

Amendment to Your HMO Plan SPD

For Employees of: Middlesex County Joint Health Insurance Fund

Effective July 1, 2012, the following changes have been made to your Summary Plan Description (SPD):

1. The following section of Primary and Preventive Care Services replaces the section by the same name currently appearing in your Booklet.

Primary and Preventive Care	
PCP Office Visits	\$ 2 copay per visit
After Hours/Home Visits/Emergency Visits	\$ 5 copay per visit
Routine Examinations 1 visit per calendar year	\$ 0 copay per visit
Routine Child and Well-Baby Care	\$ 0 copay per visit
Immunizations	\$ 0 copay per visit
Routine Gynecological Exams - direct access (no referral) to participating providers for 1 visit per calendar year	\$ 0 copay per visit
Routine Mammogram - one annual mammogram for women age 40 and over	\$ 0 copay per visit
Prostate Screening - one annual prostate screening for men age 40 and over	\$ 0 copay per visit
Routine Eye Examinations - direct access (no referral) to participating providers for periodic routine exams	\$ 0 copay per visit

Claims and Appeals

Filing Health Claims under the Plan

Under the Plan, you may file claims for Plan benefits and appeal adverse claim determinations. Any reference to “you” in this Claims[, and] Appeals [and External Review] section includes you and your Authorized Representative. An "Authorized Representative" is a person you authorize, in writing, to act on your behalf. The Plan will also recognize a court order giving a person authority to submit claims on your behalf. In the case of an urgent care claim, a health care professional with knowledge of your condition may always act as your Authorized Representative.

If your claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a written notice of the denial from Aetna Life Insurance Company (Aetna). The notice will explain the reason for the denial and the appeal procedures available under the Plan.

Urgent Care Claims

An “Urgent Care Claim” is any claim for medical care or treatment for which the application of the time periods for making non-urgent care determinations could seriously jeopardize your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function, or, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of your medical condition, would subject you to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.

If the Plan requires advance approval of a service, supply or procedure before a benefit will be payable, and if Aetna or your physician determines that it is an Urgent Care Claim, you will be notified of the decision, whether adverse or not, as soon as possible but not later than 24 hours after the claim is received.

If there is not sufficient information to decide the claim, you will be notified of the information necessary to complete the claim as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim. You will be given a reasonable additional amount of time, but not less than 48 hours, to provide the information, and you will be notified of the decision not later than 48 hours after the end of that additional time period (or after receipt of the information, if earlier).

Other Claims (Pre-Service and Post-Service)

If the Plan requires you to obtain advance approval of a non-urgent service, supply or procedure before a benefit will be payable, a request for advance approval is considered a pre-service claim. You will be notified of the decision not later than 15 days after receipt of the pre-service claim.

For other claims (post-service claims), you will be notified of the decision not later than 30 days after receipt of the claim.

For either a pre-service or a post-service claim, these time periods may be extended up to an additional 15 days due to circumstances outside Aetna’s control. In that case, you will be notified of the extension before the end of the initial 15 or 30-day period. For example, they may be extended because you have not submitted sufficient information, in which case you will be notified of the specific information necessary and given an additional period of at least 45 days after receiving the notice to furnish that information. You will be notified of Aetna’s claim decision no later than 15 days after the end of that additional period (or after receipt of the information, if earlier).

For pre-service claims which name a specific claimant, medical condition, and service or supply for which approval is requested, and which are submitted to an Aetna representative responsible for handling benefit matters, but which otherwise fail to follow the Plan's procedures for filing pre-service claims, you will be notified of the failure within 5 days (within 24 hours in the case of an urgent care claim) and of the proper procedures to be followed. The notice may be oral unless you request written notification.

Ongoing Course of Treatment

If you have received pre-authorization for an ongoing course of treatment, you will be notified in advance if the previously authorized course of treatment is intended to be terminated or reduced so that you will have an opportunity to appeal any decision to Aetna and receive a decision on that appeal before the termination or reduction takes effect. If the course of treatment involves urgent care, and you request an extension of the course of treatment at least 24 hours before its expiration, you will be notified of the decision within 24 hours after receipt of the request.

Health Claims – Standard Appeals

As an individual enrolled in the Plan, you have the right to file an appeal from an Adverse Benefit Determination relating to service(s) you have received or could have received from your health care provider under the Plan.

An “Adverse Benefit Determination” is defined as a denial, reduction, termination of, or failure to, provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a service, supply or benefit. Such Adverse Benefit Determination may be based on:

- Your eligibility for coverage, including a retrospective termination of coverage (whether or not there is an adverse effect on any particular benefit);
- Coverage determinations, including plan limitations or exclusions;
- The results of any Utilization Review activities;
- A decision that the service or supply is **experimental or investigational**; or
- A decision that the service or supply is not **medically necessary**.

A “Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination” is defined as an Adverse Benefit Determination that has been upheld by the appropriate named fiduciary (Aetna) at the completion of the internal appeals process, or an Adverse Benefit Determination for which the internal appeals process has been exhausted.

Exhaustion of Internal Appeals Process

Generally, you are required to complete all appeal processes of the Plan before being able to [obtain External Review or] bring an action in litigation. However, if Aetna, or the Plan or its designee, does not strictly adhere to all claim determination and appeal requirements under applicable federal law, you are considered to have exhausted the Plan’s appeal requirements (“Deemed Exhaustion”) and may [proceed with External Review or may] pursue any available remedies under §502(a) of ERISA or under state law, as applicable.

Full and Fair Review of Claim Determinations and Appeals

Aetna will provide you, free of charge, with any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by Aetna (or at the direction of Aetna), or any new or additional rationale as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination is provided, to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.

You may file an appeal in writing to Aetna at the address provided in this booklet, or, if your appeal is of an urgent nature, you may call Aetna’s Member Services Unit at the toll-free phone number on the back of your ID card (also listed at the end of this booklet). Your request should include the group name (that is, your employer), your name, member ID, or other identifying information shown on the front of the Explanation of Benefits form, and any other comments, documents, records and other information you would like to have considered, whether or not submitted in connection with the initial claim.

An Aetna representative may call you or your health care provider to obtain medical records and/or other pertinent information in order to respond to your appeal.

You will have 180 days following receipt of an Adverse Benefit Determination to appeal the determination to Aetna. You will be notified of the decision not later than 15 days (for pre-service claims) or 30 days (for post-service claims) after the appeal is received. You may submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to your claim, whether or not the comments, documents, records or other information were submitted in connection with the initial claim. A copy of the specific rule, guideline or protocol relied upon in the Adverse Benefit Determination will be provided free of charge upon request by you or your Authorized Representative. You may also request that Aetna provide you, free of charge, copies of all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim.

If your claim involves urgent care, an expedited appeal may be initiated by a telephone call to the phone number included in your denial, or to Aetna’s Member Services. Aetna’s Member Services telephone number is on your Identification Card. You or your Authorized Representative may appeal urgent care claim denials either orally or in writing. All necessary information, including the appeal decision, will be communicated between you or your Authorized Representative and Aetna by telephone, facsimile, or other similar method. You will be notified of the decision not later than 36 hours after the appeal is received.

If you are dissatisfied with the appeal decision on an urgent care claim, you may file a second level appeal with Aetna. You will be notified of the decision not later than 36 hours after the appeal is received.

If you are dissatisfied with a pre-service or post-service appeal decision, you may file a second level appeal with Aetna within 60 days of receipt of the level one appeal decision. Aetna will notify you of the decision not later than 15 days (for pre-service claims) or 30 days (for post-service claims) after the appeal is received.

If you do not agree with the Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination on review, you have the right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA, if applicable

Issue Date: August 17, 2012