the preceding sentence will not apply.

The benefits of a plan which covers the person as a retired employee or the dependent of such person shall be determined after the benefits of any other Plan which covers such person as an employee who is not retired or a dependent of such person. If either plan does not have a provision regarding retired employees and as a result each plan determines its benefits after the other, then the preceding sentence will not apply.

For purposes of these coordination of benefits rules, another group plan includes any plan of dental or medical expense coverage for individuals in a group or “no-fault” automobile reparations insurance that is required under any law of a government. Individual policies are not subject to the Coordination of Benefits Provision.

### **LIMITATIONS OF BENEFITS**

No coverage is provided under this Plan for expenses incurred in connection with any of the following:

1. Dental services received from a dental or medical department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, an actual benefit association, labor union, trustee or similar person or group;
2. Dental services for which the Participant incurs no charge;
3. Dental services for which coverage is available to the Participant, in whole or in part, under any Workers’ Compensation Law or similar legislation whether or not the Participant claims compensation or receives benefits hereunder;
4. Dental services primarily for cosmetic surgery, except for essential reconstructive surgery when such surgery is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from trauma, infection or other diseases of the involved part, and reconstructive surgery because

- of congenital disease or anomaly of a covered dependent child which has resulted in a functional defect;
5. Dental services furnished or available to a Participant in whole or in part under the laws of the United States, or any state, or political subdivision thereof (except Medicaid) or for which the Participant would have no legal obligation to pay in the absence of this or any similar coverage;
  6. Dental services rendered by a dentist beyond the scope of his or her license;
  7. Dental services to the extent that charges for such services exceed the charge that would have been made and actually collected if no coverage existed hereunder;
  8. Gold foil restorations;
  9. Dental services not considered within the scope of normal good dental practice or which are inconsistent with the highest ethical standards of the dental profession;
  10. Dental services other than those specifically listed as Covered Dental Services;
  11. Any loss, or portion thereof, for which mandatory automobile no-fault benefits are recovered or recoverable;
  12. Expenses for you or your eligible dependents up to the maximum amount available through your automobile insurance carrier or \$25,000, whichever is greater.

The above-mentioned list of exclusions is provided for illustrative purposes and is not all inclusive. You should always contact Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield or DDS, Inc. for verification that a service or provider is covered.

### **PARTICIPANTS RECEIVING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

A Participant who is unable to work due to a work-related injury and is receiving Workers' Compensation benefits shall remain eligible for coverage under this Plan until the earlier of:

- The date on which the Participant ceases to be eligible for Workers' Compensation benefits; or

- The date which is two years following the date on which the Participant first became unable to work because of the injury, including all periods during which Workers' Compensation benefits were received.

A Participant who ceases being eligible for workers' compensation benefits prior to receiving 24 months of benefits shall then be entitled to purchase coverage for up to 18 months, pursuant to the continuation coverage provisions on pages 22-29.

A Participant who receives more than 24 months of Workers' Compensation benefits shall be entitled to purchase coverage for up to 18 months. If the Participant is still receiving workers' compensation benefits after the 18-month period, he or she will be entitled to continue purchasing such coverage as long as proof of the workers' compensation payment is furnished to the Trustees.

Note that, as described in the Limitations of Benefits section starting on page 19, the Plan does not cover dental services for which coverage is available to the Participant, in whole or in part, under any Workers' Compensation Law or similar legislation, whether or not the Participant claims compensation or receives benefits hereunder.

## **PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE DISABLED**

A Participant who is unable to work and is receiving disability benefits or is disabled shall remain eligible for coverage under this Plan until the earlier of:

1. The date on which the Participant ceases to be eligible for disability benefits; or
2. The date which is two years following the date on which the Participant first became unable to work, including all periods during which the Participant received disability benefits and furnished evidence to the Trustees that he was disabled.

If such Participant remains disabled after receiving 26 weeks of disability payments, he or she may continue to be covered under this Plan for up to

a total of 24 months, as long as the Participant submits proof of the disability on a monthly basis to the Trustees. After 24 months of being disabled, a Participant may purchase continuation coverage under the Plan for up to 18 months, pursuant to continuation coverage provisions referred to in the next section. If such Participant is still totally disabled after this period of time, the Participant may continue to purchase coverage on a monthly basis for as long as he is able to furnish proof of the disability to the Trustees.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Any extension of health coverage immediately prior or during the period when the Participant is collecting Workers' Compensation payments or is disabled, as a result of the Participant being unemployed and available for employment, will be credited as part of the extension of health coverage for 24 months.

**COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE**

**INTRODUCTION**

This section contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The following generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it. When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA).

COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage. For additional information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under



federal law, you should review this entire booklet or contact the Plan Administrator.

***What Is COBRA Continuation Coverage?***

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” Specific qualifying events are listed below. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage. If you elect continuation coverage, the Plan is required to give you coverage which, as of the time coverage is being provided, is identical to the coverage provided under this Plan to similarly situated Participants or family members.

If you are a Participant covered under this Plan, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happen:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of a Participant covered under this Plan, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose coverage because any of the following qualifying events happen:

- Your spouse’s hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse dies; or
- You become divorced from your spouse.

Note that if you are the spouse of a Participant who dies, you will receive 60 or 72 months of coverage (depending on whether the Participant is active or retired) at no expense (or until the date of your remarriage if sooner). In that case, the COBRA continuation coverage is offered if you remarry before the expiration of the 60 or 72 months. See pages 8-9 for a description of the Plan's coverage of surviving spouses and children following the death of a Participant.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happen:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parents become divorced; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

Again, as with the surviving spouse coverage, in the event a participant dies, the Plan provides either 60 months of continued coverage if the participant was retired or 72 months of continued coverage if the participant was employed or registered as available for employment at no expense to dependent children of a participant who dies. This coverage ceases when surviving spouse remarries, if sooner than the applicable 60 or 72 months. In that case, COBRA continuation coverage is offered for the remainder of the applicable 60- or 72-month period.

The Plan will make the determination that a qualifying event involving a reduction in the employee's hours or termination of employment has occurred.

***You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events***

If the event is the divorce of the Participant and spouse or a dependent child's loss of coverage, the Participant or a family member must notify the Joint Industry Board in writing within 60 days after the date of the divorce or loss of eligibility as a dependent child. You must provide this notice to: Members' Records Department of the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Ave., Flushing, NY 11365. The notice must identify the qualifying event, the date on which it occurred and the names of the covered individual(s) whose coverage under the Plan will be lost due to the qualifying event. If the qualifying event is a divorce, you must include with your notice a copy of the divorce decree. If the qualifying event is a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child, you must identify the child's date of birth and the last date that the child was a full-time student.

### ***How Is COBRA Coverage Provided?***

Once the Joint Industry Board determines that there has been a death, reduction in hours or termination of employment, or it is notified that a divorce or loss of dependent eligibility status has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage. In addition, the 18-month period can be extended under certain conditions if you or any of your covered family members is disabled, as described below.

### ***How Do I Elect COBRA?***

Under the law, you have 60 days from the date you would lose coverage because of one of the qualifying events described above or the date of the notice of your election right, whichever is later, to inform the Joint Industry Board that you want to elect the continuation coverage. You then have an additional 45 days to pay for the initial coverage, including all amounts due retroactively from the date on which coverage would

otherwise have terminated under the Plan through the month of your election. Monthly premiums are then required. You will be billed for the coverage on a monthly basis. Coverage options will include a single plus one (spouse or dependent) election, in addition to single and family coverage options.

You do not have to show that you are insurable to choose continuation coverage. However, under the law, you will have to pay the premium for your continuation coverage on a timely basis. The Plan is allowed to charge 102% of the cost to the Plan on a monthly basis. If you do not elect continuation coverage, or if you do not pay for your continuation coverage on a timely basis, your coverage under this Plan will end.

### ***How Long Does Continuation Coverage Last?***

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. If the qualifying event is the end of employment or due to the reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage can last for up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended, as explained in the following paragraphs. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, your divorce or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage can last for up to a total of 36 months. When the qualifying event is a dependent child's losing eligibility upon turning age 26, such dependent child may continue to purchase coverage beyond the 36-month period, provided that the dependent was covered by the Plan and paying for COBRA coverage upon turning age 26. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months).

### ***Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage***

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage. You must provide to the Joint Industry Board a copy of your determination letter from the Social Security Administration before the 18-month period of continuation coverage expires. In addition, the Joint Industry Board must be notified within 30 days of the date of any final determination that the individual is no longer disabled.

### ***Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage***

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the first 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, your spouse and dependent children can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to your spouse and any dependent children receiving COBRA continuation coverage if you die, or get divorced, or if your dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

If you do not choose continuation coverage, your dental coverage will end, unless you elect to enroll in an individual conversion plan with Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

### ***Early Termination of Continuation Coverage***

The law provides that your COBRA continuation coverage may be cut short for any of the following reasons:

- The Plan no longer provides coverage to any Participant.
- The premium for your continuation coverage is not paid on a timely basis.
- You become covered for dental benefits under another group health plan that does not have a pre-existing condition exclusion. If the new plan includes a pre-existing condition limitation or

exclusion, coverage will cease under this Plan once the pre-existing conditions limitation or exclusion has been satisfied or once eligibility for continuation coverage otherwise terminates.

- Any other reason for termination provided under the plan, such as your fraud.
- The employer with respect to whom you obtained your coverage in the first place withdraws from the plan and covers a classification of its employees under another group health plan. In that case the employer's new plan is required to continue your COBRA coverage.
- The date on which you first become entitled to Medicare benefits.

### ***Addition of New Dependents While on COBRA***

If a child is born to you or placed with you for adoption while you are on COBRA continuation coverage, the child will be treated as a qualified beneficiary under COBRA and will be eligible for coverage for the balance of the COBRA coverage period available to other qualified beneficiaries with respect to the same qualifying event. You may also add a new spouse to your coverage if you get married while you are on COBRA continuation coverage, but the new spouse is not a qualified beneficiary under COBRA even though he or she will receive coverage under the Plan for the balance of the COBRA period. In order to add a new dependent, you must notify the Members' Records Department at the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11365, within 30 days after the birth, placement or marriage and provide the birth certificate, adoption papers or marriage certificate, as applicable.

### ***Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?***

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through Medicaid or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

## **If you have questions:**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.)

## **Keep your Plan informed of address changes**

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

## **Plan contact information**

Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, 158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Ave., Flushing, NY 11365, (718) 591-2000.

## **MILITARY DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**

When an employee of a Contributing Employer of this Plan goes on military leave, health coverage for the individual is provided under TRICARE, which is a regionally managed health care program for active duty, activated guard, reserves and retired members of the uniformed services, their family and survivors. Eligible family dependents will be covered under this Plan, at no cost, unless enrolled in TRICARE, in which case this Plan will be the secondary payer.

Instead of TRICARE coverage, and in accordance with Federal law, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), the employee may elect to purchase COBRA coverage for up to two years under this Plan from the date the employee's absence due to military service begins or the day after the date on which the employee

fails to apply for or return to a position of employment. If the period of military service is less than 31 days, coverage under this Plan for the employee will continue during the period of military service. If the period of military service exceeds 31 days, the employee can elect to pay the applicable COBRA premium to continue his/her coverage. If the employee does not elect COBRA coverage during the period of military service, the employee will be entitled to have coverage reinstated on the date he/she returns to covered employment with a Contributing Employer. No exclusion or waiting period will be imposed, except in the case of certain service-connected disabilities. These rights granted under USERRA are dependent upon uniformed service that ends honorably.

### **CONVERSION**

Whether or not you elect to purchase continuation coverage, you may choose to convert to an individual policy with Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This can be done upon your rejection of continuation coverage, or you may convert to an individual policy upon the expiration of your continuation coverage. You will be furnished with the appropriate applications and full instructions concerning this conversion policy when you request such information from the Plan Administrator.

The benefits provided upon your conversion to an individual policy with Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield will not be the same as the coverage under this group Plan. Before you decide to convert to an individual policy, you have the right to contact Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield to review the benefits provided under their Plan. Applications for conversion of coverage must be received by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield within 30 days after your benefits under this Plan terminate.

### **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993**

Participants who properly notify their Contributing Employer of their election to take up to 12 weeks of leave from employment for the specific purposes allowed under the Family and Medical Leave Act will continue to be covered by the Plan during such leave. After the Contributing Employer has verified that the leave is in compliance with this Act, the Contributing Employer will be responsible for providing the Plan with written notification in order to extend the Participant's health coverage. Coverage under the Plan during the Participant's leave shall continue at



the same level it would have been if the Participant had continued to be employed.

You may also be entitled to up to a maximum of 12 weeks of unpaid leave because of a “qualifying exigency” (as defined in Department of Labor regulations) arising out of the fact that your spouse, son, daughter or parent is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation. (If you believe you are entitled to leave due to a “qualifying exigency,” you should contact your Contributing Employer).

In addition, the FMLA permits a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin to take up to 26 work weeks of leave (including any other FMLA leave in the same 12-month period) to care for a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness.

Upon return to active employment, the Participant shall not be subject to any restrictions, waiting periods or preexisting condition exemptions.

If the Participant does not return to work after the leave or upon the Participant’s determination that he or she will not return to employment, if earlier, such date will be considered a qualifying event under COBRA, and the Participant will be eligible for continuation coverage.

## **CLAIMS PROCEDURES**

### **CLAIMS PROCEDURES FOR THE EMPIRE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM**

If you choose to participate in the Fee-For-Service Program, you and your dentist will need to complete a Dental Claim Report Form for all services received. You may obtain a Dental Claim Report Form by contacting the Members’ Records Department at the address above, or visiting the JIB website at [www.jibei.org](http://www.jibei.org). You must complete the patient’s portion of the Dental Claim Report Form and have your dentist complete the remainder of the form, and return the completed form to: Empire Blue Cross and Blue

Shield Dental Benefits Program, P.O. Box 810, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0810. You are required to submit a Dental Claim Report Form to the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Benefits Program within one year of receiving dental services. Although not required, you are encouraged to contact the Plan in advance of receiving dental services to verify that coverage is available, especially in the case of prosthetic and orthodontic services.

Ordinarily, you will be notified of the decision on your claim within 30 days from the Plan's receipt of your Dental Claim Report Form. The Plan may extend this period one time for up to 15 days if the extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Plan, provided that, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day period, the Plan notifies you of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render a decision. If an extension is needed because the Plan needs additional information from you, the extension notice will specify the information needed. In that case you will have 45 days from your receipt of the notification to supply the additional information. If the information is not provided within that time, your claim will be denied. During the 45-day period you are given to supply additional information, the 30-day period for making a decision on the claim will be suspended. The deadline is suspended from the date of the extension notice until the earlier of (i) 45 days or (ii) until the date you respond to the request (whichever is earlier). The Plan then has 15 days from receiving the additional information from you to decide your claim and notify you of the determination.

### **CLAIMS PROCEDURES FOR THE EMPIRE BLUE CROSS AND/BLE SHIELD DENTAL MANAGED NETWORK PROGRAM**

If you choose to participate in the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Managed Network Program (the "Empire Managed Network Program"), once you enroll and select a dental office, you will not need to submit any forms or obtain pre-certification for any services. Your dentist office will take care of any required paperwork.

#### ***Emergency Treatment***

In the event that you receive emergency care when you are outside of a 50-mile radius of your designated dental office, you must contact the Managed Network Program at 1-844-852-1553 and request a claim form. The claim form and the dentist's original bill must then be submitted to the Empire Managed Dental Care Program, Dept. 316, Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, P.O. Box 810, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0810. You will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$25 per emergency visit. The time frames for deciding emergency treatment claims under the Managed Network Program are the same as those stated above for the Fee-For-Service Program.

## **CLAIMS PROCEDURES FOR THE DDS, INC. PROGRAM**

If you choose to participate in the DDS, Inc. Program, once you enroll by contacting the Members' Records Department, you will not need to submit any forms or obtain pre-certification for any services. You need only call the DDS, Inc. network provider to schedule an appointment. The dental office is responsible for any required paperwork.

## **NOTICE OF DECISION**

You will be provided with written notice of a denial of a claim. This notice will state:

- The specific reason(s) for the determination.
- Reference to the specific Plan provision(s) on which the determination is based.
- A description of any additional material or information necessary to perfect the claim, and an explanation of why the material or information is necessary.
- A description of the appeal procedures and applicable time limits.
- A statement of your right to bring a lawsuit under ERISA following an adverse benefit determination on review.
- If an internal rule, guideline or protocol was relied upon in deciding your claim, you will receive either a copy of the rule or a statement that it is available upon request at no charge.
- If the determination was based on the absence of dental necessity, or other similar exclusion, you will receive an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination applying the

terms of the Plan to your claim, or a statement that it is available upon request at no charge.

## **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

### ***First-Level Appeal to the Fee-For-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc.***

If your claim is denied in whole or in part, or if you disagree with the decision made on a claim, you may appeal the determination.

If you participate in the Fee-For-Service Program, your appeal should be sent to: Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental Benefits Program, Dental Benefits Claims Review, P.O. Box 1122, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1122.

If you participate in the Managed Network Program, your appeal should be sent to: Empire Managed Dental Care Program Dept. 316, Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, P.O. Box 1122, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1122.

If you participate in the DDS, Inc. Program, your appeal should be sent to: DDS Services, Inc., 265 Post Avenue Suite 340, Westbury, NY 11590.

Your appeal must be made in writing within 180 days after you receive notice of denial of your claim and must include your current identification number, the claim number, any pertinent information or comments you wish to make, and shall set forth the reasons why you believe the decision is incorrect. You will be sent a notice of the decision on appeal within 30 days of receipt of the appeal by the Fee-For-Service Program, the Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc.

### ***Second-Level Appeal to the Joint Industry Board***

If the Fee-For-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc., denies your appeal in whole or in part, you may file a second appeal to the Joint Industry Board. Your appeal to the Joint Industry Board must be in writing and must be made within 180 days after you receive notice of denial of your appeal by the Fee-For-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc., and shall set forth the reasons why you believe the decision is incorrect. The Joint Industry

Board will notify you of the determination of your appeal within 30 days of the Joint Industry Board's receipt of the appeal.

***Optional Third-Level Appeal to the Trustees***

If the Joint Industry Board denies your second-level appeal in whole or in part, you have the option of filing a third-level appeal with the Trustees. If you elect to file an appeal with the Trustees, your appeal must be in writing and must be made within 180 days after you receive notice of denial of your appeal by the Joint Industry Board, and shall set forth the reasons why you believe the decision is incorrect. For appeals of denials of Post-Service Claims, the determination will ordinarily be made no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trustees following receipt of your appeal. However, if your appeal is received within 30 days of the next regularly scheduled meeting, your appeal will be considered no later than the second regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of your appeal. In special circumstances, a delay until the third regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of your appeal may be necessary. You will be advised in writing in advance if this extension will be necessary, as well as the reason for the extension and the date the appeal determination will be made. Once a determination of your appeal has been reached, you will be notified of the determination as soon as possible, but no later than 5 days after the determination has been made.

This third-level appeal with the Trustees is voluntary. The Plan will not assert your decision not to file a third-level appeal with the Trustees as a defense if you bring a lawsuit against the Plan instead of appealing a decision to the Trustees. If you do file a third-level appeal, the Plan agrees that any statute of limitations or other defense based on timeliness will be tolled during the time that the appeal to the Trustees is pending. The decision whether to appeal to the Trustees will have no effect on your rights to any other benefits under the Plan.

***Right to Review Documents and to Obtain Other Information***

You have the right to review documents relevant to your claim. A document, record or other information is relevant if it was relied upon by the Plan, the Fee-For-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc. in making the decision; it was submitted, considered or generated (regardless of whether it was relied upon); it

demonstrates compliance with the Plan's administrative processes for ensuring consistent decision making; or it constitutes a statement of the Plan's policy regarding the denied treatment or service. Upon request, you will be provided with the identification of dental experts, if any, that advised the Plan concerning your claim, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in deciding your claim.

***Right to Independent Review***

A different person will consider your appeal other than the one who originally denied the claim. The reviewer will not give deference to the initial denial. The decision will be made on the basis of the record, including such additional documents and comments that you submit. The Joint Industry Board will not afford deference to the decision by the Fee-for-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc., and the reviewing parties at the Joint Industry Board will not be the same parties who made the decision at the first level of review with the Fee-for-Service Program, the Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc., nor will they be the subordinates of those parties. Similarly, the Trustees will not afford deference to the decision by the Fee-for-Service Program, the Managed Network Program, DDS, Inc., or the Joint Industry Board and the reviewing parties will not be the same parties who made the decision at the first level of review with the Fee-for-Service Program, the Managed Network Program, or DDS, Inc., or the second level of review at the Joint Industry Board nor will they be the subordinates of those parties.

**NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Neither the Joint Industry Board nor the Trustees stand to gain in any way from denying a claim or an appeal. No employee of the Joint Industry Board is paid or entitled to any benefit in his or her employment based on his or her decisions on claims or appeals. The Trustees receive no compensation from the Plan, and their decisions on appeals do not entitle them to any benefit from the Plan or their employers or the Union.

***Cases Involving a Professional Judgment***

If your claim was denied on the basis of a professional judgment (such as a determination that the treatment or service was not medically necessary),

a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in a relevant field of dentistry will be consulted.

## **NOTICE OF THE DETERMINATION OF YOUR APPEAL**

The decision at each level of appeal by the Fee-For-Service Program, the Empire Managed Network Program, DDS, Inc., the Joint Industry Board, and/or or the Trustees will be in writing and will include the following information:

- The specific reason(s) for the determination.
- Reference to the specific Plan provision(s) on which the determination is based.
- A statement that you are entitled to receive reasonable access to and copies of all documents relevant to your claim, upon request and free of charge.
- A statement of your right to bring a lawsuit under ERISA following an adverse benefit determination on review.
- If an internal rule, guideline or protocol was relied upon by the Plan, you will receive either a copy of the rule or a statement that it is available upon request at no charge.
- If the determination was based on a professional judgment, you will receive an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination applying the terms of the Plan to your claim, or a statement that it is available upon request at no charge.

## **DESIGNATED AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

You may submit a claim and appeal a denial of a claim on your own behalf. Alternatively, you may designate another individual to act as your representative. If you choose to designate someone else to act on your behalf, you must do so in writing on a form provided by the Plan. The designation will not be effective until it is received by the Plan. You may revoke your designation of an Authorized Representative but such revocation will not be effective until received by the Plan and such revocation must be in writing in order to be effective. You may obtain a Designated Authorized Representative form by contacting the Plan. Once you have designated an Authorized Representative, all communications

and notices from the Plan that would otherwise be sent to you will only be sent to your Authorized Representative.

## **FRAUD AND THE PLAN'S RIGHT TO RECOVERY**

The Plan reserves the right to suspend or discontinue benefits, or to deny the Claim (or appeal) of any Participant or dependent who makes or whose service provider makes a false statement material to an application, furnishes fraudulent information or proof, or otherwise fails or refuses to provide information deemed reasonably necessary to determine whether to pay a claim. The Trustees and the Joint Industry Board shall have the right to recover, or to offset against future benefits payable to or on behalf of a Participant or a Participant's dependent, any payments made as a result of false or fraudulent statements, information or proof submitted by a Participant, dependent or by a service provider. The Trustees and the Joint Industry Board shall have the right to recover, or to offset against future benefits payable to or on behalf of a Participant or a Participant's dependent, benefits paid to or on behalf of a former spouse or ineligible child for services rendered to the former spouse subsequent to divorce or the child after he or she ceased to be eligible, other than under the COBRA continuation coverage provisions described above.

In addition to the foregoing, the Trustees and the Joint Industry Board shall have the right to recover, or to offset against future benefits payable to or on behalf of a Participant or a Participant's dependent any payments mistakenly paid by the Plan, and each Participant agrees, by virtue of his or her coverage hereunder, that any mistaken payments, as well as any payments made in reliance on a false or fraudulent statement or information (including a failure to provide or an omission of material information) submitted by the Participant, a dependent or a provider (collectively "Wrongful Payment") will not vest ownership to the Participant or other recipient, and the Participant agrees to repay any such Wrongful Payment to the Plan (including by the Plan's offset against future benefits payable to or on behalf of the Participant or the Participant's dependent following a demand for repayment).



## **SUBROGATION AND RESTITUTION RIGHTS FOR PERSONAL INJURY**

If you or your eligible dependent suffers an injury or illness, or requires medical treatment through the act or omission of someone else or for which a third party may be legally responsible, the Plan shall pay benefits related to such injury or illness to the extent benefits are payable under the terms of the Plan, provided that the costs have not already been paid by the third party, only after you or your dependent (and your attorneys, if applicable) has (and have, if applicable) entered into a written subrogation and reimbursement agreement with the Plan. By accepting benefits from this Plan related to such an injury or illness, you agree to hold any reimbursement or other recovery received by you or your dependent, legal representative, or agent in trust on behalf of the Plan to cover all benefits paid by the Plan with respect to such injury or illness. You and your dependent also agree to reimburse the Plan promptly out of any recovery from any source, including the third-party or his or her insurer, for the benefits paid to you and your dependent.

The Plan's right to subrogation and reimbursement applies to all rights of recovery of you, your dependent, your parents, or to a representative, guardian or trustee of you, your parents or dependents, regardless of whether the recovery fully compensates you or your dependent's loss.

You must sign a subrogation agreement as a condition of receiving benefits for any illness or injury caused by a third party, and provide the Plan with any relevant information about the claim if we ask you to do so. However, a subrogation agreement is not necessary to enforce the Plan's rights. Benefits are paid by the Plan subject to the condition that you and your eligible dependent not take any action that would prejudice the Plan's ability to recover benefits paid and that you will cooperate in doing what is reasonably necessary to assist the Plan in obtaining reimbursement.

The Plan must be reimbursed in full up to the total amount of all benefits paid by the Plan in connection with the injury or illness from any recovery you receive from a third party, as well any first party coverage, including but not limited to any payments you receive from your own personal injury protection (PIP), med-pay, uninsured motorist insurance, underinsured motorist insurance, no-fault insurance, school insurance or workers compensation insurance, even if the recovery is not specifically identified as a reimbursement of medical expenses. All recoveries from a third party

or first party coverage (whether by lawsuit, settlement, insurance or otherwise) must be used to reimburse the Plan for benefits paid. In the event you receive an award for future medical expenses, the Plan will not pay any benefits until you demonstrate that the full award of future benefits has been used to treat the injury or illness. The Plan has the right of first reimbursement on a priority first dollar basis out of any recovery obtained, even if you are not fully compensated (“made whole”) for your loss, and the Plan’s claim has first priority over all other claims and rights.

If you live in a state without no-fault insurance or PIP insurance coverage, the Plan will not pay medical benefits for you or your dependents if optional medical coverage was available through your automobile insurance carrier. You should purchase the maximum amount available through your automobile insurance carrier, up to \$50,000. In no event should you have less than \$25,000 in medical coverage. The Plan will not pay medical expenses for you or your dependents up to the maximum amount available through your insurance carrier or \$25,000, whichever is greater.

Neither you nor your dependent is compelled to pursue any right of recovery from a third party whose conduct caused the injuries for which benefits were paid by the Plan. The Trustees strongly recommend, however, that if you are injured as a result of the negligence or wrongful act of a third party, you should contact an attorney for advice and counsel. The Plan cannot and does not pay for the legal fees your attorney may charge.

You are required to notify the Plan promptly of any third-party claim you may have for an injury or illness for which the Plan has paid or may pay benefits and any demand made or suit filed against any third party. You are required to notify the Plan of any third-party recovery, whether in or out of court, that you, your dependent, or your parents or any agent, representative or trustee or any of them obtains.

The Plan’s claim is not subject to reduction for attorney’s fees or costs under the “common fund” doctrine or otherwise. Any reduction of the Plan’s claim is subject to prior written approval by the Trustees in their sole discretion.

If you choose not to pursue the liability of a third party, the Plan will be subrogated to your right of recovery and may pursue your claims against the third party. You agree to cooperate with the Plan with respect to any attempt to recover Plan benefits payable to you or your dependent related to an injury or illness caused by the act or omission of a third party.

You must forward any recovery to the Plan within 10 days of receipt or notify the Plan why you are unable to do so. The Plan shall have an equitable lien by agreement on any recovery until you reimburse the Plan for the amount of its claim. The Plan may offset its subrogation claim against any other Plan benefits otherwise due or payable to you or your dependents.

Note that other provisions of this Plan may exclude or limit coverage under certain circumstances where the injury or illness may have been the result of the act or omission of a third party (e.g., Workers' Compensation cases, certain automobile accidents, etc.). Please refer to the Limitations of Benefits section of this Summary Plan Description for information on specific limitations and exclusions.

## **AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION**

The Trustees, acting pursuant to the Plan's Trust Agreement, may at any time and from time to time modify this Plan in any of its terms, with respect to all Participants, including active Participants and retirees and their eligible dependents, or terminate the Plan in its entirety, and neither the promulgation of this Plan nor the creation of the Trust Fund by the Trust Agreement shall be construed as giving any Participant or any person whatsoever any legal or equitable right against the Union, any Contributing Employer, employer Association, the Trustees, the Plan Administrator and/or the Trust created under the Trust Agreement (the "Trust Fund,") except such right as is specifically provided for herein, or given by action of the Trustees duly taken in accordance with the provisions hereof, provided, however, that no such modification or termination shall cause or permit any property held subject to the terms of the Trust Agreement to be diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants and their eligible dependents and/or for the administration expenses of the Trust Fund.

The Plan may be terminated when there is no longer in force any collective bargaining agreement requiring contributions to the Plan. The Plan and Trust Fund may likewise be terminated by the unanimous vote of the Trustees with the consent of the Contributing Employers and the Union.

In the event of a termination of the Plan, the Trustees shall apply the Trust Fund to pay or provide for the payment of any and all obligations of the Plan and Trust Fund and distribute and apply any remaining surplus in such manner as will, in their opinion, best effectuate the purposes of the Plan and Trust Agreement; provided, however, that no part of the corpus or income of the Trust Fund shall be used or diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants and eligible dependents of either or the reasonable administrative expenses of the Plan and Trust.

The Trustees shall give written notice to all Participants, Contributing Employers and the Union of all amendments to or the termination of the Plan.

### **ALIENATION OF BENEFITS**

No Participant or dependent may assign, sell, dispose or transfer any rights you may have under the Plan to receive benefits. If you do so, your actions will have no effect.

The Plan will, however, allow a Participant to assign the payment of benefits directly to a provider who accepts the reimbursement from the Plan as payment in full.

### **QUALIFIED MEDICAL CHILD SUPPORT ORDER**

Benefits may become payable directly or indirectly to a dependent of a Participant if the Plan is served with a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO). A QMCSO is a medical child support order issued pursuant to a state domestic relations law or enforces a state medical child support law that provides child support or health coverage with respect to an eligible dependent child of a Participant covered by the Plan.

A medical child support order is “qualified” if it meets certain criteria indicated in Section 609 of ERISA. If the order is qualified, the Plan is required by federal law to comply with it. The Plan has written procedures relating to its determination whether a medical child support order is qualified. The procedures require the Plan to notify the Participant and each alternate recipient of the receipt of a medical child support order and of the procedures for the determination of its qualified status. The Plan will also notify all appropriate parties as to the determination of the Plan.

## **STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS**

As a Participant in the Plan you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all Plan Participants shall be entitled to:

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

- Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including provider contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary Plan description. The Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each Participant with a copy of this summary annual report.
- Continue health care coverage for yourself, spouse or dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review this summary Plan description and the documents governing the Plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage risks.

### **Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries**

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty

to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other Plan Participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your Contributing Employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

### **Enforce Your Rights**

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

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Administrator.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied, or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court provided that you appeal from any denial of benefits before filing the lawsuit. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in Federal court. If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

### **Assistance with Your Questions**

If you have any questions about your Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or you need assistance in obtaining documents

from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.



## NOTES

**DENTAL BENEFIT FUND  
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