

BENEFIT PLAN

Prepared Exclusively For
Iota Community Schools

Open Access Managed Choice Extraterritorial
Riders - 90/50 Plan

Extraterritorial
Riders

Aetna Life Insurance Company

These Extraterritorial Riders are part of the Group Insurance Policy between **Aetna** Life Insurance Company and the Policyholder



Table of Contents

	Page
ET Riders	Included in this document
Arkansas Medical	1
Illinois Medical	9
Mississippi Medical	14

Aetna Life Insurance Company

Extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment

Policyholder: Iota Community Schools

Group policy number: GP-0284189-F

Amendment effective date: July 1, 2024

This amendment is part of your booklet-certificate. It is effective on the date shown above and it replaces any other medical extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment you may have received before.

Important note: The following apply only if you live in Arkansas. The benefits below will apply instead of those in your booklet-certificate unless the benefits in your booklet-certificate are better.

Hearing aids

Hearing aid means:

- Any wearable, non-disposable instrument or device designed to aid or make up for impaired hearing
- Parts, attachments or accessories

Covered services include prescribed hearing aids and the following hearing aid services and no deductible applies unless this benefit is provided under a qualified High Deductible Plan:

- Audiometric hearing visit and evaluation for a hearing aid **prescription** performed by:
 - A **physician** certified as an otolaryngologist or otologist
 - An audiologist who:
 - Is legally qualified in audiology
 - Holds a certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology from the American Speech and Hearing Association in the absence of any licensing requirements
 - Performs the exam at the written direction of a legally qualified otolaryngologist or otologist
- Electronic hearing aids, installed in accordance with a **prescription** written during a covered hearing exam. These are limited to no more than 1 per ear every 2 years.
- Any other related services necessary to access, select, and adjust or fit a hearing aid

The following are not **covered services**:

- Replacement of a hearing aid that is lost, stolen or broken
- Replacement parts or repairs for a hearing aid
- Batteries or cords
- A hearing aid that does not meet the specifications prescribed for correction of hearing loss

Important Information

In the event you need to contact someone about your insurance coverage, you may contact Aetna Life Insurance Company at the following address and telephone number:

Aetna Life Insurance Company
151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06156
(860) 273-0123

If you have been unable to contact or obtain satisfaction from Aetna, you may contact the Arkansas Insurance Department at:

Arkansas Insurance Department
1200 West Third Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 371-2640 or (800) 852-5494

Infertility services

Covered services include seeing a **provider**:

- To diagnose and evaluate the underlying medical cause of **infertility**.
- To do **surgery** to treat the underlying medical cause of **infertility**. Examples are endometriosis **surgery** or, for men, varicocele **surgery**.

Comprehensive infertility services

Covered services include the following **infertility** services provided by an **infertility specialist**:

- Ovulation induction cycle(s) while on injectable medication to stimulate the ovaries
- Artificial insemination, which includes intrauterine (IUI)/intracervical (ICI) insemination
- Oral and injectable **prescription** drugs used:
 - To stimulate the ovaries
 - Primarily for treating the underlying cause of **infertility**

Infertility covered services may include either dollar or cycle limits. Ovulation induction cycles while on medication to stimulation the ovaries are 6 per lifetime. Artificial insemination cycles are 6 per lifetime. For plans with cycle limits, a "cycle" is defined as:

- An attempt at ovulation induction while on injectable medication to stimulate the ovaries with or without artificial insemination
- An artificial insemination cycle with or without injectable medication to stimulate the ovaries

You are eligible for these **covered services** if:

- You or your partner have been diagnosed with **infertility**
- You have met the requirement for the number of months trying to conceive through egg and sperm contact
- Your unmedicated day 3 Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) level and testing of ovarian responsiveness meet the criteria outlined in Aetna's **infertility** clinical policy

Aetna's National Infertility Unit

The first step to using your comprehensive **infertility covered services** is enrolling with our National Infertility Unit (NIU). Our NIU is here to help you. It is staffed by a dedicated team of registered nurses and **infertility** coordinators. They can help you with determining eligibility for benefits. They can also help your **provider** with **precertification**. You can call the NIU at 1-800-575-5999.

The following sentence applies if your plan of coverage includes In and Out of Network Benefits:

Your **network provider** will request approval from us in advance for your **infertility** services. If your **provider** is not a **network provider**, you are responsible to request approval from us in advance.

Advanced reproductive technology (ART)

Advanced reproductive technology, also called "assisted reproductive technology", is a more advanced type of **infertility** treatment. **Covered services** include the following services provided by an ART **specialist**:

- In vitro fertilization (IVF).
- Zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT).
- Gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT).
- Cryopreservation (freezing), storage for up to 5 years and thawing of embryos, eggs, sperm or reproductive tissue.
- Cryopreserved (frozen) embryo transfers (FET).
- Charges associated with your care when you receive a donor egg or embryo in a donor IVF cycle. These services include culture and fertilization of the egg from the donor and transfer of the embryo into you.
- Charges associated with your care when using a gestational carrier including egg retrieval and culture and fertilization of your eggs that will be transferred into a gestational carrier. Services for the gestational carrier, including transfer of the embryo into the carrier, are not covered. (See exclusions, below.)
- Oral and injectable **prescription** drugs used:
 - To stimulate the ovaries
 - Primarily for treating the underlying cause of **infertility**

ART **covered services** may include either dollar or cycle limits. The ART lifetime maximum is \$15,000. For plans with cycle limits, an ART "cycle" is defined as:

Procedure	Cycle count
One complete fresh IVF cycle with transfer (egg retrieval, fertilization, and transfer of embryo)	One full cycle
One fresh IVF cycle with attempted egg aspiration (with or without egg retrieval) but without transfer of embryo	One-half cycle
Fertilization of egg and transfer of embryo	One-half cycle
One cryopreserved (frozen) embryo transfer	One-half cycle
One complete GIFT cycle	One full cycle
One complete ZIFT cycle	One full cycle

You are eligible for other ART services if:

- You or your partner have been diagnosed with **infertility**
- You have exhausted comprehensive **infertility** services benefits or have a clinical need to move on to ART procedures
- You have met the requirement for the number of months trying to conceive through egg and sperm contact
- Your unmedicated day 3 Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) level and testing of ovarian responsiveness meet the criteria outlined in Aetna's **infertility** clinical policy

Aetna's National Infertility Unit

The first step to using your ART **covered services** is enrolling with our National Infertility Unit (NIU). Our NIU is here to help you. It is staffed by a dedicated team of registered nurses and **infertility** coordinators. They can help you with determining eligibility for benefits and can give you information about our **infertility** Institutes of Excellence™ facilities. They can also help your **provider** with **precertification**. You can call the NIU at 1-800-575-5999.

Your **network provider** will request approval from us in advance for your **infertility** services. If your **provider** is not a **network provider**, you are responsible to request approval from us in advance.

Fertility preservation

Fertility preservation involves the retrieval of mature eggs/sperm with or without the creation of embryos that are frozen for future use.

Covered services for fertility preservation are provided when:

- You are believed to be fertile
- You have planned services that are proven to result in **infertility** such as:
 - Chemotherapy or radiation therapy that is established in medical literature to result in **infertility**
 - Other gonadotoxic therapies
 - Removing the uterus
 - Removing both ovaries or testicles
- The eggs that will be retrieved for use are likely to result in a pregnancy by meeting the FSH level and ovarian responsiveness criteria outlined in Aetna's **infertility** clinical policy

Premature ovarian insufficiency

If your **infertility** has been diagnosed as premature ovarian insufficiency (POI), as described in our clinical policy bulletin, you are eligible for ART services using donor eggs/embryos through age 45 regardless of FSH level.

The following are not **covered services**:

- All charges associated with or in support of surrogacy arrangements for you or the surrogate. A surrogate is a female carrying her own genetically related child with the intention of the child being raised by someone else, including the biological father.
- Home ovulation prediction kits or home pregnancy tests.
- The purchase of donor embryos, donor eggs or donor sperm.
- The donor's care in a donor egg cycle. This includes, but is not limited to, screening fees, lab test fees and charges associated with donor care as part of donor egg retrievals or transfers.
- A gestational carrier's care, including transfer of the embryo to the carrier. A gestational carrier is a woman who has a fertilized egg from another woman placed in her uterus and who carries the resulting pregnancy on behalf of another person.
- Obtaining sperm from a person not covered under this plan.
- **Infertility** treatment when a successful pregnancy could have been obtained through less costly treatment.
- **Infertility** treatment when either partner has had voluntary sterilization **surgery**, with or without surgical reversal, regardless of post reversal results. This includes tubal ligation, hysterectomy and vasectomy only if obtained as a form of voluntary sterilization.
- **Infertility** treatment when **infertility** is due to a natural physiologic process such as age related ovarian insufficiency (e.g. perimenopause, menopause) as measured by an unmedicated FSH level at or above 19 on cycle day two or three of your menstrual period or other abnormal testing results as outlined in Aetna's **infertility** clinical policy.
- Treatment for dependent children, except for fertility preservation as described above.
- Injectable **infertility** medication, including but not limited to menotropins, hCG, and GnRH agonists.

Nutritional supplements

Eligible health services include formula, medical foods and low protein modified food products ordered by a **physician** for the treatment of phenylketonuria, an inherited disease of amino and organic acids, or inherited metabolic disorder, as defined under Arkansas law.

For purposes of this benefit, "low protein modified food product" means foods that are specifically formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving and are intended to be used under the direction of a **physician** for the dietary treatment of any inherited metabolic disease. Low protein modified food products do not include foods that are naturally low in protein.

Eligible health services are covered regardless of delivery method, whether enteral or oral, or sole source or supplemental.

Out of network expenses

If your plan includes in-network and out-of-network benefits, out-of-network benefits will always be provided if network services are covered and will be covered with no more than a 25% cost-sharing difference.

Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders

Covered services include diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, including the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

Pharmacy

All **prescriptions** and refills up to a 90 day supply may be filled at a **retail pharmacy** or a **mail order pharmacy**

Physical, occupational and speech therapies

Any copayment, coinsurance or deductible, or combination of, that applies to services provided by a licensed physical therapist, occupational therapist or speech-language pathologist, will be no greater than any copay, coinsurance or deductible amount that applies to any office visit to a licensed primary care physician or osteopath.

Prosthetic device

A prosthetic device is a device that temporarily or permanently replaces all or part of an external body part lost or impaired as a result of illness, injury or congenital defects.

Covered services include the initial provision and subsequent replacement of a prosthetic device that your **physician** orders and administers.

Coverage includes:

- Instruction and other services (such as attachment or insertion) so you can properly use the device
- Repairing or replacing the original device you outgrow or that is no longer appropriate because your physical condition changed
- Replacements required by ordinary wear and tear or damage

You may receive a prosthetic device as part of another **covered service** and therefore it will not be covered under this benefit.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Orthopedic shoes and therapeutic shoes, unless the orthopedic shoe is an integral part of a covered leg brace
- Trusses, corsets, and other support items
- Repair and replacement due to loss, misuse, abuse or theft

Reconstructive surgery and supplies

Covered services include all stages of reconstructive **surgery** by your **provider** and related supplies provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting only in the following circumstances:

- Your **surgery** is to implant or attach a covered prosthetic device.
- Your **surgery** corrects a gross anatomical defect present at birth. The **surgery** will be covered if:
 - The defect results in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part
 - Treatment is for a craniofacial disorder such as cleft lip or palate including orthodontic services, dental care, and vision care
 - Treatment is approved by a craniofacial team recognized by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association in Chapel Hill, NC.
 - The purpose of the **surgery** is to improve function
- Your **surgery** is needed because treatment of your illness resulted in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part, and your **surgery** will improve function.

Covered services also include the procedures or **surgery** to sound natural teeth, injured due to an accident and performed as soon as medically possible, when:

- The teeth were stable, functional and free from decay or disease at the time of the injury.
- The **surgery** or procedure returns the injured teeth to how they functioned before the accident.

These dental related services are limited to:

- The first placement of a permanent crown or cap to repair a broken tooth
- The first placement of dentures or bridgework to replace lost teeth
- Orthodontic therapy to pre-position teeth

Covered services also include a dehumidifier every 4 years, as deemed **medically necessary** by your **provider**.

Newborn screening for spinal muscular atrophy

The Preventative Care Section of the Schedule of Benefits has been updated to include a Newborn screening for spinal muscular atrophy. These services are reimbursed at 100% no deductible applies.

Newborn children

A newborn child - Your newborn child is covered on your health plan for the first 90 days after birth.

- To keep your newborn covered, we must receive your completed enrollment information within 90 days of birth.
- You must still enroll the child within 90 days of birth even when coverage does not require payment of an additional **premium** contribution for the covered dependent.
- If you miss this deadline, your newborn will not have health benefits after the first 90 days.

Telemedicine

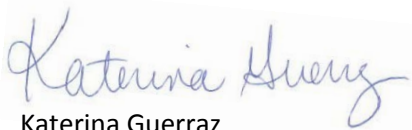
Covered services include **telemedicine** consultations when provided by a **physician, specialist, behavioral health provider** or other **telemedicine provider** acting within the scope of their license.

Covered services for **telemedicine** consultations are available from a number of different kinds of **providers** under your plan. Log in to your member website at <https://www.aetna.com/> to review our **telemedicine provider** listing and contact us to get more information about your options, including specific cost sharing amounts.

The following are not **covered services**:

- **Telemedicine** kiosks
- Electronic vital signs monitoring or exchanges (e.g. Tele-ICU, Tele-stroke)

This amendment makes no other changes to the group policy, booklet-certificate or schedule of benefits.



Katerina Guerraz
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer
Aetna Life Insurance Company
(A Stock Company)

Amendment: Arkansas Medical ET
Issue Date: September 6, 2024

Aetna Life Insurance Company

Extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment

Policyholder: Iota Community Schools

Group policy number: GP-0284189-F

Amendment effective date: July 1, 2024

This amendment is part of your booklet-certificate. It is effective on the date shown above and it replaces any other medical extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment you may have received before.

Important note: The following apply only if you live in Illinois. The benefits below will apply instead of those in your booklet-certificate unless the benefits in your booklet-certificate are better.

The following has been added to or replaced in the *Introduction* section of your booklet-certificate.

WARNING: LIMITED BENEFITS WILL BE PAID WHEN OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS ARE USED. When you choose to use the services of an **out-of-network provider** for an **eligible health service** in non-emergency situations, benefit payments to **out-of-network provider** are not based upon the amount billed. Your benefit payment will be based on the **recognized charge**.

YOU CAN EXPECT TO PAY MORE THAN THE COINSURANCE AMOUNT SHOWN IN THE SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS AFTER THE PLAN HAS PAID ITS PORTION. After the plan has paid its portion of the bill as provided in 215 ILCS 5/356z.3a, **out-of-network provider** may bill you for any amount up to the billed charge.

Other than **coinsurance** and **deductible**, **network providers** agree to accept discount payments for services without additional billing to you. You may obtain information about the participating status of professional providers and out-of-pocket expenses by calling the toll-free number on your ID card.

The following has been added to or replaced in the *Coverage and exclusions* section of your booklet-certificate.

Abortion

Covered services include services and supplies provided by a **physician** for an abortion

The following has been added to or replaced in the *Coverage and exclusions* section of your booklet-certificate.

Immunizations

Covered services include preventive immunizations for infectious diseases.

Doses, recommended ages and recommended population vary.

- Adults:
 - Herpes Zoster
 - Mumps
 - Rubella
- Adults and children from birth to age 18
 - Diphtheria
 - Hepatitis A
 - Hepatitis B
 - Human papillomavirus (HPV)
 - Influenza (flu shot)
 - Measles
 - Meningococcal
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Pneumococcal
 - Tetanus
 - Varicella (chickenpox)
 - Shingles if you are 60 **years** of age or over
- Children from birth to age 18:
 - Haemophilus influenza type b
 - Inactive poliovirus
 - Rotavirus

The following are not preventive **covered services**:

- Immunizations that are not considered preventive care, such as those required due to your employment or travel

Routine cancer screenings

Covered services include the following routine cancer screenings:

- Low dose mammography screening, for women age 35 and older, (including x-ray examination, digital mammography and breast tomosynthesis) for the presence of occult breast cancer as follows:
 - For women 35-39, a baseline mammogram
 - For women 40 years of age and older, annually
 - For women under 40, with a family or prior personal history of breast cancer, positive genetic testing, or other risk factors, at necessary age and intervals
 - Comprehensive ultrasound screening and MRI of the entire breast(s) when a mammogram demonstrates heterogenous or dense breast tissue, as determined by your **physician**
 - Screening MRI, as determined by your **physician**

- Annual digital rectal exams and prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests as recommended by your, **Physician, PCP**. This includes:
 - Asymptomatic men age 50 and older
 - African-American men age 40 and over
 - Men age 40 and over with family history of prostate cancer
 - Colorectal cancer screening for adults over 50
- Colonoscopies including pre-procedure **specialist** consultation, removal of polyps during a screening procedure, and a pathology exam on any removed polyp and a follow-up exam based on an initial screening
- Double contrast barium enemas (DCBE)
- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT)
- Lung cancer screenings: adults age 55-80 at high risk for lung cancer because they are heavy smokers or have quit in the past 15 years
- Sigmoidoscopies
- Pancreatic cancer screening when medically necessary

Well woman preventive visits

A routine well woman preventive exam is a medical exam given for a reason other than to diagnose or treat a suspected or identified illness or injury and also includes:

- Office visit to a **physician, PCP, OB, GYN or OB/GYN** for services including annual Pap smears including surveillance tests for ovarian cancer for women at risk for ovarian cancer.
- Preventive care breast cancer (BRCA) gene blood testing
- Clinical breast exams as follows:
 - For women over 20 **years** of age but less than 40, at least every 3 **years**
 - For women 40 **years** of age and older, annually
- Breast cancer chemoprevention counseling
- Cervical cancer screening for sexually active women
- Chlamydia infection screening for younger women and other women at higher risk
- HIV screening and counseling for sexually active women
- Osteoporosis screening for women over age 60 depending on risk factors
- Screening for diabetes after pregnancy for women with a history of diabetes during pregnancy
- Screening for urinary incontinence

Reconstructive breast surgery and supplies

Covered services include all stages of reconstructive **surgery** by your **provider** and related supplies provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting only in the following circumstances:

- Your **surgery** reconstructs the breast where a necessary mastectomy was performed, such as an implant and areolar reconstruction. It also includes:
 - **Surgery** on a healthy breast to make it symmetrical with the reconstructed breast
 - Treatment of physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedema or implant removal
 - Prostheses
 - A physician office visit or in-home nurse visit within 48 hours after discharge

Covered services also include **medically necessary** breast reduction **surgery**.

Reconstructive surgery and supplies

Covered services include all stages of reconstructive **surgery** by your **provider** and related supplies provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting only in the following circumstances:

- Your **surgery** is to implant or attach a covered prosthetic device.
- Your **surgery** corrects a gross anatomical defect present at birth. The **surgery** will be covered if:
 - The defect results in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part
 - The purpose of the **surgery** is to improve function
- Your **surgery** is needed because treatment of your illness resulted in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part, and your **surgery** will improve function.

Covered services also include the procedures or **surgery** to sound natural teeth, injured due to an accident and performed as soon as medically possible, when:

- The teeth were stable, functional and free from decay or disease at the time of the injury.
- The **surgery** or procedure returns the injured teeth to how they functioned before the accident.

These dental related services are limited to:

- The first placement of a permanent crown or cap to repair a broken tooth
- The first placement of dentures or bridgework to replace lost teeth
- Orthodontic therapy to pre-position teeth

The following has been added to or replaced in the *How your plan works, Precertification* section of your booklet-certificate.

Certain **prescription** drugs are covered under the medical plan when they are given to you by your doctor or health care facility. The following **precertification** information applies to these **prescription** drugs:

For certain drugs, your **provider** needs to get approval from us before we will cover the drug. The requirement for getting approval in advance guides appropriate use of certain drugs and makes sure they are **medically necessary**

Step therapy is a type of **precertification** where we require you to first try certain drugs to treat your medical condition before we will cover another drug for that condition.

Contact us or go online to get the most up-to-date **precertification** requirements and list of **step therapy** drugs.

Important note:

Precertification and **step therapy** requirements do not apply to FDA-approved **prescription** drugs used for the treatment of **substance related disorders**, other than those established by applicable criteria.

Requesting a medical exception

Sometimes you or your **provider** may ask for a medical exception to request coverage for a **prescription** drug that is:

- Not covered
- Discontinued (for reasons other than safety or drug manufacturer withdrawal)
- Ineffective in the treatment of your disease or medical condition
- Likely to be ineffective or adversely affect the drug's effectiveness or patient compliance based on:
 - Your known relevant physical and mental characteristics
 - The known characteristics of the drug regimen from a step therapy requirement or dosage limitation

You, someone who represents you or your **provider** can contact us. You will need to provide us with clinical documentation. We will process your request through our standard medical exception process within 72 hours of receipt. Any exception granted is based upon an individual and is a case-by-case decision that will not apply to other members. If the medical exception request is approved by us, you will receive coverage for the **prescription** drug according to the terms of your group policy.

You, someone who represents you or your **provider** may seek a quicker medical exception process to get coverage for non-covered drugs in an urgent situation. An urgent situation happens when you have a health condition that may seriously affect your life, health, or ability to get back maximum function or when you are going through a current course of treatment using a non-preferred drug. You, someone who represents you or your prescriber may submit a request for a quicker review for an urgent situation by:

- Contacting our Precertification Department at 1-855-582-2025
- Faxing the request to 1-855-330-1716
- Submitting the request in writing to CVS Health ATTN: Aetna PA, 1300 E Campbell Road Richardson, TX 75081

We will make a coverage determination within 24 hours after we receive your request and will tell you, someone who represents you and your **provider** of our decision. In the case of denial, we will provide you with:

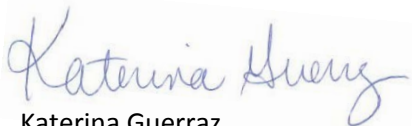
- The reason for the denial
- An alternate covered medication (if applicable)
- Information for submitting an appeal of the denial.

The following has been added to or replaced in the *How your plan works* section of your booklet-certificate.

Benefit payments and claims

If benefits are not paid within 30 days after proof of loss is received, the **network provider** is entitled to 9% interest. Interest will be calculated from the 30th day until the date the benefits are paid. However, interest less than \$1 may not be paid.

This amendment makes no other changes to the group policy, booklet-certificate or schedule of benefits.



Katerina Guerraz
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer
Aetna Life Insurance Company
(A Stock Company)

Amendment: Illinois Medical ET
Issue Date: September 6, 2024

Aetna Life Insurance Company

Extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment

Policyholder: Iota Community Schools

Group policy number: GP-0284189-F

Amendment effective date: July 1, 2024

This amendment is part of your booklet-certificate. It is effective on the date shown above and it replaces any other medical extraterritorial booklet-certificate amendment you may have received before.

Important note: The following apply only if you live in Mississippi. The benefits below will apply instead of those in your booklet-certificate unless the benefits in your booklet-certificate are better.

Retail Pharmacy

A **retail pharmacy** may be used for up to a 90 day supply of **prescription** drugs.

Timely payment of claims

1. All benefits payable under this policy for any loss, other than loss for which this policy provides any periodic payment, will be paid within twenty-five (25) days after receipt of due written proof of such loss in the form of a clean claim where claims are submitted electronically, and will be paid within thirty-five (35) days after receipt of due written proof of such loss in the form of a clean claim where claims are submitted in paper format. Benefits due under the policies and claims are overdue if not paid within twenty-five (25) days or thirty-five (35) days, whichever is applicable, after the insurer receives a clean claim containing necessary medical information and other information essential for the insurer to administer preexisting condition, coordination of benefits and subrogation provisions. A “clean claim” means a claim received by an insurer for adjudication and which requires no further information, adjustment or alteration by the provider of the services or the insured in order to be processed and paid by the insurer. A claim is clean if it has no defect or impropriety, including any lack of substantiating documentation, or particular circumstance requiring special treatment that prevents timely payment from being made on the claim under this provision. A clean claim includes resubmitted claims with previously identified deficiencies corrected. Errors, such as system errors, attributable to the insurer, do not change the clean claim status.

A clean claim does not include any other the following:

- a. A duplicate claim, which means an original claim and its duplicate when the duplicate is filed within thirty (30) days of the original claim;
- b. Claims which are submitted fraudulently or that are based upon material misrepresentations;
- c. Claims that require information essential for the insurer to administer preexisting condition, coordination of benefits or subrogation provisions; or
- d. Claims submitted by a provider more than thirty (30) days after the date of services; if the provider does not submit the claim on behalf of the insured, then a claim is not clean when submitted more than thirty (30) days after the date of billing by the provider to the insured.

Not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date the insurer actually receives an electronic claim, the insurer shall pay the appropriate benefit in full, or any portion of the claim that is clean, and notify the provider (where the claim is owed to the provider) or the insured (where the claim is owed to the insured) of the reasons why the claim or portion thereof is not clean and will not be paid and what substantiating documentation an information is required to adjudicate the claim as clean. Not later than thirty-five (35) days after the date the insurer actually receives a paper claim, the insurer shall pay the appropriate benefit in full, or any portion of the claim that is clean, and notify the provider (where the claim is owed to the provider) or the insured (where the claim is owed to the insured) of the reasons why the claim or portion thereof is not clan and will not be paid and what substantiating documentation an information is required to adjudicate the claim as clean. Any claim or portion thereof resubmitted with the supporting documentation and information requested by the insurer shall be paid within twenty (20) days after receipt.

For the purposes of this provision, the term "pay" means that the insurer shall either send cash or a cash equivalent by the Unites States mail, or send cash or a cash equivalent by other means such as electronic transfer, in full satisfaction of the appropriate benefit due the provider (where the claim is owed to the provider) or the insured (where the claim is owed to the insured). To calculate the extent to which any benefits are overdue, payment shall be treated as made on the date a draft or other valid instrument was placed in the United States mail to the last known address of the provider (where the claim is owed to the provider) or the insured (where the claim is owed to the insured) in a properly addressed, postpaid envelope, or if not so posted, or not send by United States mail, on the date of delivery of payment to the provider or the insured.

2. Subject to due written proof of loss, all accrued benefits for loss for which this policy provides periodic payment will be paid monthly, and any balance remaining unpaid upon the termination of liability will be paid within thirty (30) days after receipt of due written proof.
3. If the claim is not denied for valid and proper reasons by the end of the applicable time period prescribed in this provision, the insurer must pay the provider (where the claim is owed to the provider) or to the insured (where the claim is owed to the insured) interest on accrued benefits at the rate of three percent (3%) per month accruing from the day after payment was due on the amount of the benefits that remain unpaid until the claim is finally settled or adjudicated. Whenever interest due pursuant to this provision is less than One Dollar (\$1.00), such amount shall be credited to the account of the person or entity to whom such amount is owed.

In the event the insurer fails to pay benefit when due, the person entitled to such benefits may bring action to recover such benefits, any interests which may accrue as provided in subparagraph 3 of this paragraph (h) and any other damages as may be allowable by law. If it is determined in such action that the insurer acted in bad faith as evidenced by a repeated or deliberate pattern of failing to pay benefits and/or claims when due, the person entitled to such benefits (health care provider or insured) shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount up to three (3) times the amount of the benefits that remain unpaid until the claim is finally settled or adjudicated.

Payment of claims

Indemnity for loss of life will be payable in accordance with the beneficiary designation and the provisions respecting such payment which may be prescribed in this policy and effective at the time of payment. If no such designation or provision is then effective, such indemnity shall be payable to the estate of the insured. Any other accrued indemnities unpaid at the insured's death may, at the option of the insurer, be paid either to such beneficiary or to such estate. All other indemnities will be payable to the insured. When payments of benefits are made to an insured directly for medical care or services rendered by a health care provider, the health care provider shall be notified of such payment. If the insured provides the insurer with written direction that all or a portion of any indemnities or benefits provided by the policy be paid to a licensed health care provider rendering hospital, nursing, medical or surgical services, then the insurer shall pay directly the licensed health care provider rendering such services. That payment shall be considered payment in full to the **provider**, who may not bill or collect from the insured any amount above that payment, other than the deductible, coinsurance, copayment or other charges for equipment or services requested by the insured that are noncovered benefits.

Complaints, claim decisions and appeal procedures

The difference between a complaint and an appeal

Complaint

You may not be happy about a **provider** or an operational issue, and you may want to complain. You can contact us at any time. This is a complaint. Your complaint should include a description of the issue. You should include copies of any records or documents you think are important. We will review the information and give you a written response within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint. We will let you know if we need more information to make a decision.

Appeal

When we make a decision to deny services or reduce the amount of money we pay on your care or out-of-pocket expense, it is an adverse benefit determination. You can ask us to re-review that determination. This is an appeal. You can start an appeal process by contacting us.

Claim decisions and appeal procedures

Your **provider** may contact us at various times to make a claim, or to request approval for payment based on your benefits. This can be before you receive your benefit, while you are receiving benefits and after you have received the benefit. You may not agree with our decision. As we said in *Benefit payments and claims* in the *How your plan works* section, we pay many claims at the full rate, except for your share of the costs. But sometimes we pay only some of the claim. Sometimes we deny payment entirely.

Any time we deny even part of the claim, it is an "adverse benefit determination" or "adverse decision." For any adverse decision, you will receive an explanation of benefits in writing. You can ask us to review an adverse benefit determination. This is the internal appeal process. If you still don't agree, you can also appeal that decision.

Appeal of an adverse benefit determination

Urgent care or pre-service claim appeal

If your claim is an urgent claim or a pre-service claim, your **provider** may appeal for you without having to fill out an appeal form. We will give you an answer within 36 hours for an urgent appeal and within 15 calendar days for a pre-service appeal. A concurrent claim appeal will be addressed according to what type of service and claim it involves.

Any other claim appeal

You must file an appeal within 180 calendar days from the time you receive the notice of an adverse benefit determination.

You can appeal by sending a written appeal to the address on the notice of adverse benefit determination, or by contacting us. You need to include:

- Your name
- The policyholder's name
- A copy of the adverse benefit determination
- Your reasons for making the appeal
- Any other information you would like us to consider

We will assign your appeal to someone who was not involved in making the original decision. You will receive a decision within 30 calendar days for a post-service claim.

If you are still not satisfied with the answer, you may make a second internal appeal. You must present your appeal within 60 calendar days from the date you receive the notice of the first appeal decision.

Another person may submit an appeal for you, including a **provider**. That person is called an authorized representative. You need to tell us if you choose to have someone else appeal for you (even if it is your **provider**). You should fill out an authorized representative form telling us you are allowing someone to appeal for you. You can get this form on our website or by contacting us. The form will tell you where to send it to us. You can use an authorized representative at any level of appeal.

At your last available level of appeal, we will give you any new or additional information we may find and use to review your claim. There is no cost to you. We will give you the information before we give you our decision. This decision is called the final adverse benefit determination. You can respond to the information before we tell you what our final decision is.

External review

External review is a review done by people in an organization outside of Aetna. This is called an external review organization (ERO).

You have a right to external review only if all the following conditions are met:

- You have received an adverse benefit determination
- Our claim decision involved medical judgement
- We decided the service or supply is not **medically necessary**, not appropriate, or we decided the service or supply is **experimental or investigational**

If our claim decision is one for which you can seek external review, we will say that in the notice of adverse benefit determination or final adverse benefit determination we send you. That notice also will describe the external review process. It will include a copy of the request for external review form at the final adverse determination level.

You must submit the request for external review form:

- To the U.S. Office of Personnel Management
- Within 4 months of the date you received the decision from us
- With a copy of the notice from us, along with any other important information that supports your request

You will pay for any information that you send and want reviewed by the ERO. We will pay for information we send to the ERO plus the cost of the review.

The ERO will:

- Assign the appeal to one or more independent clinical reviewers that have proper expertise to do the review
- Consider appropriate credible information that you sent
- Follow our contractual documents and your plan of benefits
- Send notification of the decision within 45 calendar days of the date we receive your request form and all the necessary information

We will stand by the decision that the ERO makes, unless we can show conflict of interest, bias or fraud.

How long will it take to get an ERO decision?

We will give you the ERO decision not more than 45 calendar days after we receive your notice of external review form with all the information you need to send in.

Sometimes you can get a faster external review decision. Your **provider** must call us or send us a request for external review form.

There are two scenarios when you may be able to get a faster external review:

For initial adverse benefit determinations

- Your **provider** tells us a delay in receiving health care services would:
 - Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function
 - Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental or investigational** treatment)

For final adverse determinations

Your **provider** tells us a delay in receiving health care services would:

- Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function
- Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental or investigational** treatment), or
- The final adverse determination concerns an admission, availability of care, continued **stay** or health care service for which you received **emergency services**, but have not been discharged from a facility

If your situation qualifies for this faster review, you will receive a decision within 72 hours of us getting your request.

Utilization review

Prescription drugs covered under this plan are subject to misuse, waste or abuse utilization review by us, your **provider** or your network pharmacy. The outcome of the review may include:

- Limiting coverage of a drug to one prescribing **provider** or one network pharmacy
- Quantity, dosage or day supply limits
- Requiring a partial fill or denial of coverage

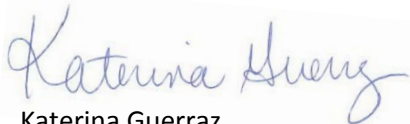
Recordkeeping

We will keep the records of all complaints and appeals for at least 10 years.

Fees and expenses

We do not pay any fees or expenses incurred by you in pursuing a complaint or appeal.

This amendment makes no other changes to the group policy, booklet-certificate or schedule of benefits.



Katerina Guerraz
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer
Aetna Life Insurance Company
(A Stock Company)

Amendment: Mississippi Medical ET
Issue Date: September 6, 2024