



## **YOUR GROUP INSURANCE PLAN BENEFITS**

**WHATNOT INC.**

**CLASS 0002**

**AD&D, DENTAL, LTD, LIFE, STD, VISION**

The enclosed certificate is intended to explain the benefits provided by the Plan. It does not constitute the Policy Contract. Your rights and benefits are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Policy, and your insurance is effective only if you are eligible for insurance and remain insured in accordance with its terms.

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000  
[www.GuardianAnytime.com](http://www.GuardianAnytime.com)

If Your Group Certificate includes any of the following coverages: Guardian Insured: Group Accident, Group Cancer, Group Critical Illness, Group Hospital Indemnity, Group Dental or Group Vision, the following consumer complaint notice is applicable. (Employer Funded Coverages, if any, are excluded from this Rider.)

**New Mexico Residents**  
**Consumer Complaint Notice**

If You are a resident of New Mexico, Your coverage will be administered in accordance with the minimum applicable standards of New Mexico law. If You have concerns regarding a claim, premium, or other matters relating to this coverage, You may file a complaint with the New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) using the complaint form available on the OSI website and found at:

<http://www.osi.stat.nm.us/ConsumerAssistance/index.aspx>

CCN-2019-NM

B999.0042



**You May not be covered by all options in this Certificate.**

This Certificate contains all the benefits and options that are available under the Policy. You are insured only for those benefits and options that you are eligible and enrolled for, and for which the required premium has been paid.

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**CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE**

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**The Guardian**

*10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001*

We, The Guardian, certify that the employee named below is entitled to the insurance benefits provided by The Guardian described in this certificate, provided the eligibility and effective date requirements of the plan are satisfied.

Group Policy No.	Certificate No.	Effective Date
Issued To		

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This CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE replaces any CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE previously issued under the above Plan or under any other Plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Planholder by The Guardian.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President



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**COMPLAINT NOTICE**

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This notice is to advise you that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance you may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:

**The Guardian Sales Office  
555 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600  
San Francisco, California 94111  
Telephone: (415) 788-4440  
(800) 832-9555  
Fax: (415) 788-4412**

If you feel your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian you may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address or phone number:

**Department of Insurance  
300 South Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90013**

**Consumer Hotline: 1-800-927-4357  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)**

## All Options

**Dental Services Not Covered By This Plan** **IMPORTANT:** If you opt to receive dental services that are not covered services under this plan, a participating dental provider may charge you his or her usual and customary rate for those services. Prior to providing a patient with dental services that are not a covered benefit, the dentist should provide to the patient a treatment plan that includes each anticipated service to be provided and the estimated cost of each service. If you would like more information about dental coverage options, you may call member services at 1-888-618-2016 or your insurance broker. To fully understand your coverage, you may wish to carefully review this evidence of coverage document.

CGP-3-CADISC

B120.0074

## All Options

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### GENERAL PROVISIONS

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As used in this booklet:

"Covered person" means an *employee* or a dependent insured by this *plan*.

"Employer" means the *employer* who purchased this *plan*.

"Our," "The Guardian," "us" and "we" mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

"Plan" means the Guardian *plan* of group insurance purchased by your *employer*.

"You" and "your" mean an *employee* insured by this *plan*.

CGP-3-R-GENPRO-90

B160.0012

## All Options

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### Limitation of Authority

No person, except by a writing signed by the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of The Guardian, has the authority to act for us to: (a) determine whether any contract, plan or certificate of insurance is to be issued; (b) waive or alter any provisions of any insurance contract or plan, or any requirements of The Guardian; (c) bind us by any statement or promise relating to any insurance contract issued or to be issued; or (d) accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

CGP-3-R-LOA-90

B160.0004

## All Options

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### Incontestability

This *plan* is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums.

No statement in any application, except a fraudulent statement, made by a person insured under this *plan* shall be used in contesting the validity of his insurance or in denying a claim for a loss incurred, or for a disability which starts, after such insurance has been in force for two years during his lifetime.

If this *plan* replaces a plan your *employer* had with another insurer, we may rescind the *employer's plan* based on misrepresentations made by the *employer* in a signed application for up to two years from the effective date of this *plan*.

CGP-3-R-INCY-96

B160.0061

## Dental Claims Provisions

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Your right to make a claim for any dental benefits provided by this *plan*, is governed as follows:

**Notice** You must send us written notice of an *injury* or *sickness* for which a claim is being made within 20 days of the date the *injury* occurs or the *sickness* starts. This notice should include your name and *plan* number. If the claim is being made for one of your *covered dependents*, his or her name should also be noted.

**Proof of Loss** We'll furnish you with forms for filing proof of loss within 15 days of receipt of notice. But if we don't furnish the forms on time, we'll accept a written description and adequate documentation of the *injury* or *sickness* that is the basis of the claim as proof of loss. You must detail the nature and extent of the loss for which the claim is being made. You must send us written proof within 90 days of the loss.

**Late Notice of Proof** We won't void or reduce your claim if you can't send us notice and proof of loss within the required time. But you must send us notice and proof as soon as reasonably possible.

**Payment of Benefits** We'll pay all dental benefits to which you're entitled as soon as we receive written proof of loss.

We pay all dental benefits to you, if you're living. If you're not living, we have the right to pay all dental benefits to one of the following: (a) your estate; (b) your spouse; (c) your parents; (d) your children; (e) your brothers and sisters; and (f) any unpaid provider of health care services.

When you file proof of loss, you may direct us, in writing, to pay dental benefits to the recognized provider of health care who provided the covered service for which benefits became payable. We may honor such direction at our option. But we can't tell you that a particular provider must provide such care. And you may not assign your right to take legal action under this *plan* to such provider.

**Limitations of Actions** You can't bring a legal action against this *plan* until 60 days from the date you file proof of loss. And you can't bring legal action against this *plan* after three years from the date you file proof of loss.

**Workers' Compensation** The dental benefits provided by this *plan* are not in place of, and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

CGP-3-R-AHC-90

B160.0058

### **Coordination Between Continuation Sections**

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A covered person may be eligible to continue his group health benefits under this plan's "Federal Continuation Rights" section and under other continuation sections of this plan at the same time. If he chooses to continue his group health benefits under more than one section, the continuations: (a) start at the same time; (b) run concurrently; and (c) end independently, on their own terms.

A covered person covered under more than one of this plan's continuation sections: (a) will not be entitled to duplicate benefits; and (b) will not be subject to the premium requirements of more than one section at the same time.

CGP-3-R-COC-87

B240.0044

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**An Important Notice About Continuation Rights**

The following "Federal Continuation Rights" section may not apply to the employer's plan. The employee must contact his employer to find out if: (a) the employer is subject to the "Federal Continuation Rights" section, and therefore; (b) the section applies to the employee.

CGP-3-R-NCC-87

B240.0064

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## YOUR CONTINUATION RIGHTS

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### Federal Continuation Rights

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**Important Notice** This notice contains important information about the right to continue group dental coverage. In addition to the continuation rights described below, other health coverage alternatives may be available through states' Health Insurance Marketplaces. Please read the information contained in this notice very carefully.

This section applies only to any dental, out-of-network point-of-service medical, major medical, prescription drug or vision coverages which are part of this plan. In this section, these coverages are referred to as "group health benefits."

This section does not apply to any coverages which apply to loss of life, or to loss of income due to disability. These coverages can not be continued under this section.

Under this section, "qualified continuee" means any person who, on the day before any event which would qualify him or her for continuation under this section, is covered for group health benefits under this plan as: (a) an active, covered employee; (b) the spouse of an active covered employee; or (c) the dependent child of an active, covered employee. A child born to, or adopted by, the covered employee during a continuation period is also a qualified continuee. Any other person who becomes covered under this plan during a continuation provided by this section is not a qualified continuee.

**Conversion** Continuing the group health benefits does not stop a qualified continuee from converting some of these benefits when continuation ends. But, conversion will be based on any applicable conversion privilege provisions of this plan in force at the time the continuation ends.

**If Your Group Health Benefits End** If your group health benefits end due to your termination of employment or reduction of work hours, you may elect to continue such benefits for up to 18 months, if you were not terminated due to gross misconduct.

The continuation: (a) may cover you or any other qualified continuee; and (b) is subject to "When Continuation Ends".

**Extra Continuation for Disabled Qualified Continuees** If a qualified continuee is determined to be disabled under Title II or Title XVI of the Social Security Act on or during the first 60 days after the date his or her group health benefits would otherwise end due to your termination of employment or reduction of work hours, and such disability lasts at least until the end of the 18 month period of continuation coverage, he or she or any member of that person's family who is a qualified continuee may elect to extend his or her 18 month continuation period explained above for up to an extra 11 months.



## Federal Continuation Rights (Cont.)

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To elect the extra 11 months of continuation, a qualified continuee must give your employer written proof of Social Security's determination of the disabled qualified continuee's disability as described in "The Qualified Continuee's Responsibilities". If, during this extra 11 month continuation period, the qualified continuee is determined to be no longer disabled under the Social Security Act, he or she must notify your employer within 30 days of such determination, and continuation will end, as explained in "When Continuation Ends."

This extra 11 month continuation is subject to "When Continuation Ends".

An additional 50% of the total premium charge also may be required from all qualified continuees who are members of the disabled qualified continuee's family by your employer during this extra 11 month continuation period, provided the disabled qualified continuee has extended coverage.

CGP-3-R-COBRA-96-1

B235.0631

### All Options

**If You Die While Insured** If you die while insured, any qualified continuee whose group health benefits would otherwise end may elect to continue such benefits. The continuation can last for up to 36 months, subject to "When Continuation Ends".

CGP-3-R-COBRA-96-2

B235.0075

### All Options

**If Your Marriage Ends** If your marriage ends due to legal divorce or legal separation, any qualified continuee whose group health benefits would otherwise end may elect to continue such benefits. The continuation can last for up to 36 months, subject to "When Continuation Ends".

**If a Dependent Child Loses Eligibility** If a dependent child's group health benefits end due to his or her loss of dependent eligibility as defined in this plan, other than your coverage ending, he or she may elect to continue such benefits. However, such dependent child must be a qualified continuee. The continuation can last for up to 36 months, subject to "When Continuation Ends".

**Concurrent Continuations** If a dependent elects to continue his or her group health benefits due to your termination of employment or reduction of work hours, the dependent may elect to extend his or her 18 month or 29 month continuation period to up to 36 months, if during the 18 month or 29 month continuation period, the dependent becomes eligible for 36 months of continuation due to any of the reasons stated above.

The 36 month continuation period starts on the date the 18 month continuation period started, and the two continuation periods will be deemed to have run concurrently.

## Federal Continuation Rights (Cont.)

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**Special Medicare Rule** If you become entitled to Medicare before a termination of employment or reduction of work hours, a special rule applies for a dependent. The continuation period for a dependent, after your later termination of employment or reduction of work hours, will be the longer of: (a) 18 months (29 months if there is a disability extension) from your termination of employment or reduction of work hours; or (b) 36 months from the date of your earlier entitlement to Medicare. If Medicare entitlement occurs more than 18 months before termination of employment or reduction of work hours, this special Medicare rule does not apply.

**The Qualified Continuee's Responsibilities** A person eligible for continuation under this section must notify your employer, in writing, of: (a) your legal divorce or legal separation from your spouse; (b) the loss of dependent eligibility, as defined in this plan, of an insured dependent child; (c) a second event that would qualify a person for continuation coverage after a qualified continuee has become entitled to continuation with a maximum of 18 or 29 months; (d) a determination by the Social Security Administration that a qualified continuee entitled to receive continuation with a maximum of 18 months has become disabled during the first 60 days of such continuation; and (e) a determination by the Social Security Administration that a qualified continuee is no longer disabled.

Notice of an event that would qualify a person for continuation under this section must be given to your employer by a qualified continuee within 60 days of the latest of: (a) the date on which an event that would qualify a person for continuation under this section occurs; (b) the date on which the qualified continuee loses (or would lose) coverage under this plan as a result of the event; or (c) the date the qualified continuee is informed of the responsibility to provide notice to your employer and this plan's procedures for providing such notice.

Notice of a disability determination must be given to your employer by a qualified continuee within 60 days of the latest of: (a) the date of the Social Security Administration determination; (b) the date of the event that would qualify a person for continuation; (c) the date the qualified continuee loses or would lose coverage; or (d) the date the qualified continuee is informed of the responsibility to provide notice to your employer and this plan's procedures for providing such notice. But such notice must be given before the end of the first 18 months of continuation coverage.

CGP-3-R-COBRA-96-3

B235.0178

## All Options

### **Your Employer's Responsibilities**

A qualified continuee must be notified, in writing, of: (a) his or her right to continue this plan's group health benefits; (b) the premium he or she must pay to continue such benefits; and (c) the times and manner in which such payments must be made.

Your employer must give notice of the following qualifying events to the plan administrator within 30 days of the event: (a) your death; (b) termination of employment (other than for gross misconduct) or reduction in hours of employment; (c) Medicare entitlement; or (d) if you are a retired employee, a bankruptcy proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code with respect to the employer. Upon receipt of notice of a qualifying event from your employer or from a qualified continuee, the plan administrator must notify a qualified continuee of the right to continue this plan's group health benefits no later than 14 days after receipt of notice.

If your employer is also the plan administrator, in the case of a qualifying event for which an employer must give notice to a plan administrator, your employer must provide notice to a qualified continuee of the right to continue this plan's group health benefits within 44 days of the qualifying event.

If your employer determines that an individual is not eligible for continued group health benefits under this plan, they must notify the individual with an explanation of why such coverage is not available. This notice must be provided within the time frame described above.

If a qualified continuee's continued group health benefits under this plan are cancelled prior to the maximum continuation period, your employer must notify the qualified continuee as soon as practical following determination that the continued group health benefits shall terminate.

### **Your Employer's Liability**

Your employer will be liable for the qualified continuee's continued group health benefits to the same extent as, and in place of, us, if: (a) he or she fails to remit a qualified continuee's timely premium payment to us on time, thereby causing the qualified continuee's continued group health benefits to end; or (b) he or she fails to notify the qualified continuee of his or her continuation rights, as described above.

### **Election of Continuation**

To continue his or her group health benefits, the qualified continuee must give your employer written notice that he or she elects to continue. This must be done by the later of: (a) 60 days from the date a qualified continuee receives notice of his or her continuation rights from your employer as described above; or (b) the date coverage would otherwise end. And the qualified continuee must pay his or her first premium in a timely manner.

The subsequent premiums must be paid to your employer, by the qualified continuee, in advance, at the times and in the manner specified by your employer. No further notice of when premiums are due will be given.

The premium will be the total rate which would have been charged for the group health benefits had the qualified continuee stayed insured under the group plan on a regular basis. It includes any amount that would have been paid by your employer. Except as explained in "Extra Continuation for Disabled Qualified Continuees", an additional charge of two percent of the total premium charge may also be required by your employer.

## Federal Continuation Rights (Cont.)

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If the qualified continuee fails to give your employer notice of his or her intent to continue, or fails to pay any required premiums in a timely manner, he or she waives his or her continuation rights.

**Grace in Payment of Premiums** A qualified continuee's premium payment is timely if, with respect to the first payment after the qualified continuee elects to continue, such payment is made no later than 45 days after such election. In all other cases, such premium payment is timely if it is made within 31 days of the specified due date. If timely payment is made to the plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the plan requires to be paid for the period of coverage, then the amount paid is deemed to satisfy the requirement for the premium that must be paid; unless your employer notifies the qualified continuee of the amount of the deficiency and grants an additional 30 days for payment of the deficiency to be made. Payment is calculated to be made on the date on which it is sent to your employer.

**When Continuation Ends** A qualified continuee's continued group health benefits end on the first of the following:

- (1) with respect to continuation upon your termination of employment or reduction of work hours, the end of the 18 month period which starts on the date the group health benefits would otherwise end;
- (2) with respect to a qualified continuee who has an additional 11 months of continuation due to disability, the earlier of: (a) the end of the 29 month period which starts on the date the group health benefits would otherwise end; or (b) the first day of the month which coincides with or next follows the date which is 30 days after the date on which a final determination is made that the disabled qualified continuee is no longer disabled under Title II or Title XVI of the Social Security Act;
- (3) with respect to continuation upon your death, your legal divorce, or legal separation, or the end of an insured dependent's eligibility, the end of the 36 month period which starts on the date the group health benefits would otherwise end;
- (4) the date the employer ceases to provide any group health plan to any employee;
- (5) the end of the period for which the last premium payment is made;
- (6) the date, after the date of election, he or she becomes covered under any other group health plan which does not contain any pre-existing condition exclusion or limitation affecting him or her; or
- (7) the date, after the date of election, he or she becomes entitled to Medicare.

CGP-3-R-COBRA-96-4

B235.0198

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## Uniformed Services Continuation Rights

If you enter or return from military service, you may have special rights under this *plan* as a result of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA").

If your group health benefits under this *plan* would otherwise end because you enter into active military service, this *plan* will allow you, or your dependents, to continue such coverage in accord with the provisions of USERRA. As used here, "group health benefits" means any dental, out-of-network point-of service medical, major medical, prescription drug or vision coverages which are part of this *plan*.

Coverage under this plan may be continued while you are in the military for up to a maximum period of 24 months beginning on the date of absence from work. Continued coverage will end if you fail to return to work in a timely manner after military service ends as provided under USERRA. You should contact your employer for details about this continuation provision including required premium payments.

CGP-3-R-COBRA-96-4

B235.0195

## All Options

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### ELIGIBILITY FOR DENTAL COVERAGE

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B489.0002

## All Options

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### Employee Coverage

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**Eligible Employees** To be eligible for *employee* coverage you must be an active *full-time employee*. And you must belong to a class of *employees* covered by this *plan*.

**Other Conditions** If you must pay all or part of the cost of *employee* coverage, we won't insure you until you enroll and agree to make the required payments. If you do this: (a) more than 31 days after you first become eligible; or (b) after you previously had coverage which ended because you failed to make a required payment, we consider you to be a late entrant.

If you initially waived dental coverage under this *plan* because you were covered under another group *plan*, and you now elect to enroll in the dental coverage under this *plan*, the Penalty for Late Entrants provision will not apply to you with regard to dental coverage provided your coverage under the other *plan* ends due to one of the following events: (a) termination of your spouse's employment; (b) loss of eligibility under your spouse's *plan*; (c) divorce; (d) death of your spouse; or (e) termination of the other *plan*.

But you must enroll in the dental coverage under this *plan* within 30 days of the date that any of the events described above occur.

CGP-3-EC-90-1.0

B489.0122

## All Options

**When Your Coverage Starts** *Employee* benefits are scheduled to start on your effective date.

But you must be actively at work on a *full-time* basis on the scheduled effective date. And you must have met all of the applicable conditions explained above, and any applicable waiting period. If you are not actively at work on the date your insurance is scheduled to start, we will postpone your coverage until the date you return to active *full-time* work.

Sometimes, your effective date is not a regularly scheduled work day. But coverage will still start on that date if you were actively at work on a *full-time* basis on your last regularly scheduled work day.

CGP-3-EC-90-2.0

B489.0070

## All Options

**When Your Coverage Ends** Your coverage ends on the last day of the month in which your active *full-time* service ends for any reason, other than disability. Such reasons include retirement, layoff, leave of absence and the end of employment.

Your coverage ends on the date you die.

It also ends on the date you stop being a member of a class of *employees* eligible for insurance under this *plan*, or when this *plan* ends for all *employees*. And it ends when this *plan* is changed so that benefits for the class of *employees* to which you belong ends.

If you are required to pay all or part of the cost of this coverage and you fail to do so, your coverage ends. It ends on the last day of the period for which you made the required payments, unless coverage ends earlier for other reasons.

Read this booklet carefully if your coverage ends. You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time.

CGP-3-EC-90-3.0

B489.0738

### All Options

## Your Right To Continue Group Coverage During A Family Leave Of Absence

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**Important Notice** This section may not apply. You must contact your *employer* to find out if your *employer* must allow for a leave of absence under federal law. In that case the section applies.

**If Your Group Coverage Would End** Group coverage may normally end for an *employee* because he or she ceases work due to an approved leave of absence. But, the *employee* may continue his or her group coverage if the leave of absence has been granted: (a) to allow the *employee* to care for a seriously injured or ill spouse, child, or parent; (b) after the birth or adoption of a child; (c) due to the *employee's* own serious health condition; or (d) because of any serious injury or illness arising out of the fact that a spouse, child, parent, or next of kin, who is a covered servicemember, of the *employee* 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. The *employee* will be required to pay the same share of the premium as he or she paid before the leave of absence.

**When Continuation Ends** Coverage may continue until the earliest of the following:

- The date you return to active work.
- The end of a total leave period of 26 weeks in one 12 month period, in the case of an *employee* who cares for a covered servicemember. This 26 week total leave period applies to all leaves granted to the *employee* under this section for all reasons.
- The end of a total leave period of 12 weeks in: (a) any 12 month period, in the case of any other *employee*; or (b) any later 12 month period in the case of an *employee* who cares for a covered servicemember.
- The date on which your coverage would have ended had you not been on leave.

## Your Right To Continue Group Coverage During A Family Leave Of Absence (Cont.)

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- The end of the period for which the premium has been paid.

**Definitions** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below:

- **Active Duty:** This term means duty under a call or order to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- **Contingency Operation:** This term means a military operation that: (a) is designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which members of the armed forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force; or (b) results in the call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services under any provision of law during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.
- **Covered Servicemember:** This term means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who for a serious injury or illness: (a) is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; (b) is otherwise in outpatient status; or (c) is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list.
- **Next Of Kin:** This term means the nearest blood relative of the *employee*.
- **Outpatient Status:** This term means, with respect to a covered servicemember, that he or she is assigned to: (a) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or (b) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.
- **Serious Injury Or Illness:** This term means, in the case of a covered servicemember, an injury or illness incurred by him or her in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render him or her medically unfit to perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating.

**Coverage During a Temporary Leave** If your active full-time service ends because you are disabled by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition you may continue your coverage for up to four months during any twelve consecutive months.

Your employer may recover from you any premium paid if: 1) you fail to return from leave after four months; and 2) your failure to return is for a reason other than one of the following: (a) your taking leave under the Moore-Brown-Roberti Family Rights Act; (b) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a health condition that entitles you to leave is beyond your control; or (c) if your employer is a state agency, the collective bargaining agreement will govern.

CGP-3-EC-90-3.0

B489.0628



## All Options

### Dependent Coverage

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B200.0271

## All Options

<b>Eligible Dependents For Dependent Dental Benefits</b>	Your <i>eligible dependents</i> are: (a) your legal spouse; (b) your dependent children who are under age 26.  CGP-3-DEP-90-2.0	B489.0460
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## All Options

<b>Adopted Children And Step-Children</b>	Your "dependent children" include your legally adopted children and, your step-children.
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We treat a child as legally adopted from the time the child is placed in your physical custody for the purpose of adoption. We treat such a child this way whether or not a final adoption order is ever issued. We cover your adopted child from the moment of his or her placement if you are already covered for dependent child coverage when the child is placed for adoption. If you do not have dependent coverage when the child is placed for adoption, we cover the child for the first 31 days from the moment of his or her placement. To continue the child's coverage past the 31 days, you must enroll the child and agree to make any required premium payments within 31 days of the date of placement. If you fail to do this, the child's coverage will end at the end of the 31 days. The child won't be covered by this plan again until you enroll the child. Then the child will be covered as of the date you sign the enrollment form and will be a late entrant and subject to any applicable late entrant penalties.

If this plan has pre-existing restrictions, they will not apply to a minor child adopted by you after this plan starts.

<b>Dependents Not Eligible</b>	We exclude any dependent who is insured by this plan as an employee. And we exclude any dependent who is on active duty in any armed force.  CGP-3-DEP-90-3.1	B489.0499
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## All Options

**Handicapped Children** You may have an unmarried child with a mental or physical handicap, or developmental disability, who can't support himself or herself. Subject to all of the terms of this coverage and the *plan*, such a child may stay eligible for dependent benefits past this coverage's age limit.

The child will stay eligible as long as he or she stays unmarried and unable to support himself or herself, if: (a) his or her conditions started before he or she reached this coverage's age limit; (b) he or she became insured by this coverage before he or she reached the age limit, and stayed continuously insured until he or she reached such limit; and (c) he or she depends on you for most of his or her support and maintenance.

But, for the child to stay eligible, you must send us written proof that the child is handicapped and depends on you for most of his or her support and maintenance. You have 31 days from the date the child reaches the age limit to do this. We can ask for periodic proof that the child's condition continues. But, after two years, we can't ask for this proof more than once a year.

The child's coverage ends when yours does.

CGP-3-DEP-90-4.0

B449.0042

## All Options

**Waiver Of Dental Late Entrants Penalty** If you initially waived dental coverage for your spouse or eligible dependent children under this plan because they were covered under another group plan, and you now elect to enroll them in the dental coverage under this plan, the Penalty for Late Entrants provision will not apply to them with regard to dental coverage provided their coverage under the other plan ends due to one of the following events: (a) termination of your spouse's employment; (b) loss of eligibility under your spouse's plan; (c) divorce; (d) death of your spouse; or (e) termination of the other plan.

But you must enroll your spouse or eligible dependent children in the dental coverage under this plan within 30 days of the date that any of the events described above occur.

In addition, the Penalty for Late Entrants provision for dental coverage will not apply to your spouse or eligible dependent children if: (a) you are under legal obligation to provide dental coverage due to a court-order; and (b) you enroll them in the dental coverage under this plan within 30 days of the issuance of the court-order.

CGP-3-DEP-90-5.0

B200.0749

## All Options

**When Dependent Coverage Starts** In order for your dependent coverage to begin you must already be insured for employee coverage or enroll for employee and dependent coverage at the same time. Subject to the "Exception" stated below and to all of the terms of this plan, the date your dependent coverage starts depends on when you elect to enroll your initial *dependents* and agree to make any required payments.

If you do this on or before your eligibility *date*, the dependent's coverage is scheduled to start on the later of your eligibility *date* and the date you become insured for employee coverage.

If you do this within the *enrollment period*, the coverage is scheduled to start on the date you become insured for employee coverage.

If you do this after the *enrollment period* ends, each of your initial *dependents* is a late entrant and is subject to any applicable late entrant penalties. The dependent's coverage is scheduled to start on the date you sign the enrollment form.

Once you have dependent coverage for your initial *dependents*, you must notify us when you acquire any new dependents and agree to make any additional payments required for their coverage.

If you do this within 31 days of the date the newly *acquired dependent* becomes eligible, the dependent's coverage will start on the date the dependent first becomes eligible. If you fail to notify us on time, the newly *acquired dependent*, when enrolled, is a late entrant and is subject to any applicable late entrant penalties. The late entrant's coverage is scheduled to start on the date you sign the enrollment form.

CGP-3-DEP-90-6.0

B489.0252

## All Options

**Exception** If a dependent, other than a newborn child, is confined to a *hospital* or other health care facility; or is home-confined; or is unable to carry out the normal activities of someone of like age and sex on the date his dependent benefits would otherwise start, we will postpone the effective date of such benefits until the day after his discharge from such facility; until home confinement ends; or until he resumes the normal activities of someone of like age and sex.

CGP-3-DEP-90-7.0

B200.0692

## All Options

**Newborn Children** We cover your newborn child from the moment of birth if you are already covered for dependent child coverage when the child is born. If you do not have dependent coverage when the child is born, we cover the child for the first 31 days from the moment of his or her birth. To continue the child's coverage past the 31 days, you must enroll the child and agree to make any required premium payments within 31 days of the date the child is born. If you fail to do this, the child's coverage will end at the end of the 31 days. The child won't be covered by this plan again until you enroll the child. Then the child will be covered as of the date you sign the enrollment form and will be a late entrant and subject to any applicable late entrant penalties.

CGP-3-DEP-90-8.0

B489.0232

## All Options

**When Dependent Coverage Ends** Dependent coverage ends for all of your dependents when your coverage ends. But if you die while insured, we'll automatically continue dependent benefits for those of your dependents who were insured when you died. We'll do this for six months at no cost, provided: (a) the group plan remains in force; (b) the dependents remain *eligible dependents*; and (c) in the case of a spouse, the spouse does not remarry.

If a surviving dependent elects to continue his or her dependent benefits under this *plan's* "Federal Continuation Rights" provision, or under any other continuation provision of this *plan*, if any, this free continuation period will be provided as the first six months of such continuation. Premiums required to be paid by, or on behalf of a surviving dependent will be waived for the first six months of continuation, subject to restrictions (a), (b) and (c) above. After the first six months of continuation, the remainder of the continuation period, if any, will be subject to the premium requirements, and all of the terms of the "Federal Continuation Rights" or other continuation provisions.

Dependent coverage also ends for all of your dependents when you stop being a member of a class of *employees* eligible for such coverage. And it ends when this *plan* ends, or when dependent coverage is dropped from this *plan* for all *employees* or for an *employee's* class.

If you are required to pay all or part of the cost of dependent coverage, and you fail to do so, your dependent coverage ends. It ends on the last day of the period for which you made the required payments, unless coverage ends earlier for other reasons.

An individual dependent's coverage ends when he or she stops being an *eligible dependent*. This happens to a child on the last day of the month in which the child attains this coverage's age limit.

CGP-3-DEP-90-9.0

B489.0909

## All Options

It happens to a spouse on the last day of the month in which a marriage ends in legal divorce or annulment.

Read this *plan* carefully if dependent coverage ends for any reason. Dependents may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time.

CGP-3-DEP-90-9.0

B489.1153

## All Options

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### DENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

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This page provides a quick guide to some of the Dental Expense Insurance *plan* features which people most often want to know about. But it's not a complete description of your Dental Expense Insurance *plan*. Read the following pages carefully for a complete explanation of what we pay, limit and exclude.

- **Benefit Year Cash Deductible for Non-Orthodontic Services**

For Group I Services . . . . .	None
For Group II and III Services . . . . .	\$50.00
	for each covered person

CGP-3-DENT-HL-90

B497.0075

## All Options

- **Payment Rates:**

For Group I Services . . . . .	100%
For Group II Services . . . . .	80%
For Group III Services . . . . .	50%
For Group IV Services . . . . .	50%

CGP-3-DENT-HL-90

B497.0086

## Option B

- **Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services**

For Group I, II and III Services . . . . .	Up to \$2,000.00
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- **Lifetime Payment Limit for Orthodontic Treatment**

For Group IV Services . . . . .	Up to \$1,500.00
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**Note:** A covered person may be eligible for a rollover of a portion of his or her unused Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services. See "Rollover of Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services" for details.

CGP-3-DENT-HL-90

B497.1432

## Option D

- **Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services**

For Group I, II and III Services . . . . .	Up to \$5,000.00
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- **Lifetime Payment Limit for Orthodontic Treatment**

For Group IV Services . . . . .	Up to \$1,500.00
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**Note:** A covered person may be eligible for a rollover of a portion of his or her unused Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services. See "Rollover of Benefit Year Payment Limit for Non-Orthodontic Services" for details.

CGP-3-DENT-HL-90

B497.1432

## All Options

Once each year, during the group enrollment period, you may elect to enroll in one of the dental expense *plan* options offered by your employer. The group enrollment period is a time period agreed to by your employer and us. Coverage starts on the first day of the month that next follows the date of enrollment. You and your eligible dependents are not subject to late entrant penalties if they enroll during the group enrollment period.

Once each year, during a special election period you may select to transfer to another dental expense plan option offered by your employer. The special election period is a time period agreed to by your employer and us. Coverage under the new plan option starts on the first day of the month that follows election. Coverage under the former plan option ends on that date.

The group enrollment period and the special election periods are time periods agreed to by your employer and us. Such open enrollment period and special election period may occur during the same time period.

CGP-3-DENT-HLTS

B497.2409

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## DENTAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

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This insurance will pay many of a *covered person's* dental expenses. *We* pay benefits for covered charges incurred by a *covered person*. What *we* pay and terms for payment are explained below.

CGP-3-DG2000

B498.0007

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### Covered Charges

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Covered charges are reasonable and customary charges for the dental services named in this *plan's* List of Covered Dental Services. To be covered by this *plan*, a service must be: (a) necessary; (b) appropriate for a given condition; and (c) included in the List of Covered Dental Services.

*We* may use the professional review of a *dentist* to determine the appropriate benefit for a dental procedure or course of treatment.

By reasonable, *we* mean the charge is the *dentist's* usual charge for the service furnished. By customary, *we* mean the charge made for the given dental condition isn't more than the usual charge made by most other *dentists*. But, in no event will the covered charge be greater than the 90th percentile of the prevailing fee data for a particular service in a geographic area.

When certain comprehensive dental procedures are performed, other less extensive procedures may be performed prior to, at the same time or at a later date. For benefit purposes under this *plan*, these less extensive procedures are considered to be part of the more comprehensive procedure. Even if the *dentist* submits separate bills, the total benefit payable for all related charges will be limited to the maximum benefit payable for the more comprehensive procedure. For example, osseous surgery includes the procedure scaling and root planing. If the scaling and root planing is performed one or two weeks prior to the osseous surgery, *we* may only pay benefits for the osseous surgery.

*We* only pay benefits for covered charges incurred by a *covered person* while he or she is insured by this *plan*. A covered charge for a crown, bridge or cast restoration is incurred on the date the tooth is initially prepared. A covered charge for any other *dental prosthesis* is incurred on the date the first master impression is made. A covered charge for root canal treatment is incurred on the date the pulp chamber is opened. A covered charge for *orthodontic treatment* is incurred on the date the *active orthodontic appliance* is first placed. All other covered charges are incurred on the date the services are furnished. If a service is started while a *covered person* is insured, *we'll* only pay benefits for services which are completed within 31 days of the date his or her coverage under this *plan* ends.

CGP-3-DGY2K-CC

B498.0069

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### Alternate Treatment

If more than one type of service can be used to treat a dental condition, we have the right to base benefits on the least expensive service which is within the range of professionally accepted standards of dental practice as determined by *us*. For example, in the case of bilateral multiple adjacent teeth, or multiple missing teeth in both quadrants of an arch, the benefit will be based on a removable partial denture.

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### Proof Of Claim

So that we may pay benefits accurately, the *covered person* or his or her *dentist* must provide *us* with information that is acceptable to *us*. This information may, at *our* discretion, consist of radiographs, study models, periodontal charting, narratives or other diagnostic materials that document *proof of claim* and support the necessity of the proposed treatment. If we don't receive the necessary information, we may pay no benefits, or minimum benefits. However, if we receive the necessary information within 15 months of the date of service, we will redetermine the *covered person's* benefits based on the new information.

CGP-3-DGY2K-AT

B498.1141

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### Pre-Treatment Review

When the expected cost of a proposed course of treatment is \$300.00 or more, the *covered person's dentist* should send us a treatment plan before he or she starts. This must be done on a form acceptable to *Guardian*. The treatment plan must include: (a) a list of the services to be done, using the American Dental Association Nomenclature and codes; (b) the itemized cost of each service; and (c) the estimated length of treatment. In order to evaluate the treatment plan, dental radiographs, study models and whatever else will document the necessity of the proposed course of treatment, must be sent to *us*.

A treatment plan should always be sent to us before orthodontic treatment starts.

We review the treatment plan and estimate what we will pay. We will send the estimate to the covered person and/or the covered person's dentist. If the treatment plan is not consistent with accepted standards of dental practice, or if one is not sent to us, we have the right to base our benefit payments on treatment appropriate to the covered person's condition using accepted standards of dental practice.



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## Pre-Treatment Review (Cont.)

The covered person and his or her dentist have the opportunity to have services or a treatment plan reviewed before treatment begins. Pre-treatment review is not a guarantee of what we will pay. It tells the covered person, and his or her dentist, in advance, what we would pay for the covered dental services listed in the treatment plan. But, payment is conditioned on: (a) the services being performed as proposed and while the covered person is insured; and (b) the deductible, payment rate and payment limits provisions, and all of the other terms of this plan.

Emergency treatment, oral examinations, evaluations, dental radiographs and teeth cleaning are part of a course of treatment, but may be done before the pre-treatment review is made.

We won't deny or reduce benefits if pre-treatment review is not done. But what we pay will be based on the availability and submission of proof of claim.

CGP-3-DGY2K-PTR

B498.0003

### All Options

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## Benefits From Other Sources

Other plans may furnish benefits similar to the benefits provided by this *plan*. For instance, you may be covered by this *plan* and a similar plan through your spouse's employer. You may also be covered by this *plan* and a medical plan. In such instances, we coordinate *our* benefits with the benefits from that other plan. *We* do this so that no one gets more in benefits than the charges he or she incurs. Read "Coordination of Benefits" to see how this works.

CGP-3-DGY2K-OS

B498.0005

### All Options

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## The Benefit Provision - Qualifying For Benefits

CGP-3-DGY2K-BEN

B498.0072

### All Options

**Penalty For Late Entrants** During the first 6 months that a late entrant is covered by this *plan*, we won't pay for the following services:

- All Group II Services.

During the first 12 months a late entrant is covered by this *plan*, we won't pay for the following services:

- All Group III Services.

During the first 24 months a late entrant is covered by this *plan*, we won't pay for the following services:

- All Group IV Services.

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## The Benefit Provision - Qualifying For Benefits (Cont.)

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Charges for the services we don't cover under this provision are not considered to be covered charges under this *plan*, and therefore can't be used to meet this *plan's* deductibles.

We don't apply a late entrant penalty to covered charges incurred for services needed solely due to an *injury* suffered by a *covered person* while insured by this *plan*.

A late entrant is a person who: (a) becomes covered by this dental *plan* more than 31 days after he or she is eligible; or (b) becomes covered again, after his or her coverage lapsed because he or she did not make required payments.

CGP-3-DGY2K-LE

B498.0231

### All Options

#### How We Pay Benefits For Group I, II And III Non-Orthodontic Services

There is no deductible for Group I services. We pay for Group I covered charges at the applicable *payment rate*.

A *benefit year* deductible of \$50.00 applies to Group II and III services. Each *covered person* must have covered charges from these service groups which exceed the deductible before we pay him or her any benefits for such charges. These charges must be incurred while the *covered person* is insured.

Once a *covered person* meets the deductible, we pay for his or her Group II and III covered charges above that amount at the applicable *payment rate* for the rest of that *benefit year*.

CGP-3-DGY2K-BP

B498.0187

### Option B

All covered charges must be incurred while insured. And we limit what we pay each benefit year to \$2,000.00.

CGP-3-DGY2K-BP

B498.0192

### Option D

All covered charges must be incurred while insured. And we limit what we pay each benefit year to \$5,000.00.

CGP-3-DGY2K-BP

B498.0192

### All Options

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## The Benefit Provision - Qualifying For Benefits

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A *covered person* may be eligible for a rollover of a portion of his or her unused *benefit year* payment limit for Group I, II and III Non-Orthodontic Services. See "Rollover of Benefit Year Payment Limit for Group I, II and III Services" for details.

CGP-3-DG-ROLL-04-2.1

B498.2041

### **Rollover of Benefit Year Payment Limit for Group I, II and III Non-Orthodontic Services**

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A *covered person* may be eligible for a rollover of a portion of his or her unused *benefit year* payment limit for Group I, II and III Non-Orthodontic Services as follows:

If a *covered person* submits at least one claim for covered charges during a *benefit year* and, in that *benefit year*, receives benefits that are in excess of any deductible or co-pay fees, and that, in total, do not exceed the *Rollover Threshold*, he or she may be entitled to a *Reward*.

*Rewards* can accrue and are stored in the *covered person's Bank*. If a *covered person* reaches his or her *benefit year* payment limit for Group I, II and III Non-Orthodontic Services, we pay benefits up to the amount stored in the *covered person's Bank*. The amount of *Reward* stored in the *Bank* may not be greater than the *Bank Maximum*.

A *covered person's Bank* may be eliminated, and the accrued *Reward* lost, if he or she has a break in coverage of any length of time, for any reason.

The amounts of this plan's *Rollover Threshold*, *Reward*, and *Bank Maximum* are:

- *Rollover Threshold* . . . . . \$800.00
- *Reward* . . . . . \$400.00
- *Bank Maximum* . . . . . \$1,500.00

If this plan's dental coverage first becomes effective in October, November or December, this rollover provision will not apply until January 1 of the first full *benefit year*. And, if the effective date of a *covered person's* dental coverage is in October, November or December, this rollover provision will not apply to the *covered person* until January 1 of the next full *benefit year*. In either case:

- only claims incurred on or after January 1 will count toward the *Rollover Threshold*; and
- *Rewards* will not be applied to a *covered person's Bank* until the *benefit year* that starts one year from the date the rollover provision first applies.

If charges for any dental services are not payable for a *covered person* for a period set forth in the provisions of this *plan* called Penalty for Late Entrants and Waiting Periods for Certain Services, this rollover provision will not apply to the *covered person* until the end of such period. And, if such period ends within the three months prior to the start of this plan's next *benefit year*, this rollover provision will not apply to the *covered person* until the next *benefit year*, and:

- only claims incurred on or after the start of the next *benefit year* will count toward the *Rollover Threshold*; and

## Rollover of Benefit Year Payment Limit for Group I, II and III Non-Orthodontic Services (Cont.)

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- *Rewards* will not be applied to a *covered person's Bank* until the *benefit year* that starts one year from the date the rollover provision first applies.

Definitions of terms used in this provision:

*"Bank"* means the amount of a *covered person's* accrued *Reward*.

*"Bank Maximum"* means the maximum amount of *Reward* that a *covered person* can store in his or her *Bank*.

*"Reward"* means the dollar amount which may be added to a *covered person's Bank* when he or she receives benefits in a *benefit year* that do not exceed the *Rollover Threshold*.

*"Rollover Threshold"* means the maximum amount of benefits that a *covered person* can receive during a *benefit year* and still be entitled to receive a *Reward*.

CGP-3-DG-ROLL-04-2

B498.9149

### All Options

#### How We Pay Benefits For Group IV Orthodontic Services

This *plan* provides benefits for Group IV orthodontic services.

We pay for Group IV covered charges at the applicable *payment rate*.

Using the *covered person's* original treatment *plan*, we calculate the total benefit we will pay. We divide the benefit into equal payments, which we will spread out over the shorter of: (a) the proposed length of treatment; or (b) two years.

We make the initial payment when the *active orthodontic appliance* is first placed. We make further payments at the end of each subsequent three month period, upon receipt of verification of ongoing treatment. But, treatment must continue and the *covered person* must remain covered by this *plan*. We limit what we pay for orthodontic services to the lifetime payment of \$1,500.00. What we pay is based on all of the terms of this *plan*.

We don't pay for orthodontic charges incurred by a *covered person* prior to being covered by this *plan*. We limit what we pay for *orthodontic treatment* started prior to a *covered person* being covered by this *plan* to charges determined to be incurred by the *covered person* while covered by this *plan*. Based on the original treatment *plan*, we determine the portion of charges incurred by the *covered person* prior to being covered by this *plan*, and deduct them from the total charges. What we pay is based on the remaining charges. We limit what we consider of the proposed treatment *plan* to the shorter of the proposed length of treatment, or two years from the date the *orthodontic treatment* started.

The benefits we pay for *orthodontic treatment* won't be charged against a *covered person's benefit year* payment limits that apply to all other services.

CGP-3-DGY2K-OR

B498.0059

All Options

**Non-Orthodontic Family Deductible Limit** A *covered family* must meet no more than three individual *benefit year* deductibles in any *benefit year*. Once this happens, we pay benefits for covered charges incurred by any *covered person* in that *covered family*, at the applicable *payment rate* for the rest of that *benefit year*. The charges must be incurred while the person is insured. What we pay is based on this *plan's payment limits* and to all of the terms of this *plan*.

CGP-3-DGY2K-FL B498.0073

All Options

**Payment Rates** Benefits for covered charges are paid at the following *payment rates*:

- Benefits for Group I Services . . . . . 100%
- Benefits for Group II Services . . . . . 80%
- Benefits for Group III Services . . . . . 50%
- Benefits for Group IV Services . . . . . 50%

CGP-3-DGY2K-PR B498.0084

All Options

After This Insurance Ends

We don't pay for charges incurred after a *covered person's* insurance ends. But, subject to all of the other terms of this *plan*, we'll pay for the following if the procedure is finished in the 31 days after a *covered person's* insurance under this *plan* ends: (a) a bridge or cast restoration, if the tooth or teeth are prepared before the *covered person's* insurance ends; (b) any other *dental prosthesis*, if the master impression is made before the *covered person's* insurance ends; and (c) root canal treatment, if the pulp chamber is opened before the *covered person's* insurance ends.

We pay benefits for *orthodontic treatment* to the end of the month in which the *covered person's* insurance ends.

CGP-3-DGY2K-END B498.0233

All Options

Special Limitations

CGP-3-DGY2K-LMT B498.0138

## All Options

### Teeth Lost, Extracted Or Missing Before A Covered Person Becomes Covered By This Plan

A *covered person* may have one or more congenitally missing teeth or may have had one or more teeth lost or extracted before he or she became covered by this *plan*. We won't pay for a *dental prosthesis* which replaces such teeth unless the *dental prosthesis* also replaces one or more eligible natural teeth lost or extracted after the *covered person* became covered by this *plan*.

CGP-3-DGY2K-TL

B498.0133

## All Options

### If This Plan Replaces The Prior Plan

This *plan* may be replacing the *prior plan* you had with another insurer. If a *covered person* was insured by the *prior plan* and is covered by this *plan* on its effective date, the following provisions apply to such *covered person*.

- **Teeth Extracted While Insured By The Prior Plan** - The "Teeth Lost, Extracted or Missing Before A Covered Person Becomes Covered By This Plan" provision above, does not apply to a *covered person's dental prosthesis* which replaces teeth: (a) that were extracted while the *covered person* was insured by the *prior plan*; and (b) for which extraction benefits were paid by the *prior plan*.
- **Deductible Credit** - In the first *benefit year* of this *plan*, we reduce a *covered person's* deductibles required under this *plan*, by the amount of covered charges applied against the *prior plan's* deductible. The *covered person* must give us proof of the amount of the *prior plan's* deductible which he or she has satisfied.
- **Benefit Year Non-Orthodontic Payment Limit Credit** - In the first *benefit year* of this *plan*, we reduce a *covered person's benefit year payment limits* by the amounts paid or payable under the *prior plan*. The *covered person* must give us proof of the amounts applied toward the *prior plan's* payment limits.
- **Orthodontic Payment Limit Credit** - We reduce a *covered person's* orthodontic *payment limits* by the amounts paid or payable under the *prior plan*. The *covered person* must give us proof of the amounts applied toward the *prior plan's* payment limits.

CGP-3-DGY2K-PP

B498.0129

## All Options

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## Exclusions

We will not pay for:

- Any service or supply which is not specifically listed in this *plan's* List of Covered Dental Services.
- Any procedure performed in conjunction with, as part of, or related to a procedure which is not covered by this *plan*.
- Educational services. This includes, but is not limited to: oral hygiene instruction; plaque control; tobacco counseling; or diet instruction.
- Precision attachments and the replacement of part of a precision attachment; magnetic retention; or overdenture attachments.

## Exclusions (Cont.)

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- Overdentures and related services. This includes root canal therapy on teeth that support an overdenture.
- Any restoration, procedure, or *appliance* or prosthetic device used solely to: (1) alter vertical dimension; (2) restore or maintain occlusion, except to the extent that this *plan* covers *orthodontic treatment*; (3) treat a condition necessitated by attrition or abrasion; or (4) splint or stabilize teeth for periodontal reasons.
- The use of: general anesthesia; intramuscular sedation; intravenous sedation; non-intravenous sedation; or inhalation sedation, which includes but is not limited to nitrous oxide. But, this does not apply when administered in conjunction with: covered periodontal surgery; surgical extractions; the surgical removal of impacted teeth; apicoectomies; root amputations; and services listed under the "Other Oral Surgical Procedures" section of this *plan*.
- The use of local anesthetic.
- Cephalometric radiographs; oral/facial images. This includes traditional photographs and images obtained by intraoral camera. But, these services are covered when performed as part of the *orthodontic treatment* plan and records for a covered course of *orthodontic treatment*.
- Replacement of a lost, missing or stolen *appliance* or *dental prosthesis*; or the fabrication of a spare *appliance* or *dental prosthesis*.
- Prescription medication.
- Desensitizing medicaments; and desensitizing resins for cervical and/or root surface.
- Duplication of radiographs; the completion of claim forms; OSHA or other infection control charges.
- Pulp vitality tests; or caries susceptibility tests.
- Bite registration; or bite analysis.
- Gingival curettage.
- The localized delivery of chemotherapeutic agents.
- Tooth transplants.
- Maxillofacial prosthetics that repair or replace facial and skeletal anomalies; maxillofacial surgery; orthognathic surgery; or any oral surgery requiring the setting of a fracture or dislocation.
- Temporary or provisional *dental prosthesis* or *appliances*. But, this does not include interim partial dentures/stayplates to replace *anterior teeth* extracted while insured under this *plan*.
- Any service furnished solely for cosmetic reasons, unless the "List of Covered Dental Services" provides benefits for specific cosmetic services. Excluded cosmetic services include, but are not limited to: (1) characterization and personalization of a *dental prosthesis*; and (2) odontoplasty.

## Exclusions (Cont.)

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- Replacing an existing appliance or *dental prosthesis* with any *appliance* or prosthesis, unless it is: (1) at least 5 years old and is no longer usable; or (2) damaged while in the *covered person's* mouth in an *injury* suffered while insured, and can not be made serviceable.
- A fixed bridge replacing the extracted portion of a hemisected tooth; or the placement of more than one unit of crown and/or bridge per tooth.
- The replacement of extracted or missing third molars/wisdom teeth.
- Treatment of congenital or developmental malformations; or the replacement of congenitally missing teeth
- Any endodontic, periodontal, crown or bridge abutment procedure or *appliance* performed for a tooth or teeth with a guarded, questionable or poor prognosis.
- Any procedure or treatment method which does not meet professionally recognized standards of dental practice or which is considered to be experimental in nature.
- Any procedure, *appliance*, *dental prosthesis*, modality or surgical procedure intended to treat or diagnose disturbances of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ).
- Treatment needed due to: (1) an on-the-job or job-related *injury*; or (2) a condition for which benefits are payable by Workers' Compensation or similar laws.
- Treatment for which no charge is made. This usually means treatment furnished by: (1) the *covered person's* employer, labor union or similar group, in its dental or medical department or clinic; (2) a facility owned or run by any governmental body; and (3) any public program, except Medicaid, paid for or sponsored by any governmental body.
- Evaluations and consultations for non-covered services; detailed and extensive oral evaluations.
- The repair of an orthodontic *appliance*.
- The replacement of a lost or broken orthodontic retainer.

CGP-3-DGY2K-EXCH-01

B498.2173



## All Options

### List of Covered Dental Services

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The services covered by this *plan* are named in this list. Each service on this list has been placed in one of four groups. A separate payment rate applies to each group. Group I is made up of preventive services. Group II is made up of basic services. Group III is made up of major services. Group IV is made up of orthodontic services.

All covered dental services must be furnished by or under the direct supervision of a *dentist*. And they must be usual and necessary treatment for a dental condition.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-13

B490.0048

## All Options

### Group I - Preventive Dental Services (Non-Orthodontic)

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#### Prophylaxis And Fluorides

Prophylaxis - limited to a total of 2 prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance procedure (considered under "Periodontal Services") in any 12 consecutive month period. Allowance includes scaling and polishing procedures to remove coronal plaque, calculus, and stains.

- Adult prophylaxis covered age 12 and older.

Additional prophylaxis when needed as a result of a medical (i.e., a non-dental) condition - covered once in 12 months, and only when the additional prophylaxis is recommended by the dentist and is a result of a medical condition as verified in writing by the patient's medical physician. This does not include a condition which could be resolved by proper oral hygiene or that is the result of patient neglect.

Fluoride treatment, topical application - limited to *covered persons* under age 14 and limited to 2 treatment(s) in any 12 consecutive month period.

#### Office Visits, Evaluations And Examination

Office visits, oral evaluations, examinations or limited problem focused re-evaluations - limited to a total of 2 in any 12 consecutive month period.

Emergency or problem focused oral evaluation - limited to a total of 1 in a 6 consecutive month period. Covered if no other treatment, other than radiographs, is performed in the same visit.

After hours office visit or emergency palliative treatment and other non-routine, unscheduled visits. Limited to a total of 1 in a 6 consecutive month period. Covered only when no other treatment, other than radiographs, is performed during the same visit.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-14

B498.4802

## All Options

**Space Maintainers** Space Maintainers - limited to *covered persons* under age 16 and limited to initial *appliance* only. Covered only when necessary to replace prematurely lost or extracted deciduous teeth. Allowance includes all adjustments in the first six months after insertion, limited to a maximum of one bilateral per arch or one unilateral per quadrant, per lifetime.

- Fixed - unilateral
- Fixed - bilateral
- Removable - bilateral
- Removable - unilateral

Recementation of space maintainer performed more than 12 months after the initial insertion

**Fixed And Removable Appliances** Fixed and Removable Appliances To Inhibit Thumbsucking - limited to *covered persons* under age 14 and limited to initial *appliance* only. Allowance includes all adjustments in the first 6 months after insertion.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-14

B498.0164

## All Options

**Radiographs** Allowance includes evaluation and diagnosis.  
Full mouth, complete series or panoramic radiograph - Either, but not both, of the following procedures, limited to one in any 60 consecutive month period.

Full mouth series, of at least 14 films including bitewings

Panoramic film, maxilla and mandible, with or without bitewing radiographs.

Other diagnostic radiographs:

Bitewing films - limited to either a maximum of 4 bitewing films or a set (7-8 films) of vertical bitewings, in one visit, once in any 12 consecutive month period.

Intraoral periapical or occlusal films - single films

CGP-3-DNTL-90-14

B498.0165

## All Options

**Dental Sealants** Dental Sealants - permanent molar teeth only - Topical application of sealants is limited to the unrestored, permanent molar teeth of *covered persons* under age 16 and limited to one treatment, per tooth, in any 36 consecutive month period.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-14

B498.0166

## All Options

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### Group II - Basic Dental Services (Non-Orthodontic)

**Diagnostic Services** Allowance includes examination and diagnosis.

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## Group II - Basic Dental Services (Cont.)

(Non-Orthodontic)

Consultations - Diagnostic consultation with a dentist other than the one providing treatment, limited to one consultation for each *covered dental specialty* in any 12 consecutive month period. Covered only when no other treatment, other than radiographs, is performed during the visit.

Diagnostic Services: Allowance includes examination and diagnosis.

Diagnostic casts - when needed to prepare a treatment plan for three or more of the following performed at the same time in more than one arch: dentures, crowns, bridges, inlays or onlays.

Histopathologic examinations when performed in conjunction with a tooth related biopsy.

**Restorative Services** Multiple restorations on one surface will be considered one restoration. Benefits for the replacement of existing amalgam and resin restorations will only be considered for payment if at least 12 months have passed since the previous restoration was placed if the *covered person* is under age 19, and 36 months if the *covered person* is age 19 and older. Also see the "Major Restorative Services" section.

Amalgam restorations - Allowance includes bonding agents, liners, bases, polishing and local anesthetic.

Resin restorations - Allowance includes light curing, acid etching, adhesives, including resin bonding agents and local anesthetic.

Silicate cement, per restoration

Composite resin

Stainless steel crown, prefabricated resin crown, and resin based composite crown - limited to once per tooth in any 24 consecutive month period. Stainless steel crowns, prefabricated resin crowns and resin based composite crowns are considered to be a temporary or provisional procedure when done within 24 months of a permanent crown. Temporary and provisional crowns are considered to be part of the permanent restoration.

Pin retention, per tooth, covered only in conjunction with a permanent amalgam or composite restoration, exclusive of restorative material.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15

B498.2781

### All Options

#### Crown And Prosthodontic Restorative Services

Also see the "Major Restorative Services" section.

Crown and bridge repairs - allowance based on the extent and nature of damage and the type of material involved.

Recementation, limited to recementations performed more than 12 months after the initial insertion.

Inlay or onlay

Crown

Bridge

Adding teeth to partial dentures to replace extracted natural teeth

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**Group II - Basic Dental Services (Cont.)**  
(Non-Orthodontic)

Denture repairs - Allowance based on the extent and nature of damage and on the type of materials involved.

- Denture repairs, metal
- Denture repairs, acrylic
- Denture repair, no teeth damaged
- Denture repair, replace one or more broken teeth
- Replacing one or more broken teeth, no other damage

Denture rebase, full or partial denture - limited to once per denture in any 24 consecutive month period. Denture rebases done within 12 months are considered to be part of the denture placement when the rebase is done by the *dentist* who furnished the denture. Limited to rebase done more than 12 consecutive months after the insertion of the denture.

Denture reline, full or partial denture - limited to once per denture in any 24 consecutive month period. Denture relines done within 12 months are considered to be part of the denture placement when the reline is done by the *dentist* who furnished the denture. Limited to reline done more than 12 consecutive months after a denture rebase or the insertion of the denture.

Denture adjustments - Denture adjustments done within 6 months are considered to be part of the denture placement when the adjustment is done by the *dentist* who furnished the denture. Limited to adjustments that are done more than 6 consecutive months after a denture rebase, denture reline or the initial insertion of the denture.

Tissue conditioning - Tissue conditioning done within 12 months is considered to be part of the denture placement when the tissue conditioning is done by the *dentist* who furnished the denture. Limited to a maximum of 1 treatment, per arch, in any 12 consecutive month period.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15

B498.1122

## All Options

**Endodontic Services** Allowance includes diagnostic, treatment and final radiographs, cultures and tests, local anesthetic and routine follow-up care, but excludes final restoration.

Pulp capping, limited to permanent teeth and limited to one pulp cap per tooth, per lifetime.

Pulp capping, direct

Pulp capping, indirect - includes sedative filling.

Vital pulpotomy, only when root canal therapy is not the definitive treatment

Gross pulpal debridement

Pulpal therapy, limited to primary teeth only

Root Canal Treatment

Root canal therapy

Root canal retreatment, limited to once per tooth, per lifetime

Treatment of root canal obstruction, no-surgical access

Incomplete endodontic therapy, inoperable or fractured tooth

Internal root repair of perforation defects

Other Endodontic Services

Apexification, limited to a maximum of three visits

Apicoectomy, limited to once per root, per lifetime

Root amputation, limited to once per root, per lifetime

Retrograde filling, limited to once per root, per lifetime

Hemisection, including any root removal, once per tooth

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15.0

B498.0201

## All Options

**Periodontal Services** Allowance includes the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-treatment care. Requires documentation of periodontal disease confirmed by both radiographs and pocket depth probings of each tooth involved.

Periodontal maintenance procedure - limited to a total of 2 prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance procedure(s) in any 12 consecutive month period. Allowance includes periodontal pocket charting, scaling and polishing. (Also see Prophylaxis under "Preventive Services") Coverage for periodontal maintenance is considered upon evidence of completed active periodontal therapy (periodontal scaling and root planing or periodontal surgery).

Scaling and root planing, per quadrant - limited to once per quadrant in any 24 consecutive month period. Covered when there is radiographic and pocket charting evidence of bone loss.

Full mouth debridement - limited to once in any 36 consecutive month period. Considered only when no diagnostic, preventive, periodontal service or periodontal surgery procedure has been performed in the previous 36 consecutive month period.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15.0

B498.0202

## All Options

**Periodontal Surgery** Allowance includes the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-surgical care. Requires documentation of periodontal disease confirmed by both radiographs and pocket depth probings of each tooth involved.

The following treatment is limited to a total of one of the following, once per tooth in any 12 consecutive months.

- Gingivectomy, per tooth (less than 3 teeth)
- Crown lengthening - hard tissue

The following treatment is limited to a total of one of the following once per quadrant, in any 36 consecutive months.

- Gingivectomy or gingivoplasty, per quadrant
- Osseous surgery, including scaling and root planing, flap entry and closure, per quadrant
- Gingival flap procedure, including scaling and root planing, per quadrant
- Distal or proximal wedge, not in conjunction with osseous surgery
- Surgical revision procedure, per tooth

The following treatment is limited to a total of one of the following, once per quadrant in any 36 consecutive months.

Pedicle or free soft tissue grafts, including donor site, or subepithelial connective tissue graft procedure, when the tooth is present, or when dentally necessary as part of a covered surgical placement of an implant.

The following treatment is limited to a total of one of the following, once per area or tooth, per lifetime.

- Guided tissue regeneration, resorbable barrier or nonresorbable barrier
- Bone replacement grafts, when the tooth is present

### Periodontal surgery related

Limited occlusal adjustment - limited to a total of two visits, covered only when done within a 6 consecutive month period after covered scaling and root planing or osseous surgery. Must have radiographic evidence of vertical defect or widened periodontal ligament space.

Occlusal guards, covered only when done within a 6 consecutive month period after osseous surgery, and limited to one per lifetime

## All Options

**Non-Surgical Extractions** Allowance includes the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-treatment care.

Uncomplicated extraction, one or more teeth  
Root removal non-surgical extraction of exposed roots

**Surgical Extractions** Allowance includes the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-surgical care. Services listed in this category and related services, may be covered by your medical plan.

Surgical removal of erupted teeth, involving tissue flap and bone removal  
Surgical removal of residual tooth roots  
Surgical removal of impacted teeth

**Other Oral Surgical Procedures** Allowance includes diagnostic and treatment radiographs, the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-surgical care. Services listed in this category and related services, may be covered by your medical plan.

Alveoloplasty, per quadrant  
Removal of exostosis, per site  
Incision and drainage of abscess  
Frenulectomy, Frenectomy, Frenotomy  
Biopsy and examination of tooth related oral tissue  
Surgical exposure of impacted or unerupted tooth to aid eruption  
Excision of tooth related tumors, cysts and neoplasms  
Excision or destruction of tooth related lesion(s)  
Excision of hyperplastic tissue  
Excision of pericoronal gingiva, per tooth  
Oroantral fistula closure  
Sialolithotomy  
Sialodochoplasty  
Closure of salivary fistula  
Excision of salivary gland  
Maxillary sinusotomy for removal of tooth fragment or foreign body  
Vestibuloplasty

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15.0

B498.1124

## All Options

**Other Services** General anesthesia, intramuscular sedation, intravenous sedation, non-intravenous sedation or inhalation sedation, including nitrous oxide, when administered in connection with covered periodontal surgery, surgical extractions, the surgical removal of impacted teeth, apicoectomies, root amputations, surgical placement of an implant and services listed under the "Other Oral Surgical Procedures" section of this *plan*.

Injectable antibiotics needed solely for treatment of a dental condition.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-15

B498.0206

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**Group III - Major Dental Services**  
(Non-Orthodontic)

**Major Restorative Services** Crowns, inlays, onlays, labial veneers, and crown buildups are covered only when needed because of decay or *injury*, and only when the tooth cannot be restored with amalgam or composite filling material. Facings on dental prostheses for teeth posterior to the second bicuspid are not covered. Post and cores are covered only when needed due to decay or *injury*. Allowance includes insulating bases, temporary or provisional restorations and associated gingival involvement. Limited to permanent teeth only. Also see the "Basic Restorative Services" section.

Single Crowns

- Resin with metal
- Porcelain
- Porcelain with metal
- Full cast metal (other than stainless steel)
- 3/4 cast metal crowns
- 3/4 porcelain crowns

Inlays

- Onlays, including inlay
- Labial veneers

Posts and buildups - only when done in conjunction with a covered unit of crown or bridge and only when necessitated by substantial loss of natural tooth structure.

Cast post and core in addition to a unit of crown or bridge, per tooth

Prefabricated post and composite or amalgam core in addition to a unit of crown or bridge, per tooth

Crown or core buildup, including pins

Implant supported prosthetics - Allowance includes the treatment plan and local anesthetic, when done in conjunction with a covered surgical placement of an implant, on the same tooth.

Abutment supported crown

Implant supported crown

Abutment supported retainer for fixed partial denture

Implant supported retainer for fixed partial denture

Implant/abutment supported removable denture for completely edentulous arch

Implant/abutment supported removable denture for partially edentulous arch

Implant/abutment supported fixed denture for completely edentulous arch

Implant/abutment supported fixed denture for partially edentulous arch

Dental implant supported connecting bar

Prefabricated abutment

Custom abutment



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### **Group III - Major Dental Services (Cont.)**

(Non-Orthodontic)

Implant services - Allowance includes the treatment plan, local anesthetic and post-surgical care. Limited to the replacement of permanent teeth only. The number of implants we cover is limited to the number of teeth extracted while insured under this plan.

Surgical placement of implant body, endosteal implant

Surgical placement, eposteal implant

Surgical placement, transosteal implant

#### Other Implant services

Bone replacement graft for ridge preservation, per site, when done in conjunction with a covered surgical placement of an implant in the same site, limited to once per tooth, per lifetime

Radiographic/surgical implant index - limited to once per arch in any 24 month period

Repair implant supported prosthesis

Repair implant abutment

Implant removal

CGP-3-DNTL-90-16

B498.1148

## All Options

**Prosthodontic Services** Specialized techniques and characterizations are not covered. Facings on dental prostheses for teeth posterior to the second bicuspid are not covered. Allowance includes insulating bases, temporary or provisional restorations and associated gingival involvement.

Fixed bridges - Each abutment and each pontic makes up a unit in a bridge

Bridge abutments - See inlays, onlays and crowns under "Major Restorative Services"

Bridge Pontics

Resin with metal

Porcelain

Porcelain with metal

Full cast metal

3/4 cast metal crowns

3/4 porcelain crowns

Dentures - Allowance includes all adjustments and repairs done by the *dentist* furnishing the denture in the first 6 consecutive months after installation and all temporary or provisional dentures. Temporary or provisional dentures, stayplates and interim dentures older than one year are considered to be a permanent *appliance*.

Complete or Immediate dentures, upper or lower

Partial dentures - Allowance includes base, clasps, rests and teeth

Upper, resin base, including any conventional clasps, rests and teeth

Upper, cast metal framework with resin denture base, including any conventional clasps, rests and teeth

Lower, resin base, including any conventional clasps, rests and teeth

Lower, cast metal framework with resin denture base, including any conventional clasps, rests and teeth

Interim partial denture (stayplate), upper or lower, covered on anterior teeth only

Removable unilateral partial, one piece cast metal, including clasps and teeth

Simple stress breakers, per unit

CGP-3-DNTL-90-16

B498.1146

## All Options

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### Group IV - Orthodontic Services

**Orthodontic Services** Any covered Group I, II or III service in connection with *orthodontic treatment*.

Transseptal fiberotomy

## Group IV - Orthodontic Services (Cont.)

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Surgical exposure of impacted or unerupted teeth in connection with *orthodontic treatment* - Allowance includes treatment and final radiographs, local anesthetics and post-surgical care.

Treatment *plan* and records, including initial, interim and final records.

Limited *orthodontic treatment*, Interceptive *orthodontic treatment* or Comprehensive *orthodontic treatment*, including fabrication and insertion of any and all fixed *appliances* and periodic visits.

Orthodontic retention, including any and all necessary fixed and removable *appliances* and related visits - limited to initial *appliance(s)* only.

CGP-3-DNTL-90-8

B498.0071

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## CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider amends the Certificate as follows and for plans issued before 07/01/2017, is effective on the first Policy Anniversary following 07/01/2017. For plans issued after 07/01/2017, the rider is effective on the Policy Date.

The provision, **Timely Access to Care** is added:

### **Timely Access to Care**

Covered dental services must be provided in a timely manner appropriate with the nature of a *covered person's* condition consistent with good professional dental practice.

Guardian's *dental preferred provider organization (PPO)* has adequate capacity and availability of *preferred providers* to offer appointments for covered dental services in accordance with the following Timely Access to Care requirements:

- Urgent appointments to be offered within 72 hours of the time of request for an appointment when consistent with the nature of a *covered person's* condition and as required by professionally recognized standards of dental practice.
- Non-urgent appointments (initial/routine) to be offered within 36 business days of the request for an appointment.
- Preventive dental care appointments to be offered within 40 business days of the request for an appointment.

The Timely Access to Care appointment wait time standards may not apply if a *covered person* is requesting a specific date and time. The applicable waiting time for a particular appointment may also be longer if the referring or treating *dentist*, acting within the scope of the *dentist's* practice and consistent with professionally recognized standards of dental practice, has determined and noted in the relevant record that a longer waiting time will not have a detrimental impact on a *covered person's* health.

When it is necessary for a *covered person's dentist* or a *covered person* to reschedule an appointment, the appointment will be promptly rescheduled by a *covered person's dentist* in a manner that is:

- Appropriate for a covered person's dental care needs;
- Ensures continuity of care consistent with good professional dental practices; and
- Meets California's standards regarding the accessibility of dental services in a timely manner.

Language and interpreter services are available for a *covered person* at no cost. Interpreter services, if requested, must be coordinated with scheduled appointments in a manner that ensures interpreter services are provided at the time of the appointment, consistent with California standards, without imposing a delay in scheduling.

*Preferred providers* are required to have an answering service or a telephone answering machine during non-business hours. Their message must provide instructions regarding how a *covered person* may obtain urgent or emergency care, including how to contact another *dentist* who has agreed to be on-call to triage or screen by phone, or, if needed, deliver urgent or emergency care. If the *preferred provider* does not answer and a *covered person* has an emergency, a *covered person* may call 911 or go to the nearest hospital. Emergency/urgent services may be received by any *dentist*.

Telephone triage or screening services are to be provided in a timely manner appropriate for a *covered person's* condition. During normal business hours the waiting time for a *covered person* to speak by telephone with a knowledgeable and competent customer service representative regarding a *covered person's* questions and concerns will not exceed 10 minutes.

If a *covered person* has any questions or want to request an interpreter, please call Our Customer Response Unit at 1-800-541-7846 or the toll-free number on the *covered person's* ID card.

The provision, **Continuity Of Care** is added:

### **Continuity Of Care**

At a *covered person's* request, we can arrange for the completion of covered services by a terminated *dentist* for the duration of an acute condition. A terminated *dentist* means a *dentist* whose contract to provide services to *covered persons* is terminated or not renewed by us or one of our contracting dental groups. A terminated *dentist* is not a *dentist* who voluntarily leaves us or our contracting dental group. A *covered person* must be undergoing a course of treatment for an acute condition and the *covered person's* coverage under the Policy must continue during the completion of covered services.

Acute condition: This term means a dental condition that involves a sudden onset of symptoms due to a dental problem that requires prompt dental attention and that has a limited duration.

This Rider amends the Policy regarding the term "**spouse**" as follows:

Reference to the term "spouse" within the contract, means the person to whom you are legally married, or your registered domestic partner, civil union partner or equivalent as recognized and allowed by federal law, or state law in your state of residence or the state in which the marriage or your registered domestic partner, civil union partner or equivalent was recorded.

The **Eligible Dependents For Dependent Dental Benefits** provision is revised with the following:

Your *eligible dependents* are: (a) your spouse; and (b) your dependent children including:

- A newborn child, natural child, stepchild or a child placed with you for adoption or foster care who is under age 26.

The **Handicapped Children** provision is replaced in its entirety with the following:

### **Continuing Coverage Past the Child Age Limit**

A child who is incapable of self-support because of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition. A dependent child may remain eligible for dependent benefits past the age limit, subject to the conditions below:

- The condition started before he or she reached the age limit; and
- The child remained continuously covered until he or she reached the age limit; and
- We will send notice to you at least 90 days prior to the limiting age and you must send us written proof that the child is dependent upon you for support and maintenance as is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness, or condition. You have 60 days from the date the child reaches the age limit to do this. We will continue coverage until a determination about the child's eligibility is made. We can ask for periodic proof that the child's condition continues, but we cannot ask for this proof more than once a year after the two-year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B531.0825

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**CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT**

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Effective on the latter of (i) the original effective date of the Policy; or (ii) the effective date of any applicable amendment requested by the Policyholder and approved by the Insurance Company, this rider amends the Dental Expense Insurance provisions of the Group Policy as follows:

The Alternate Treatment provision is changed to read as follows when titanium or high noble metal (gold) is used in a *dental prosthesis*.

If more than one type of service can be used to treat a dental condition, we have the right to base benefits on the least expensive service which is within the range of professionally accepted standards of dental practice as determined by us. For example, in the case of bilateral multiple adjacent missing teeth, or multiple missing teeth in both quadrants of an arch the benefit will be based on a removable partial denture. In the case of titanium or high noble metal (gold) used in a *dental prosthesis*, the benefit will be based on the noble metal benefit.

This rider is part of the Policy. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or affects any other terms of this Policy.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

## All Options

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### GROUP CERTIFICATE RIDER

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Effective immediately, this plan's insurance provisions are amended by this rider for covered persons residing in the state of Texas as follows:

The following disclaimer is added to the first page of the Group Booklet:

**"THE INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM."**

The **Dental Expense Insurance** provision is revised in its entirety to read:

#### DENTAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

This insurance will pay many of your and your covered dependents dental expenses. What we pay and the terms for payment are explained below. This plan is referred to as the Network Access Plan which is an indemnity plan that offers you the option to access a contracted provider. If you go to a contracted provider, the provider must accept the fee schedule amount for service and covered charges. This reduces your out of pocket expense. You are only liable for the difference up to the *dentist's* fee schedule amount for the procedure. If You go to a non-contracted provider, service benefits are issued based on reasonable and customary charges. You are liable for the difference up to the *dentist's* normal fee for the procedure. In-Network and Out-of-Network benefits are the same. With regard to deductibles, co-insurance and maximum benefits, these amounts will be handled the same for in and out of network.

#### Covered Charges

Covered charges are reasonable and customary charges for the dental services named in the List of Covered Dental Services.

By reasonable, we mean the charge is the *dentist's* usual charge for the service furnished. By customary, we mean the charge made for the given dental condition isn't more than the usual charge made by most other *dentists*. But, in no event will the covered charge be greater than the 90th percentile of the HIAA Prevailing Fee, or a similar standard, for a particular service in a geographic area. When routinely associated procedures are performed on the same day, the covered charge will be for the most comprehensive procedure.

We only pay for covered charges incurred by a covered person while he's insured. A covered charge for a crown, bridge or cast restoration is incurred on the date the tooth is prepared. A covered charge for any other prosthetic devise is incurred on the date the master impression is made. A covered charge for root canal treatment is incurred on the date the pulp chamber is opened. All other covered charges are incurred on the date the services are furnished.

#### Pre-Treatment Review

When the expected cost of a proposed course of treatment is \$300.00 or more, the *covered person's dentist* should send us a treatment plan before he or she starts. This must be done on a form acceptable to us. The treatment plan must include: (1) a list of the services to be done, using the American Dental Association Nomenclature and codes; (2) the itemized cost of each service; and (3) the estimated length of treatment. In order to evaluate the treatment plan, dental radiographs, study models and whatever else will document the necessity of the proposed course of treatment, must be



sent to us.

We review the treatment plan and estimate what we will pay. We will send the estimate to the covered person and his or her dentist. If the treatment plan is not consistent with accepted standards of dental practice, or if one is not sent to us, we have the right to base our benefit payments on treatment appropriate to the covered person's condition using accepted standards of dental practice.

The covered person and his or her dentist have the opportunity to have services or a treatment plan reviewed before treatment begins. Pre-treatment review is not a guarantee of what we will pay. It tells the covered person, and his or her dentist, in advance, what we would pay for the covered dental services listed in the treatment plan. But, payment is conditioned on: (1) the services being performed as proposed and while the person is covered; and (2) the benefit provisions, and all of the other terms of this Plan. Emergency Treatment, oral exams, evaluations, dental radiographs and teeth cleaning are part of a course of treatment, but may be done before the pre-treatment review is made.

We will not deny or reduce benefits if pre-treatment review is not done. But, what we pay will be based on the availability and submission of Proof Of Claim.

The **Examination and Autopsy** provision is amended in its entirety to read:

We have the right to have a *dentist* of our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made when and as often as reasonably required during the pendency of a claim under the *plan*. And we have the right to have an autopsy performed in the case of death, where allowed by law. We'll pay for all such examinations and autopsies.

Under the **Federal Continuation Rights Provisions** and the **Special Enrollment Period** definition contained in the Group Booklet, the term "legal separation" is deleted in its entirety.

The Group Booklet is amended to include the following:

**Texas Continuation Rights:** This section applies only to the dental coverages provided by this plan. These coverages are referred to as "group health benefits". If medical expense and prescription drug expense coverages are both provided under this plan, they will be treated together as medical expense coverage.

This section does not apply to any coverage which provide benefits for expenses incurred because of a specific disease or accident.

A covered person or dependent is entitled to continuation of group health benefits: (a) the individual's coverage under the group policy is terminated for any reason other than involuntary termination for cause, including discontinuance of the group policy in its entirety or with respect to an insured class; and (b) the individual has been continuously insured under the group policy, or under any group policy providing similar benefits that the policy replaces, for at least three consecutive months immediately before termination.

For purposes of Subsection (a), involuntary termination for cause does not include termination for any health-related cause.

A *covered person* or dependent must provide to the employer or group policyholder a written request for continuation of group health benefits not later than the 60th day after the later of: (a) the date the group health benefits would otherwise terminate; or (b) the date the individual is given, in a format prescribed by the commissioner, notice by either the employer or the group policyholder of the right to continuation of group health benefits.

Except as provided by this section, a *covered person*, or dependent who elects to continue group coverage under this subchapter must pay to the employer or group policyholder each month the amount of contribution required by the employer or policyholder, plus two percent of the group rate for the coverage being continued under the group policy. A payment under this section must be made not later than the 45th day after the date of the initial election for coverage and on the due

date of each payment thereafter. Following the first payment made after the initial election for coverage, the payment of any other premium shall be considered timely if made on or before the 30th day after the date on which the payment is due. Group health benefits continued under this subchapter may not terminate until the earliest of:

- (a) the date the maximum continuation period provided by law would end, which is:
  - (1) for any *covered person*, or dependent not eligible for continuation coverage under Title X, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (29 U.S.C. Section 1161 et seq.) (COBRA), nine months after the date the *covered person*, or dependent elects to continue the group health benefits; or
  - (2) for covered person or dependent eligible for continuation coverage under COBRA, six additional months following any period of continuation coverage provided under COBRA;
- (b) the date failure to make timely payments would terminate the group health benefits;
- (c) the date the group health benefits terminate in its entirety;
- (d) the date the *covered person* or dependent is or could be covered under Medicare;
- (e) the date the *covered person* or dependent is covered for similar benefits by another plan or program, including:
  - (1) a hospital, surgical, medical, or major medical expense insurance policy;
  - (2) a hospital or medical service subscriber contract; or
  - (3) a medical practice or other prepayment plan;
- (f) the date the *covered person* or dependent is eligible for similar benefits, whether or not covered for those benefits, under any arrangement of coverage for individuals in a group, whether on an insured or uninsured basis; or
- (g) the date similar benefits are provided or available to the *covered person* or dependent under any state or federal law other than continuation coverage under Title X, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985(29 U.S.C. Section 1161 et seq.)(COBRA).

Not later than the 30th day before the end of the continuation period described by Subsection(a)(1) that is applicable to the *covered person* or dependent, the insurer shall:(a) notify the *covered person* or dependent that the *covered person* or dependent may be eligible for coverage under the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool as provided by Chapter 1506; and (b) provide to the *covered person* or dependent the address for applying to that pool.

B531.0187

## All Options

**Texas Continuation Rights for Dependents:** This section applies only to the dental coverages provided by this plan if coverage under this plan ends because of: (a) the severance of a family relationship; or (b) the retirement or death of a *covered person* . These coverages are referred to as "group health benefits". If medical expense and prescription drug expense coverages are both provided under this plan, they will be treated together as medical expense coverage.

A *dependent* of an insured is eligible for continued group health benefits under this subchapter if the *dependent*: (a) has been a member of the group for a period of at least one year; or (b) is an infant under one year of age.

A *dependent* who exercises the option to continue group health benefits is not required to take and pass a physical examination as a condition to continuing coverage.

An individual covered under group continuation coverage is entitled to coverage that is identical in scope to the group health benefits provided under this plan. No additional exclusions that were not

included in this plan will be included in the group continuation coverage.

If the group policyholder replaces this plan within the period described below, a *dependent* covered under group continuation coverage may obtain group health benefits identical in scope to the group health benefits under the replacement group policy.

The premium will not be more than the premium charged under this for the *dependent* had the family relationship not been severed.

A *dependent* covered under group continuation coverage is required to pay premiums for the group health benefits directly to the group policyholder. Premiums may be paid in monthly installments with an additional administrative fee of \$5.00.

At the time this plan is issued, the group policyholder is required to give written notice of this continuation to each *covered person* and each *dependent* of a *covered person*.

We require a *covered person* to give written notice to the group policyholder not later than the 15th day after the date of any severance of the family relationship that might activate the continuation option. Written notice may be given by the *covered person's* dependent.

On receipt of notice, the group policyholder shall immediately give written notice of the continuation option to each affected *dependent* of the *covered person*.

On receipt of notice of the death or retirement of a *covered person*, the group policyholder shall immediately give written notice of the continuation option to each *dependent* of the *covered person*. The notice must state the amount of the premium to be charged and must be accompanied by any necessary enrollment forms.

Not later than the 60th day after the date of the severance of the family relationship or the retirement or death of the *covered person*, a *dependent* must give written notice to the group policyholder of his or her desire to exercise the continuation option. Coverage under this plan remains in effect during the period if the plan's premiums are paid.

If a *dependent* does not give written notice of his or her desire to exercise the continuation option within the time period, the option expires.

Any period of previous coverage under this plan, must be used in full or partial satisfaction of any required probationary or waiting periods for *dependent* coverage.

If this plan provides to a *covered person* continuation rights to cover the period between the time the *covered person* retires and the time the *covered person* is eligible for coverage by Medicare, the same continuation rights are available to the *covered person's dependents*.

The group health benefits of a *covered person* or *dependent* who exercises the continuation option continues without interruption and may not be canceled or otherwise terminated until: (a) the *covered person* or *dependent* fails to make a premium payment within the time required to make the payment;(b) the *covered person* or *dependent* becomes eligible for substantially similar coverage under another plan or program, including a group health insurance policy or contract, hospital or medical service subscriber contract, or medical practice or other prepayment plan; or(c) the third anniversary of: (1) the severance of the family relationship; or (2) the retirement or death of the *covered person*.

Under the **Dependent Coverage** section, text is amended for all benefits to read:

## **DEPENDENT COVERAGE**

### **Eligible Dependents For Dental Expense Coverage**

Your eligible dependents are Your: (a) spouse and; (b) Your dependent children who are under age 26.

### **Adopted Children, Step-Children & Grandchildren**

Your "dependent children" includes Your legally adopted children, dependent grandchildren and Your step-children. We treat a child as legally adopted from the time You are party to a suit in which You seek to adopt the child. We treat such a child this way whether or not a final adoption order is ever issued.

### **Dependents Not Eligible**

We exclude any dependent who is on active duty in any armed force. And We exclude any dependent who is covered by this Plan as an employee.

### **Newborn Children:**

**Newborn Children:** We cover an employee's newborn child for dependent benefits, from the moment of birth, if the employee is already insured for dependent coverage when the child is born. If the employee does not have dependent coverage when the child is born, we cover the newborn child, for dependent benefits, for the first 31 days from the moment of birth. To continue the child's dependent benefits past the first 31 days, the employee must notify us in writing within 31 days of the child's birth.

B531.0190

### **All Options**

Under the **Dependent Coverage** section, text is added as follows:

An employee's domestic partner will be eligible for dental coverage under this plan. Coverage will be provided subject to all the terms of this plan and to the following limitations:

To qualify for such coverage, both the employee and his or her domestic partner must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be unmarried, constitute each other's sole domestic partner and not have had another domestic partner in the last 12 months;
- share the same permanent address for at least 12 consecutive months and intend to do so indefinitely;
- share joint financial responsibility for basic living expenses including food, shelter and medical expenses;
- not be related by blood to a degree that would prohibit marriage in the employee's state of residence; and
- be financially interdependent which must be demonstrated by at least four of the following:
  - a. ownership of a joint bank account;
  - b. ownership of a joint credit account;
  - c. evidence of a joint mortgage or lease;
  - d. evidence of joint obligation on a loan;
  - e. joint ownership of a residence;
  - f. evidence of common household expenses such as utilities or telephone;
  - g. execution of wills naming each other as executor and/or beneficiary;
  - h. granting each other durable powers of attorney;
  - i. granting each other health care powers of attorney;

- j. designation of each other as beneficiary under a retirement benefit account; or
- k. evidence of other joint financial responsibility.

The employee must complete a "Declaration of Domestic Partnership" attesting to the relationship.

Coverage for the domestic partner ends when the domestic partner no longer meets the qualifications of a domestic partner as indicated above. Upon termination of a domestic partnership, a "Statement of Termination" must be completed and filed with the employer. Once the employee submits a "Statement of Termination," he or she may not enroll another domestic partner for a period of 12 months from the date of the previous termination.

But, at the end of such coverage, continuation and conversion rights, if any, to which the domestic partner may be entitled, will be available. Read "Continuation Rights" and "Converting This Group Health Insurance" to find out what is allowed under this plan and how it works. The domestic partner will be not eligible for survivor benefits upon the employee's death as explained under the "When Dependent Coverage Ends" section.

B531.0192

## All Options

Under the **Covered Dentals Services** provision the following benefit is added and the exclusion is deleted in its entirety:

**TMJ and Craniomandibular Disorders:** We pay benefits for dental services for the necessary diagnostic and surgical treatment of temporomandibular (TMJ) and craniomandibular joint disorders in a covered person. We cover charges for such conditions as a result of: (1) an accident; (2) a trauma; (3) a congenital defect; (4) a developmental defect; or (5) a pathology.

We treat such services the same way we treat any other covered charges for Group III services.

Subject to the Group III deductible and all other terms of this plan, we pay benefits for such covered charges at a payment rate of 50%. And we won't pay for TMJ or craniomandibular treatment done in the first 24 months a late entrant is insured by this plan.

Under this plan's dental expense provisions, we don't cover any charges for the medical treatment of TMJ.

Under the **Accident and Health Claims Provisions**, the Limitations of Actions provision is revised to read:

You can't bring a legal action against this plan until 60 days from the date you file proof of loss. And you can't bring legal action against this plan after three years from the date you file proof of loss. This rider is a part of this Booklet. Guardian shall amend this document from time to time as legislation is passed effecting group coverages offered. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or effects any other terms of this Booklet. In the event that there is

disagreement of terms between the group policy and the Booklet, the Booklet and this rider will prevail.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

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

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B531.0204

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## CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider amends the Certificate as follows and is effective on the issue date.

This Rider amends the Certificate by replacing the Covered Charges provision with the new provision as shown below.

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### Covered Charges

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Reimbursement will be based on Guardian's Reimbursement Schedule in the *dentist's* zip code for the dental services named in this *plan's* List of Covered Dental Services. To be covered by this *plan*, a service must be: (a) necessary; (b) appropriate for a given condition; and (c) included in the List of Covered Dental Services.

We may use the professional review of a *dentist* to determine the appropriate benefit for a dental procedure or course of treatment.

Guardian's Reimbursement Schedule is calculated utilizing a combination of industry, third party and internal data. In no event will the covered charge be greater than the 90th percentile of the Guardian Reimbursement Schedule for a particular service in a geographic area.

When certain comprehensive dental procedures are performed, other less extensive procedures may be performed prior to, at the same time or at a later date. For benefit purposes under this *plan*, these less extensive procedures are considered to be part of the more comprehensive procedure. Even if the *dentist* submits separate bills, the total benefit payable for all related charges will be limited to the maximum benefit payable for the more comprehensive procedure. For example, osseous surgery includes the procedure scaling and root planing. If the scaling and root planing is performed one or two weeks prior to the osseous surgery, we may only pay benefits for the osseous surgery.

We only pay benefits for covered charges incurred by a *covered person* while he or she is insured by this *plan*. A covered charge for a crown, bridge or cast restoration is incurred on the date the tooth is initially prepared. A covered charge for any other *dental prosthesis* is incurred on the date the first master impression is made. A covered charge for root canal treatment is incurred on the date the pulp chamber is opened. A covered charge for *orthodontic treatment* is incurred on the date the *active orthodontic appliance* is first placed. All other covered charges are incurred on the date the services are furnished. If a service is started while a *covered person* is insured, we'll only pay benefits for services which are completed within 31 days of the date his or her coverage under this *plan* ends.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

## Covered Charges (Cont.)

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The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Prestileo".

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B531.0821



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## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

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**Important Notice** This section applies to all group health benefits under this plan; except prescription drug coverage, if any. It does not apply to any death, dismemberment, or loss of income benefits that may be provided under this plan.

**Purpose** When a covered person has health care coverage under more than one plan, this section allows this plan to coordinate what it pays with what other plans pay. This is done so that the covered person does not collect more in benefits than he or she incurs in charges.

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### Definitions

**Allowable Expense** This term means any necessary, reasonable, and customary item of health care expense that is covered, at least in part, by any of the plans which cover the person. This includes: (a) deductibles; (b) coinsurance; and (c) copayments. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an allowable expense and a benefit paid.

An expense or service that is not covered by any of the plans is **not** an allowable expense. Examples of other expenses or services that are **not** allowable expenses are:

- (1) If a person is confined in a private hospital room, the difference between the cost of a semi-private room in the hospital and the private room is **not** an allowable expense. This does not apply if: (a) the stay in the private room is medically necessary in terms of generally accepted medical practice; or (b) one of the plans routinely provides coverage for private hospital rooms.
- (2) The amount a benefit is reduced by the primary plan because a person does not comply with the plan's provisions is **not** an allowable expense. Examples of these provisions are: (a) precertification of admissions and procedures; (b) continued stay reviews; and (c) preferred provider arrangements.
- (3) If a person is covered by two or more plans that compute their benefit payments on the basis of reasonable and customary charges, any amount in excess of the primary plan's reasonable and customary charges for a specific benefit is **not** an allowable expense.
- (4) If a person is covered by two or more plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the primary plan's negotiated fees for a specific benefit is **not** an allowable expense.

If a person is covered by one plan that computes its benefits or services on the basis of reasonable and customary charges and another plan that provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, the primary plan's payment arrangements will be the allowable expense for all plans. However, if the provider has contracted with the secondary plan to provide the benefit or service for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the primary plan's payment arrangement and if the provider's contract permits, the negotiated fee or payment shall be the allowable expense used by the secondary plan to determine its benefit.

**Claim** This term means a request that benefits of a plan be provided or paid.

**Claim Determination Period** This term means a calendar year. It does not include any part of a year during which a person has no coverage under this plan, or before the date this section takes effect.

**Coordination Of Benefits** This term means a provision which determines an order in which plans pay their benefits, and which permits secondary plans to reduce their benefits so that the combined benefits of all plans do not exceed total allowable expenses.

**Custodial Parent** This term means a parent awarded custody by a court decree. In the absence of a court decree, it is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year without regard to any temporary visitation.

**Plan** This term means any of the following that provides benefits or services for health care or treatment: (1) group, blanket or franchise insurance coverage; (2) service plan contracts, group practice, individual practice and other prepayment coverage; (3) any coverage under labor-management trusteed plans, union welfare plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans; and (4) governmental benefits, except Medicare, as permitted by law.

This term does not include: (a) individual or family insurance; (b) individual or family subscriber contracts; (c) school-type blanket accident and sickness insurance; (d) blanket accident insurance that is excess to other coverage; (e) medical benefit payments in traditional automobile contracts; or (f) Medicare, Medicaid, and coverage under other governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

This term also does not include any plan that this plan supplements. Plans that this plan supplements are named in the benefit description.

Each type of coverage listed above is treated separately. If a plan has two parts and coordination of benefits applies only to one of the two, each of the parts is treated separately.

**Primary Plan** This term means a plan that pays first without regard that another plan may cover some expenses. A plan is a primary plan if either of the following is true: (1) the plan either has no order of benefit determination rules, or its rules differ from those explained in this section; or (2) all plans that cover the person use the order of benefit determination rules explained in this section, and under those rules the plan pays its benefits first.

**Secondary Plan** This term means a plan that is not a primary plan.

**This Plan** This term means the group health benefits, except prescription drug coverage, if any, provided under this group plan.

CGP-3-R-COB-05

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## **All Options**

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### **Order Of Benefit Determination**

The primary plan pays or provides its benefits as if the secondary plan or plans did not exist.

A plan may consider the benefits paid or provided by another plan to determine its benefits only when it is secondary to that other plan. If a person is covered by more than one secondary plan, the rules explained below decide the order in which secondary plan benefits are determined in relation to each other.

A plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision is always primary.

When all plans have coordination of benefits provisions, the rules to determine the order of payment are listed below. The first of the rules that applies is the rule to use.

**Non-Dependent Or Dependent** The plan that covers the person other than as a dependent (for example, as an employee, member, subscriber, or retiree) is primary. The plan that covers the person as a dependent is secondary.

But, if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law, Medicare is secondary to the plan that covers the person as a dependent; and primary to the plan that covers the person other than as a dependent (for example, as a retiree); then the order of payment between the two plans is reversed. In that case, the plan that covers the person as an employee, member, subscriber, or retiree is secondary and the other plan is primary.

**Child Covered Under More Than One Plan** The order of benefit determination when a child is covered by more than one plan is:

- (1) If the parents are married, or are not separated (whether or not they ever have been married), or a court decree awards joint custody without specifying that one party must provide health care coverage, the plan of the parent whose birthday is earlier in the year is primary. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that covered either of the parents longer is primary. If a plan does not have this birthday rule, then that plan's coordination of benefits provision will determine which plan is primary.

## Order Of Benefit Determination (Cont.)

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- (2) If the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents must provide health care coverage and the plan of the parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that plan is primary. This rule applies to claim determination periods that start after the plan is given notice of the court decree.
- (3) In the absence of a court decree, if the parents are not married, or are separated (whether or not they ever have been married), or are divorced, the order of benefit determination is: (a) the plan of the custodial parent; (b) the plan of the spouse of the custodial parent; (c) the plan of the noncustodial parent; and (d) the plan of the spouse of the noncustodial parent.

**Active Or Inactive Employee** The plan that covers a person as an active employee, or as that person's dependent, is primary. An active employee is one who is neither laid off nor retired. The plan that covers a person as a laid off or retired employee, or as that person's dependent, is secondary. If a plan does not have this rule and as a result the plans do not agree on the order of benefit determination, this rule is ignored.

**Continuation Coverage** The plan that covers a person as an active employee, member, subscriber, or retired employee, or as that person's dependent, is primary. The plan that covers a person under a right of continuation provided by federal or state law is secondary. If a plan does not have this rule and as a result the plans do not agree on the order of benefit determination, this rule is ignored.

**Length Of Coverage** The plan that covered the person longer is primary.

**Other** If the above rules do not determine the primary plan, the allowable expenses will be shared equally between the plans that meet the definition of plan under this section. But, this plan will not pay more than it would have had it been the primary plan.

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### All Options

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## Effect On The Benefits Of This Plan

**When This Plan Is Primary** When this plan is primary, its benefits are determined before those of any other plan and without considering any other plan's benefits.

**When This Plan Is Secondary** When this plan is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all plans during a claim determination period are not more than 100% of total allowable expenses. When the benefits of this plan are reduced, each benefit is reduced in proportion. It is then charged against the applicable benefit limit of this plan.

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## **Right To Receive And Release Needed Information**

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these rules and to determine benefits payable under this plan and other plans. This plan may get the facts it needs from, or give them to, other organizations or persons to apply these rules and determine benefits payable under this plan and other plans which cover the person claiming benefits. This plan need not tell, or get the consent of, any person to do this. Each person claiming benefits under this plan must provide any facts it needs to apply these rules and determine benefits payable.

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## **Facility Of Payment**

A payment made under another plan may include an amount that should have been paid by this plan. If it does, this plan may pay that amount to the organization that made the payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid by this plan. This plan will not have to pay that amount again.

As used here, the term "payment made" includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

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## **Right Of Recovery**

If the amount of the payments made by this plan is more than it should have paid under this section, it may recover the excess: (a) from one or more of the persons it has paid or for whom it has paid; or (b) from any other person or organization that may be responsible for benefits or services provided for the covered person.

As used here, the term "amount of the payments made" includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

CGP-3-R-COB-05

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**CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT**

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Notwithstanding any provision in the Plan to the contrary, it is hereby agreed that the Group Plan is amended February 1, 2020 so that,

- (A) A Covered Person may select any holder of a license issued under Section 2135, 1000, 1634 or 2948 of the California Business and Professions Code, to perform any Covered service such holder is expressly authorized by law to perform.
- (B) A Covered Person may select a clinical social worker who is the holder of a license issued under Section 9040 of the California Business and Professions Code, to perform any covered service which such social worker is expressly authorized by law to perform, provided such Covered Person is referred to such social worker by a licensed physician or surgeon.
- (C) A Covered Person may select an occupational therapist, regulated under Section 2570 of the California Business and Professions Code to perform any covered service which such Occupational Therapist is expressly authorized by law to perform, provided such Covered Person is referred to such occupational therapist by a licensed physician or surgeon.
- (D) A Covered Person may select a speech pathologist or audiologist, licensed under section 2530 of the California Business and Professions Code, to perform any covered service which such speech pathologist or audiologist is expressly authorized by law to perform, provided such Covered Person is referred to such speech pathologist of audiologist by a licensed physician or surgeon.
- (E) A Covered Person may select a marriage, family, and child counselor, licensed under Section 17805 of the California Business and Professions Code, to perform any covered service which such family, marriage, and child counselor is expressly authorized by law to perform, provided Covered Person is referred to such family, marriage, and child counselor by a licensed physician or surgeon.

This Rider shall form a part of the Policy, Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained herein shall be held to alter or affect any of the provisions of the policy, including any prior Riders, Amendments, or Endorsements.

All terms and conditions of your certificate, not specifically changed herein, remain in full force and effect.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

## All Options

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## GLOSSARY

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This Glossary defines the italicized terms appearing in your booklet.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

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## All Options

**Active Orthodontic** means an *appliance*, like a fixed or removable appliance, braces or a functional orthotic used for orthodontic treatment to move teeth or reposition the jaw.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0663

## All Options

**Anterior Teeth** means the incisor and cuspid teeth. The teeth are located in front of the bicuspid (pre-molars).

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0664

## All Options

**Appliance** means any dental device other than a *dental prosthesis*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0665

## All Options

**Benefit Year** means a 12 month period which starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

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## All Options

**Covered Dental Specialty** means any group of procedures which falls under one of the following categories, whether performed by a specialist *dentist* or a general *dentist*: restorative/prosthetic services; endodontic services, periodontic services, oral surgery and pedodontics.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0667

## All Options

**Covered Family** means an employee and those of his or her dependents who are covered by this *plan*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0668

## All Options

**Covered Person** means an employee or any of his or her covered dependents.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0669

**All Options**

**Dental Prosthesis** means a restorative service which is used to replace one or more missing or lost teeth and associated tooth structures. It includes all types of abutment crowns, inlays and onlays, bridge pontics, complete and immediate dentures, partial dentures and unilateral partials. It also includes all types of crowns, veneers, inlays, onlays, implants and posts and cores.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0670

**All Options**

**Dentist** means any dental or medical practitioner we are required by law to recognize who: (a) is properly licensed or certified under the laws of the state where he or she practices; and (b) provides services which are within the scope of his or her license or certificate and covered by this *plan*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0671

**All Options**

**Eligibility Date** for dependent coverage is the earliest date on which: (a) you have initial dependents; and (b) are eligible for dependent coverage.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

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**All Options**

**Eligible Dependent** is defined in the provision entitled "Dependent Coverage."

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0015

**All Options**

**Emergency Treatment** means bona fide emergency services which: (a) are reasonably necessary to relieve the sudden onset of severe pain, fever, swelling, serious bleeding, severe discomfort, or to prevent the imminent loss of teeth; and (b) are covered by this *plan*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0672

**All Options**

**Employee** means a person who works for the *employer* at the *employer's* place of business, and whose income is reported for tax purposes using a W-2 form.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

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**All Options**

**Employer** means WHATNOT INC. .

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**All Options**

**Enrollment Period** with respect to dependent coverage, means the 31 day period which starts on the date that you first become eligible for dependent coverage.

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**All Options**

**Full-time** means the *employee* regularly works at least the number of hours in the normal work week set by the *employer* (but not less than 30 hours per week), at his *employer's* place of business.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0229

**All Options**

**Initial Dependents** means those *eligible dependents* you have at the time you first become eligible for *employee* coverage. If at this time you do not have any *eligible dependents*, but you later acquire them, the first *eligible dependents* you acquire are your *initial dependents*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0006

**All Options**

**Injury** means all damage to a *covered person's* mouth due to an accident which occurred while he or she is covered by this *plan*, and all complications arising from that damage. But the term *injury* does not include damage to teeth, *appliances* or *dental prostheses* which results solely from chewing or biting food or other substances.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0673

**All Options**

**Newly Acquired Dependent** means an *eligible dependent* you acquire after you already have coverage in force for *initial dependents*.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0008

**All Options**

**Orthodontic Treatment** means the movement of one or more teeth by the use of *active appliances*. it includes: (a) treatment plan and records, including initial, interim and final records; (b) periodic visits, limited orthodontic treatment, interceptive orthodontic treatment and comprehensive orthodontic treatment, including fabrication and insertion of any and all fixed appliances; (c) orthodontic retention, including any and all necessary fixed and removable appliances and related visits.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0675

**All Options**

**Payment Limit** means the maximum amount this *plan* pays for covered services during either a *benefit year* or a *covered person's* lifetime, as applicable.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0676

**All Options**

**Payment Rate** means the percentage rate that this *plan* pays for covered services.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0677

**All Options**

**Posterior Teeth** means the bicuspid (pre-molars) and molar teeth. These are the teeth located behind the cuspids.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0679

**All Options**

**Plan** means the Guardian group dental plan purchased by the planholder.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0678

**All Options**

**Prior Plan** means the planholder's plan or policy of group dental insurance which was in force immediately prior to this *plan*. To be considered a prior plan, this *plan* must start immediately after the prior coverage ends.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0681

**All Options**

**Proof Of Claim** means dental radiographs, study models, periodontal charting, written narrative or any documentation that may validate the necessity of the proposed treatment.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0682

**All Options**

**We, Us, Our And Guardian** mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0683



## **All Options**

**The following notice applies if Your plan is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and its amendments. This notice is not part of the Guardian plan of insurance or any employer funded benefits, not insured by Guardian.**

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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As a participant, 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**

- (a) 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.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, 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.
- (c) 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 Group Health Plan Coverage**

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. You should review this summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

### **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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your 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.

### **Enforcement Of Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare 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.

## Statement of Erisa Rights (Cont.)

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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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

### **Assistance with Questions**

If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

### **Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

Federal law requires that group health plans provide medical care coverage of a dependent child pursuant to a qualified medical child support order (QMCSO). A "qualified medical child support order" is a judgment or decree issued by a state court that requires a group medical plan to provide coverage to the named dependent child(ren) of an employee pursuant to a state domestic relations order. For the order to be qualified it must include:

- The name of the group health plan to which it applies.
- The name and last known address of the employee and the child(ren).
- A reasonable description of the type of coverage or benefits to be provided by the plan to the child(ren).
- The time period to which the order applies.

A dependent enrolled due to a QMCSO will not be considered a late enrollee in the plan.

Note: A QMCSO cannot require a group health plan to provide any type or form of benefit or option not otherwise available under the plan except to the extent necessary to meet medical child support laws described in Section 90 of the Social Security Act.

If you have questions about this statement, see the plan administrator.

B800.0094

**All Options**

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## **The Guardian's Responsibilities**

B800.0048

**All Options**

The dental expense benefits provided by this plan are guaranteed by a policy of insurance issued by The Guardian. The Guardian also supplies administrative services, such as claims services, including the payment of claims, preparation of employee certificates of insurance, and changes to such certificates.

B800.0053

**All Options**

The Guardian is located at 10 Hudson Yards, New York, New York 10001.

B800.0049

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## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure

If you seek benefits under the plan you should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from the Plan Administrator.

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe the terms of the plan with respect to claims. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

**Definitions** "Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit. A failure to cover an item or service: (a) due to the application of any utilization review; or (b) because the item or service is determined to be experimental or investigational, or not medically necessary or appropriate, is also considered an adverse determination.

"Group Health Benefits" means any dental, out-of-network point-of-service medical, major medical, vision care or prescription drug coverages which are a part of this plan.

"Pre-service claim" means a claim for a medical care benefit with respect to which the plan conditions receipt of the benefit, in whole or in part, on approval of the benefit in advance of receipt of care.

"Post-service claim" means a claim for payment for medical care that already has been provided.

"Urgent care claim" means a claim for medical care or treatment where making a non-urgent care decision: (a) could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant or the ability of the claimant to regain maximum function, as determined by an individual acting on behalf of the plan applying the judgment of a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine; or (b) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition, would subject the claimant to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care.

Note: Any claim that a physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition determines is a claim involving urgent care will be treated as an urgent care claim for purposes of this section.

**Timing For Initial Benefit Determination** The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.



## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

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**Urgent Care Claims.** Guardian will make a benefit determination within 72 hours after receipt of an urgent care claim.

If a claimant fails to provide all information needed to make a benefit determination, Guardian will notify the claimant of the specific information that is needed as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim. The claimant will be given not less than 48 hours to provide the specified information.

Guardian will notify the claimant of the benefit determination as soon as possible but not later than the earlier of:

- the date the requested information is received; or
- the end of the period given to the claimant to provide the specified additional information.

The required notice may be provided to the claimant orally within the required time frame provided that a written or electronic notification is furnished to the claimant not later than 3 days after the oral notification.

**Pre-Service Claims.** Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 15 days after receipt of a pre-service claim. If a claimant fails to provide all information needed to make a benefit determination, Guardian will notify the claimant of the specific information that is needed as soon as possible but no later than 5 days after receipt of the claim. A notification of a failure to follow proper procedures for pre-service claims may be oral, unless a written notification is requested by the claimant.

The time period for providing a benefit determination may be extended by up to 15 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 15-day period.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**Post-Service Claims.** Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 30 days after receipt of a post-service claim. If a claimant fails to provide all information needed to make a benefit determination, Guardian will notify the claimant of the specific information that is needed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after receipt of the claim.

The time period for completing a benefit determination may be extended by up to 15 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 30-day period.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

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**Concurrent Care Decisions.** A reduction or termination of an approved ongoing course of treatment (other than by plan amendment or termination) will be regarded as an adverse benefit determination. This is true whether the treatment is to be provided(a) over a period of time; (b) for a certain number of treatments; or (c) without a finite end date. Guardian will notify a claimant at a time sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the claimant to appeal.

In the case of a request by a claimant to extend an ongoing course of treatment involving urgent care, Guardian will make a benefit determination as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim.

### **Adverse Benefit Determination**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- reference to the specific plan provision(s) on which the determination is based;
- a description of any additional material or information necessary to make the claim valid and an explanation of why such material or information is needed;
- a description of the plan's claim review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement indicating that the claimant has the right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination;
- identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an adverse benefit determination, or a statement that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request;
- in the case of an adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request; and
- in the case of an urgent care adverse determination, a description of the expedited review process.

### **Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations**

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal.

A request for an appeal of an adverse benefit determination involving an urgent care claim may be submitted orally or in writing. Necessary information and communication regarding an urgent care claim may be sent to Guardian by telephone, facsimile or similar expeditious manner.

Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;

## Group Health Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

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- the opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relating to the claim; and
- a review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- in deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision regarding review of an appeal as follows:

**Urgent Care Claims.** Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

**Pre-Service Claims.** Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 30 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

**Post-Service Claims.** Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 60 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

B800.0076

## Termination of This Group Plan

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Your *employer* may terminate this group *plan* at any time by giving us 31 days advance written notice. This *plan* will also end if your *employer* fails to pay a premium due by the end of this grace period.

We may have the option to terminate this *plan* if the number of people insured falls below a certain level.

When this *plan* ends, you may be eligible to continue or convert your insurance coverage. Your rights upon termination of the *plan* are explained in this booklet.

B800.0007

## All Options

### **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

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

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

Effective: 5/01/2016

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how Guardian and its subsidiaries may use and disclose your Protected Health Information (PHI) in order to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations and for other purposes permitted or required by law.

Guardian is required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices concerning PHI. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice so long as it remains in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices as necessary and to make the new Notice effective for all PHI maintained by us. If we make material changes to our privacy practices, copies of revised notices will be made available on request and circulated as required by law. Copies of our current Notice may be obtained by contacting Guardian (using the information supplied below), or on our Web site at: [www.guardianlife.com/privacy-policy](http://www.guardianlife.com/privacy-policy).

#### **What is Protected Health Information (PHI):**

PHI is individually identifiable information (including demographic information) relating to your health, to the health care provided to you or to payment for health care. PHI refers particularly to information acquired or maintained by us as a result of your having health coverage (including medical, dental, vision and long term care coverage).

#### **In What Ways may Guardian Use and Disclose your Protected Health Information (PHI):**

Guardian has the right to use or disclose your PHI without your written authorization to assist in your treatment, to facilitate payment and for health care operations purposes. There are certain circumstances where we are required by law to use or disclose your PHI. And there are other purposes, listed below, where we are permitted to use or disclose your PHI without further authorization from you. Please note that examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to indicate every use or disclosure that may be made for a particular purpose.

Guardian has the right to use or disclose your PHI for the following purposes :

Treatment.Guardian may use and disclose your PHI to assist your health care providers in your diagnosis and treatment. For example, we may disclose your PHI to providers to supply information about alternative treatments.

Payment.Guardian may use and disclose your PHI in order to pay for the services and resources you may receive. For example, we may disclose your PHI for payment purposes to a health care provider or a health plan. Such purposes may include: ascertaining your range of benefits; certifying that you received treatment; requesting details regarding your treatment to determine if your benefits will cover, or pay for, your treatment.

Health Care Operations.Guardian may use and disclose your PHI to perform health care operations, such as administrative or business functions. For example, we may use your PHI for underwriting and premium rating purposes. However, we will not use or disclose your genetic information for underwriting purposes and are prohibited by law from doing so.

Appointment Reminders.Guardian may use and disclose your PHI to contact you and remind you of appointments.

## **The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY**

Health Related Benefits and Services. Guardian may use and disclose PHI to inform you of health related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.

Plan Sponsors. Guardian may use or disclose PHI to the plan sponsor of your group health plan to permit the plan sponsor to perform plan administration functions. For example, a plan may contact us regarding benefits, service or coverage issues. We may also disclose summary health information about the enrollees in your group health plan to the plan sponsor so that the sponsor can obtain premium bids for health insurance coverage, or to decide whether to modify, amend or terminate your group health plan.

B998.0051

### **All Options**

Guardian is required to use or disclose your PHI :

- To you or your personal representative (someone with the legal right to make health care decisions for you);
- To the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, when conducting a compliance investigation, review or enforcement action related to health information privacy or security; and
- Where otherwise required by law.

Guardian is Required to Notify You of any Breaches of Your Unsecured PHI.

Although Guardian takes reasonable, industry-standard measures to protect your PHI, should a breach occur, Guardian is required by law to notify affected individuals. Under federal medical privacy law, a breach means the acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of unsecured PHI in a manner not permitted by law that compromises the security or privacy of the PHI.

Other Uses and Disclosures .

Guardian may also use and disclose your PHI for the following purposes without your authorization:

- We may disclose your PHI to persons involved in your care or payment for care, such as a family member or close personal friend, when you are present and do not object, when you are incapacitated, under certain circumstances during an emergency or when otherwise permitted by law.
- We may use or disclose your PHI for public health activities, such as reporting of disease, injury, birth and death, and for public health investigations.
- We may use or disclose your PHI in an emergency, directly to or through a disaster relief entity, to find and tell those close to you of your location or condition
- We may disclose your PHI to the proper authorities if we suspect child abuse or neglect; we may also disclose your PHI if we believe you to be a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.
- We may disclose your PHI to a government oversight agency authorized by law to conducting audits, investigations, or civil or criminal proceedings.
- We may use or disclose your PHI in the course of a judicial or administrative proceeding (e.g., to respond to a subpoena or discovery request).
- We may disclose your PHI to the proper authorities for law enforcement purposes.

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY**

- We may disclose your PHI to coroners, medical examiners, and/or funeral directors consistent with law.
- We may use or disclose your PHI for organ or tissue donation.
- We may use or disclose your PHI for research purposes, but only as permitted by law.
- We may use or disclose PHI to avert a serious threat to health or safety.
- We may use or disclose your PHI if you are a member of the military as required by armed forces services.
- We may use or disclose your PHI to comply with workers' compensation and other similar programs.
- We may disclose your PHI to third party business associates that perform services for us, or on our behalf (e.g. vendors).
- We may use and disclose your PHI to federal officials for intelligence and national security activities authorized by law. We also may disclose your PHI to authorized federal officials in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state, or to conduct investigations authorized by law.
- We may disclose your PHI to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials if you are an inmate or under the custody of a law enforcement official (e.g., for the institution to provide you with health care services, for the safety and security of the institution, and/or to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals).
- We may use or disclose your PHI to your employer under limited circumstances related primarily to workplace injury or illness or medical surveillance.

B998.0052

**All Options**

We generally will not sell your PHI, or use or disclose PHI about you for marketing purposes without your authorization unless otherwise permitted by law.

**Your Rights with Regard to Your Protected Health Information (PHI):**

Your Authorization for Other Uses and Disclosures. Other than for the purposes described above, or as otherwise permitted by law, Guardian must obtain your written authorization to use or disclosure your PHI. You have the right to revoke that authorization in writing except to the extent that: (i) we have taken action in reliance upon the authorization prior to your written revocation, or (ii) you were required to give us your authorization as a condition of obtaining coverage, and we have the right, under other law, to contest a claim under the coverage or the coverage itself.

Under federal and state law, certain kinds of PHI will require enhanced privacy protections. These forms of PHI include information pertaining to:

- HIV/AIDS testing, diagnosis or treatment
- Venereal and /or communicable Disease(s)
- Genetic Testing
- Alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment and referral
- Psychotherapy notes

We will only disclose these types of delineated information when permitted or required by law or upon your prior written authorization.

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY**

Your Right to an Accounting of Disclosures . An 'accounting of disclosures' is a list of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your PHI. You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your PHI that were made by us. This right applies to disclosures for purposes other than those made to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations as described in this notice. It excludes disclosures made to you, or those made for notification purposes.

We ask that you submit your request in writing by completing our form. Your request may state a requested time period not more than six years prior to the date when you make your request. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (e.g., paper, electronically). Our form for Account of Disclosure requests is available at [www.guardianlife.com/privacy-policy](http://www.guardianlife.com/privacy-policy).

Your Right to Obtain a Paper Copy of This Notice . You have a right to request a paper copy of this notice even if you have previously agreed to accept this notice electronically. You may obtain a paper copy of this notice by sending a request to the contact information listed at the end of this notice.

Your Right to File a Complaint . If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with Guardian or the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you wish to file a complaint with Guardian, you may do so using the contact information below. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

Please submit any exercise of the Rights designated below to Guardian in writing using the contact information listed below. For some requests, Guardian may charge for reasonable costs associated with complying with your requests; in such a case, we will notify you of the cost involved and provide you the opportunity to modify your request before any costs are incurred.

Your Right to Request Restrictions . You have the right to request a restriction on the PHI we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations as described in this notice. You also have the right to request a restriction on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care.

Guardian is not required to agree to your request; however, if we do agree, we will comply with your request until we receive notice from you that you no longer want the restriction to apply (except as required by law or in emergency situations). Your request must describe in a clear and concise manner: (a) the information you wish restricted; (b) whether you are requesting to limit Guardian's use, disclosure or both; and (c) to whom you want the limits to apply.

Your Right to Request Confidential Communications . You have the right to request that Guardian communicate with you about your PHI be in a particular manner or at a certain location. For example, you may ask that we contact you at work rather than at home. We are required to accommodate all reasonable requests made in writing, when such requests clearly state that your life could be endangered by the disclosure of all or part of your PHI.

B998.0053

**All Options**



**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY**

Your Right to Amend Your PHI. If you feel that any PHI about you, which is maintained by Guardian, is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to request that such PHI be amended or corrected. Within your written request, you must provide a reason in support of your request. Guardian reserves the right to deny your request if: (i) the PHI was not created by Guardian, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to amend it (ii) if we do not maintain the PHI at issue (iii) if you would not be permitted to inspect and copy the PHI at issue or (iv) if the PHI we maintain about you is accurate and complete. If we deny your request, you may submit a written statement of your disagreement to us, and we will record it with your health information.

Your Right to Access to Your PHI. You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your PHI that we maintain in designated record sets. Under certain circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and copy your PHI. In an instance where you are denied access and have a right to have that determination reviewed, a licensed health care professional chosen by Guardian will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. Guardian promises to comply with the outcome of the review.

**How to Contact Us:**

If you have any questions about this Notice or need further information about matters covered in this Notice, please call the toll-free number on the back of your Guardian ID card. If you are a broker please call 800-627-4200. All others please contact us at 800-541-7846. You can also write to us with your questions, or to exercise any of your rights, at the address below:

**Attention:**

Guardian Corporate Privacy Officer  
National Operations

**Address:**

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
Group Quality Assurance - Northeast  
P.O. Box 981573  
El Paso, TX 79998-1573

B998.0055

**You May not be covered by all options in this Certificate.**

This Certificate contains all the benefits and options that are available under the Policy. You are insured only for those benefits and options that you are eligible and enrolled for, and for which the required premium has been paid.



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**CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE**

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**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

The Group Term Life Insurance described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective January 1, 2024. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under this Policy or under any other plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Policyholder by Guardian.

**GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE**

Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is eligible for the coverage, and in the amount, described herein. In order to be eligible for coverage, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of this Policy's eligibility and Effective Date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Policyholder's records as a validly covered Employee under the Policy; (c) satisfy any necessary Proof of Insurability requirements; and (d) all required premium payments have been made by or on behalf of the Employee.

The Employee and/or his or her Dependents are not covered by any part of this Policy for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Policyholder's records.

**FOR INSURED PERSONS AGE 65 OR OLDER WHO PAY SOME OR ALL OF THE COST OF THIS INSURANCE: YOU HAVE A 30 DAY EXAMINATION PERIOD AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS CERTIFICATE DURING WHICH YOU MAY CANCEL THE COVERAGE AND RETURN THIS CERTIFICATE BY MAIL OR OTHER DELIVERY METHOD. SUCH RETURN WILL VOID THE CERTIFICATE FROM THE BEGINNING, AND THE PARTIES WILL BE IN THE SAME POSITION AS IF A CERTIFICATE HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED. ALL PREMIUMS PAID WILL BE FULLY REFUNDED IN A TIMELY MANNER NOT LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE COMPANY RECEIVES THE RETURNED CERTIFICATE.**

Policyholder: WHATNOT INC.  
Group Policy Number: 00572118

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Harris Oliner, Senior Vice President,  
Corporate Secretary



Michael Prestileo,  
Senior Vice President

B401.1935



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**COMPLAINT NOTICE**

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**This notice is to advise You that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance You may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:**

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 598-8000**

**If You feel Your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian You may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:**

**Department of Insurance  
300 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Consumer Hotline: 1-800-927-HELP (4357)  
TDD: 1-800-482-4TDD (4883)  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)**

B401.1936





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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### The Contract and Limitation Of Authority

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The entire contract between the Policyholder and Us consists of:

- The Policy;
- The Schedule of Premium Rates;
- This Certificate(s) which describe(s) the insurance for which Covered Persons are insured;
- Any attached riders, schedule of benefits or amendments; (5) and the application.

In the event of a conflict, the Policy shall reign.

We can amend the Policy at any time, without the consent of the insured Employees or any other person having a beneficial interest in it:

- Upon written request made by the Policyholder and agreed to by Us; or
- On any date Our obligation under the Policy with respect to the Policyholder, or under this Certificate with respect to You, is changed because of statutory or other regulatory requirements.

Upon request, You may obtain a copy of the Policy from Us.

If We amend this Certificate, except upon request made by You, We must give You written notice of such change. Any amendments to this Certificate will be without prejudice to any claim arising prior to the date of the change.

No person, except by a writing signed by the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us to:

- Determine whether any contract, policy or certificate is to be issued;
- Waive or alter any provisions of any contract or policy, or any of Our requirements;
- Bind Us by any statement or promise relating to the contract issued or to be issued; or
- Accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

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### Applicable Benefits

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This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. You will only be covered for benefits if:

- They were previously selected in an enrollment form or other required form; and
- We have received any required premium.

If Proof of Insurability is required, You will not be covered unless You satisfy the Proof of Insurability requirements stated in the Certificate and Schedule of Benefits.

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### **Incontestability**

This Certificate is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums.

No statement in any application made by You, or any dependent, will be used to contest the validity of Your insurance or to deny a claim for a loss incurred, or for a disability which starts, after such insurance has been in force for two years during Your lifetime.

If this Certificate replaces a plan Your Employer had with another insurer, We may rescind this Certificate based on misrepresentations or omissions made by Your Employer or You in a signed application for up to two years from the Effective Date of the Policy.

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### **Physical Examination And Autopsy**

We have the right to have a doctor of Our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made under the Certificate as often as We feel is reasonably necessary. We also have the right to have an autopsy performed in the case of death where allowed by law. We will pay for all such examinations and autopsies.

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### **Overpayment Recovery**

If We overpay benefits, all such benefits must be repaid in full. We have the right to reduce the benefit or reduce any other benefits payable under this Certificate, toward recovery of any overpayment.

B401.1938

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR GROUP TERM LIFE COVERAGE - EMPLOYEE COVERAGE

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### Conditions Of Eligibility

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Subject to the conditions of eligibility set forth below, and to all of the other conditions of this Certificate, You are eligible for Group Term Life coverage if You are:

- In an eligible class of Employees;
- An active Full time Employee;
- Legally working in the United States and/or Canada or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us; and
- Working at least the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at:
  - The Employer's place of business;
  - Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
  - Any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of your occupational duties.

You are **not** eligible for Group Term Life coverage if You are:

- A temporary or seasonal Employee.

**Enrollment Requirement** If You must pay all or part of the cost of Your coverage, We will not cover You until You enroll and agree to make the required payments.

**Proof Of Insurability** Part or all of Your insurance amounts may be subject to proof that You are insurable. The Schedule of Benefits explains if and when We require Proof of Insurability. You will not be covered for any amount that requires such Proof of Insurability until You provide such proof to Us and We approve it in writing.

**The Waiting Period** If You are in an eligible class, You are eligible for Group Term Life insurance under this Certificate after You complete the service waiting period, if any, established by the Employer.

**Multiple Employment** If You work for both the Employer and a covered associated company, or for more than one covered associated company, We will treat You as if only one firm employs You. You will not have multiple life insurance coverage under this Certificate. But, if this Certificate uses the amount of Your Insured Earnings to set the rates, determine class, figure insurance amounts, or for any other reason, such Insured Earnings will be figured as the sum of Your Insured Earnings from all covered Employers.

B400.3124

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## When Coverage Starts

For coverage to start, You must be fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for the Employer and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on Your scheduled Eligibility Date. And, for coverage to start, You must satisfy all of the Conditions of Eligibility described above, and the conditions shown below which apply to You. If You are not fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, We will postpone the start of Your coverage until You are so capable and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class for one full day, with the capacity to do so for one full week.

Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date.

B400.3128

## All Options

### Exception to When Coverage Starts

Sometimes a scheduled Eligibility Date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled Eligibility Date falls on:

- A holiday;
- A vacation day;
- A non-scheduled work day;
- A day during an approved leave of absence not due to Sickness or Injury, of 90 days or less; or
- A day during a period of absence that is less than 7 days in duration;

and if:

- You are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for Your Employer for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 AM Standard Time for Your place of residence on the scheduled Eligibility Date; and

- You were performing the major duties of Your regular occupation and working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class on Your last regularly scheduled work day;

Your coverage will start on the scheduled Eligibility Date. However, any coverage or part of coverage for which You must elect and pay all or part of the cost, will not start if You are on an approved leave, layoff or absence and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for You under a prior plan which this Certificate replaced.

Any part of Your coverage which is subject to Proof Of Insurability will not start unless You send such proof to Us, and We approve it in writing. Once We have approved it, that part of Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your approved Eligibility Date.

B400.3131

## All Options

### Transfer Business Exception

If due to sickness or injury You are not Actively at Work and not working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class, on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, You will be insured for this Group Term Life insurance if:

- You were insured under the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan at the time the prior insurer's group term life plan ended and the group term life plan became effective with Us, with no break in group coverage;
- You were a member of an eligible class under the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan and are eligible under this Certificate;
- Premiums for You were paid up to date for the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan and this Certificate;
- Premiums are not currently being waived under the Waiver of Premium Rider, or You were not eligible, under the terms of the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan, to have premiums waived under the Waiver of Premium provision; and
- You are not receiving or eligible to receive benefits under the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan.

Any Group Term Life benefit payable will be the lesser of:

- The Group Term Life benefit payable under this Certificate; or
- The group term life benefit payable under the Employer's prior insurer's group term life plan had it remained in force; reduced by any amount paid by the prior insurer's group term life plan.

If You are covered under the Exception to When Coverage Starts, You will not be eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit provision under this Certificate until such a time You are Actively At Work as defined by this Certificate.

If You meet the conditions stated above, You will remain insured under this provision until the first of the following to occur:

- The date You are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for the Employer, and capable of doing so for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class;
- The date insurance terminates for one of the reasons stated in When Employee Coverage Ends;
- The last day of a period of 12 consecutive months which begins on this Certificate's Effective Date;
- The date You become eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit provision under the prior insurer's group life policy; or
- The last day You would have been covered under the prior insurer's group term life plan, had the prior plan not terminated.

B400.9079

## All Options

### When Coverage Ends

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Your coverage will end on the first of the following dates:

- The date Your Active Work ends for any reason, except as noted below under Coverage During Leave of Absence. Such reasons include:
  - Disability;
  - Death;
  - Retirement;
  - Layoff;
  - Leave of absence;
  - The end of employment; and
  - Expiration of the employment contract.
- The date You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.
- The date You are no longer working in the United States and/or Canada, or no longer working outside the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us. Any incidental business or personal travel outside of the United States and/or Canada, or outside of a country or region approved by Us, is covered. Such travel will be considered incidental if it is for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days.
- The date the group Certificate ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.

- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for You.

You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time after Your coverage would otherwise end. And, You may have the right to replace certain group benefits with converted policies. The Employer will notify you of any conversion options available.

B400.3135



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**CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE**

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**Coverage During Disability**

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If Your Active Work ends because You are Totally Disabled, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance for the amount of basic term life insurance for which You are insured on Your last day of Active Work, subject to continued payment of all required premiums, until the earlier of:

- The date you are no longer Totally Disabled, as defined by this Certificate;
- 12 months; from the date Your Total Disability began;
- The date you are approved for any Waiver of Premium Benefit for which you are eligible; or
- The date of Your 99th birthday.

We may require written Proof of Loss that You remain Totally Disabled and are receiving regular Doctor's care to maintain this benefit. This Proof of Loss must be given to Us within 30 days of the date We request it. Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

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**Coverage During Temporary Layoff**

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If Your Active Work ends because You are temporarily laid off, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of all required premium, until the earlier of:

- The end of the temporary layoff; or
- The end of the month in which You are laid off plus 1 months.
- The end of the time period covered under a severance agreement not to exceed 1 months.

If You die or become Disabled under this Certificate while Your coverage is being continued during a temporary layoff, Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

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**Coverage During Temporary Leave of Absence**

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If Your Active Work ends because You go on a leave of absence that has been approved by Your Employer, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of all required premiums, until the earlier of:

- The end of the Employer approved leave of absence; or

- The end of the month in which Your leave begins plus 1 months.

If You become Disabled under this Certificate while Your coverage is being continued during a leave of absence, Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

B400.3136

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## EMPLOYEE TERM LIFE INSURANCE

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B400.3211

### All Options

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#### Basic Term Life Insurance

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If You die while covered for Group Term Life insurance, We will pay Your beneficiary the amount shown in the Schedule Of Benefits.

**The Beneficiary** You decide who receives this benefit when You die. You may designate a beneficiary by doing so in writing on a form and filing the form with the Employer.

You can change Your beneficiary at any time by providing written notice; unless You have assigned this insurance. But, the change will not take effect until We or the Employer records the change.

We will not be liable for any amounts paid before receiving notice of a beneficiary change.

In no event may a beneficiary be changed by a Power of Attorney.

If You named more than one person as a primary beneficiary, but You do not specify what shares each such primary beneficiary is entitled to receive, We will divide the benefits equally among all such named primary beneficiaries who survive You. If someone You named as a primary beneficiary dies before You, that person's share will be divided equally by the primary beneficiaries still alive; unless You have specified otherwise.

If You have named a contingent beneficiary or contingent beneficiaries, We will pay Your contingent beneficiary or contingent beneficiaries, if no primary beneficiary survives You. If there is more than one contingent beneficiary who is eligible for benefits, We will divide the benefits equally among all such named contingent beneficiaries who survive You; unless You have specified otherwise.

If there is no primary or contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries eligible for benefits when You die, We will pay this benefit as follows:

- To Your Spouse;
- If Your Spouse does not survive You, then to Your children who survive You in equal shares;
- If no Spouse or children survive You, then to Your parents who survive You in equal shares;
- If no Spouse, children, or parents survive You, then to Your brothers and sisters in equal shares;
- If none of the above parties survive You, then to Your executors or administrators of Your estate.

**Assigning This Life Insurance** If You assign this insurance, You permanently transfer all Your rights under this insurance to the assignee.

We will recognize an assignee as the owner of the rights assigned only if:

- The assignment is in writing and signed by You; and
- A signed or certified copy of the written assignment has been received and approved by Us in writing.

Unless otherwise specified by You, the assignment shall take effect on the date the notice of assignment is signed by You, subject to any payments made or actions taken by Us prior to receipt of the notice.

We are not responsible for any legal, tax, or other effects of any assignment, or for any benefits We pay under this Certificate before We receive and approve any assignment. Assigning this life insurance may limit Your ability to exercise certain rider benefits.

We suggest You speak to Your lawyer before You make any assignment.

**Payment Of Funeral Expenses** We have the option of paying up to \$500 of this benefit to any person who incurred expenses for Your funeral.

**Repatriation Benefit** We will pay an extra sum for covered loss of life which occurs at least 75 miles from Your home. In that case, We will reimburse up to \$5,000 to any person who incurred expenses to prepare and transport Your body to a mortuary chosen by You or an authorized agent. The total repatriation benefit payable under Your life and AD&D contracts will not exceed \$5,000.

B401.2789



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## CONVERTING THIS EMPLOYEE BASIC TERM LIFE INSURANCE

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**If Employment Or  
Eligibility Ends**

Your group life insurance ends on the date:

- Your active Full-Time employment ends; or
- You stop being a member of an eligible class.

If Your group life insurance ends, Your Employer is responsible for providing You Notice of Your Right to Convert.

If You are not Totally Disabled, You can apply to convert Your Employee group basic life insurance to a permanent life insurance policy.

You can apply to convert up to the full amount of basic life insurance for which You were insured under this Certificate on the date Your insurance ended, less any group life insurance for which You become eligible in the 31 days after Your insurance under this Certificate ends.

**If This Certificate  
Ends Or Group Life  
Insurance Is  
Discontinued**

Your group life insurance also ends:

- If this Certificate ends; or
- Life insurance is discontinued from this Certificate for all Employees or for Your class.

If Your group life insurance ends for either of these reasons, You may apply to convert Your Employee group basic life insurance to a Converted Policy.

You can apply to convert to a permanent life insurance policy, if

- You are not Totally Disabled; and
- You have been insured by a Guardian group life insurance plan or a group plan it replaces for at least five consecutive years.

However, the amount of life insurance that You can convert in either scenario is limited to the lesser of:

- \$2,000, or
- The amount of Your basic life insurance under this Certificate, less any group life insurance for which You become eligible in the 31 days after Your insurance under this Certificate ends.

**If You Are Totally  
Disabled**

Your group life insurance ends on the date:

- Your active Full-Time employment ends;
- You stop being a member of an eligible class;
- This Certificate ends; or
- Life insurance is discontinued from this Certificate for all Employees or for Your class;

and

- You are Totally Disabled; and
- You are eligible for Waiver of Premium Benefits pursuant to the Waiver of Premium Benefit Rider, but You have not yet been approved for the Waiver of Premium of Benefit,

You can apply to convert Your group term life insurance to:

- A permanent life insurance policy; or
- Interim term life insurance coverage.

You can apply to convert up to the full amount of basic life insurance for which You are insured under this Certificate on the date Your insurance ends, less any group life insurance for which You become eligible in the 31 days after Your insurance under this Certificate ends.

However, if You have coverage under this Certificate's Exception to When Employee Coverage Starts, You may not convert if You are eligible or could become eligible under the prior plan's waiver of premium provision.

If You have converted and are later approved for this Certificate's Waiver of Premium Benefit, the Converted Policy will be cancelled as of the date You are approved for the Waiver of Premium Benefit. In this instance, Your coverage under this Certificate will continue subject to its terms, provided You remain eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit.

**Interim Term Life Insurance**

You may choose to apply to convert to interim term life insurance coverage if:

- You are Totally Disabled; and
- You may be eligible for Waiver of Premium Benefits based upon Your age, but You have not yet been approved for the Waiver of Premium Benefit.

If interim term life insurance coverage is issued to You, it can remain in force for up to one year from the date the interim term life insurance coverage goes into force and effect.

If You are approved for this Certificate's basic Waiver of Premium Benefit during this year, the interim term life insurance coverage will be cancelled as of the date that You are approved for the Waiver of Premium Benefit. In this instance, Your coverage under this Certificate will continue subject to its terms, provided You remain eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit. If You have not been approved for this Certificate's basic Waiver of Premium Benefit, the interim term life insurance coverage will end exactly one year from the first day said coverage goes into force and effect, and Your life insurance will be converted to a permanent life insurance policy. Premiums for the permanent life insurance policy will be based on Your age as of the date You convert from the interim term life insurance coverage.

If You are Totally Disabled, but You are not eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit based on Your age, You can apply to convert to a permanent life insurance policy.

**How and When to Convert** To obtain a Converted Policy, We must receive a written application fully completed by You, and all required premiums within the Conversion Period. Your Employer is responsible for providing You with Notice of Your Right to Convert within 15 days of the date Your group life insurance ends. We will not ask for proof that You are insurable. In order to obtain a Converted Policy, You must satisfy all conditions required to convert within the Conversion Period.

Coverage will begin under the Converted Policy when We receive:

- A written application fully completed by You; and
- All required premiums during the Conversion Period.

**Death During The Conversion Period** We will pay a death benefit equal to the amount of life insurance that could have been converted if:

- You die within the Conversion Period; and
- But for Your death, You would have been entitled to purchase a Converted Policy; and
- We receive Proof of Loss.

Any benefit payable under the group Certificate will be paid to the beneficiary You designate under the group Certificate. However, if the Converted Policy has already taken effect, any benefit payable under the Converted Policy will be paid to the beneficiary You designated for the individual life insurance on the application for conversion. Under no circumstances will a benefit be paid under both the group Certificate and the Converted Policy.

B400.3224

## **All Options**

**Portability And Conversion** If You choose to convert, this Certificate's portability privilege will not be available. In the event that a person would be eligible to both convert and to port, only one of these privileges may be chosen. Coverage under both a Conversion Policy and a portable certificate of coverage at the same time is not permitted. You should read the entire Certificate, as well as any related materials carefully before making a choice.

B400.3234



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## CLAIM PROVISIONS

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Your right to make a claim for Group Term Life insurance benefits provided by this Certificate is governed as follows:

**Administration** We have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine Your eligibility for benefits under this Plan.

We will:

- Obtain only such information that is necessary to evaluate a claim for benefits. This information will be obtained as set forth herein with respect to notice and proofs of loss.
- Consider and interpret the terms of this Plan and all information obtained by Us and submitted that relates to a claim for benefits and make a determination based on that information and in accordance with the terms of this Plan and applicable California state law.
- If a claim is approved, review the determination as often as is reasonably necessary to determine continued eligibility for benefits.
- If a claim is denied, provide the claimant within a reasonable period of time a written notification of an adverse determination. Such notification will include the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.

All such determinations are conclusive and binding, except that they may be modified or reversed by a court or regulatory agency with appropriate jurisdiction.

**Notice of Claim** Written notice of intent to file a claim under this Certificate must be sent to Us within 20 days of the date of the loss. This Notice should include the name of the insured and the Policy number. If the claim is being made for any other Covered Person, his or her name should also be shown. For details, You can call Us at 1-800-525-4542.

**Claim Forms** We will furnish forms for filing proof of death within 15 days of receipt of Notice. If we do not furnish the forms on time, We will accept a written Notice and adequate proof of death that is the basis of the claim as Proof of Loss.

**Proof of Loss** You must send written Proof of Loss to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss.

**Late Notice and Proof of Loss** We will not void or reduce Your claim if we do not receive Notice and Proof of Loss within the required time. In that case, Notice and Proof of Loss must be sent as soon as reasonably possible.

Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**  
Group Life Claims Department

P.O. Box 981573  
El Paso, TX 79998-1573

**Payment Of Benefits** Subject to all the terms of this Certificate, We will pay this insurance as soon as We receive written Proof of Loss. This should be sent to Us as soon as possible. We will pay this benefit in a lump sum.

Interest will be paid on the proceeds if not paid within 30 days of the death of the Insured. Interest will be computed daily at the rate of interest currently payable on individual life policy dividends left on deposit. Such amount shall be added to the life insurance benefit amount.

**Legal Actions** No legal action against Guardian related to this Certificate may be brought until 60 days from the date Proof of Loss has been given as shown above. No legal action may be brought against Guardian related to claims for benefits under this Certificate after three years from the date of the final benefit determination.

B401.2794

## All Options

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### DEFINITIONS

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This section defines certain terms appearing in this Certificate.

B400.3503

## All Options

**Active Work or Actively At Work** These terms mean You are able to perform, and are performing, all of the regular duties of Your work for the Employer, on a Full-Time basis at:

- One of the Employer's usual places of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and the Employer have agreed on for Your work.

B400.3504

## All Options

**Certificate** This term means this Certificate of Coverage, including any riders and enrollment forms that may be attached to this Certificate.

B400.3506

## All Options

**Conversion Period** This term means the consecutive 31 day period beginning on the date Your Employee group basic life insurance ends.

B400.3507

## All Options

**Converted Policy** This term means a policy which provides individual life insurance, on an interim term or permanent basis, resulting from the option to convert provided in the Policy. The Converted Policy will not provide any:

- Benefits for accidental death;
- Waiver of Premium Benefits; or
- Other supplemental benefits.

The benefits provided by the Converted Policy may not be the same as the benefits provided by this Certificate.

The premium for the Converted Policy will be based on

- Your risk and rate class under this Certificate; and
- Your age on the date the Converted Policy goes into effect.

B400.3513

## All Options

**Covered Person** This term means the Employee insured by this Certificate.

B400.3515

## All Options

**Disabled** This term means the Covered Person is:

- Not able to perform any work for wage or profit; and
- Receiving Regular and Appropriate Care for the cause of Disability.

B400.3516

## All Options

**Doctor** Any medical practitioner We are required by law to recognize. He or she must:

- Be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and
- Provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice.

B400.3517

## All Options

**Effective Date** This term means the date the Certificate goes into force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage, or any change to the Certificate as requested by the Policyholder and approved by Us and in force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage.

B400.3518

## All Options

**Eligibility Date** This term means the earliest date a Covered Person is eligible for coverage under this Certificate, and he or she has satisfied all requirements for coverage to begin, as required by this Certificate.

- For Employee coverage, this term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Certificate.
- For an Employee in Active Work who has completed any waiting period required by the Employer as of the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date means the Effective Date of this Certificate.
- For an Employee in Active Work as of the Effective Date of this Certificate who has not completed any waiting period required by the Employer, the Eligibility Date will be the date following the completion of the required waiting period.

- For an Employee hired on or after the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of the Employee's date of hire or the first date after the end of any waiting period required by the Employer.

If this plan requires Employees to elect coverage under this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of:

- The Employee's date of hire;
- The first date after any waiting period required by the Employer; or
- The approval by Us in writing of any coverage for which You were required to provide Proof of Insurability.

B400.3520

#### All Options

**Employee** This term means a person who works for the Employer at the Employer's place of business and whose income is reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service, and/or a state, for tax purposes. Partners and proprietors will also be treated as employees if the Conditions of Eligibility requirements are met.

B400.3521

#### All Options

**Employer** This term means WHATNOT INC. .

B400.3522

#### All Options

**Enrollment Period** This term means the 31 day period which starts on the date the Covered Person first becomes eligible for coverage.

B400.3523

#### All Options

**Full-Time** This term means You are not a part time Employee as defined by Your Employer and the average number of hours You worked for the 6 months prior to the last full day worked was at least 30 hours per week at:

- Your Employer's place of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.

B400.3525

## All Options

**Insured Earnings** Only Your earnings from the Employer will be included as Insured Earnings.

- **For Partners And S Corporation Shareholders** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below:
  - Your compensation as an Employee or S Corporation shareholder, as reported on Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less the gross total of unadjusted Employee business expenses as included on the corresponding Schedule A Itemized Deductions.
  - Your non-passive income(loss) from trade of business as reported on Schedule E - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less any expenses incurred and reported elsewhere on Your Return; and
  - Your contributions during the prior calendar year, deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

If You are not a partner or S Corporation shareholder for the full prior calendar year. Your earnings will be based on the annualized sum of the listed amounts for the period of time that You are a partner or S Corporation shareholder during that calendar year.

- **For Sole Proprietors:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below.
  - Your annual net profit as determined from Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040 for the prior calendar year and
  - Your annual contribution during the prior calendar year deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Annual net profit is calculated as gross income less total expenses.

If You are not a sole proprietor for the full prior calendar year. We will calculate annual net profit and annual contributions using the full number of months that You are a sole proprietor during such time.

- **For Employees Who Are Compensated On Less Than A 12 Month Basis:** Insured Earnings means annual earnings determined from Your annual contract salary. If You do not have an annual contract salary, Insured Earnings means Your salary for the prior calendar year.

Your base annual salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included.

The term does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate Insured Earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the 12 months before the date you ceased working your normally scheduled hours.

We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Whose Income Is Reported On A IRS Form 1099:** Insured Earnings means Your annual earnings as figured from the 1099 form(s) received from the Employer for the prior calendar year.

Earnings are calculated as Your earned income as reported on the 1099 form(s) minus business expenses as reported on Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

B400.3527

## All Options

- **For Any Other Employee Who Receives Base Salary Only:** Insured Earnings means Your base annual salary from the Employer.

Your base annual salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your annual contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included. The term does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Commissions;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate Insured Earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the 12 months before the date you ceased working your normally scheduled hours.

We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per Week.

B400.3528

## All Options

**Notice of Right to Convert** This term means the written notice presented to You by the Employer, delivered to Your last known address.

B400.3539

## All Options

**Policy or Plan** This term means the Group Term Life insurance coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B400.3541

## All Options

**Proof Of Insurability** This term means the completion of an evidence of insurability requirement as defined in the Schedule of Benefits.

B400.3542

## All Options

**Proof of Loss** This term means the documents that We use to substantiate a claim. Examples of documents used for Proof of Loss include:

- An original certified finalized death certificate;
- The beneficiary designation in effect at the time of death;



- Enrollment information documenting that the insured was properly enrolled for the amount of coverage claimed;
- A fully completed claim form; and
- Any additional information deemed necessary during the course of Our claim investigation. This may include, but is not limited to, an autopsy report, investigative reports, toxicology reports and medical records.

B401.1951

## All Options

**Reasonable Accommodation** This term means any modification or adjustment that the Employer willingly provides to:

- A job;
- An employment practice;
- A work process; or
- The work place.

The modification or adjustment must make it possible for a Disabled person to:

- Reach the same level of performance as a similarly situated non-disabled person; or
- Enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are available to a similarly situated non-disabled person.

The modification or adjustment must not place an undue hardship on the Employer.

B400.3545

## All Options

**Regular and Appropriate Care** This term means, with respect to Your disabling condition(s) and any other condition(s) which, if left untreated, would adversely affect Your disabling condition, You:

- Visit a Doctor as frequently as recommended by a Doctor to effectively manage these conditions; and
- Are receiving appropriate treatment designed to achieve maximum medical improvement in these conditions.

Appropriate treatment is that treatment a patient would make a reasonable decision to accept after duly considering the opinions of medical professionals, and such treatment must be provided by a Doctor or Doctors whose specialty is appropriate for Your:

- Disability; and
- Any other conditions which left untreated would adversely affect Your disabling condition.

Regular and Appropriate Care does not require treatment for a disabling condition where no additional medical treatment will likely cure or improve that condition, and You have achieved maximum medical improvement.

B401.1952

#### **All Options**

**Total Disability and Totally Disabled** This term means that, due to sickness or injury, the Covered Person is:

- Not able during the first 24 months of claimed Total Disability to perform all the material duties of his or her occupation with Reasonable Accommodation, and after 24 months he or she is not able to perform any occupation for which he or she is reasonably fitted by education, training or experience.

B401.1954

#### **All Options**

**We, Us and Our** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

B400.3550

#### **All Options**

**You or Your** These terms mean the insured Employee.

B400.3551

All Options

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**GROUP TERM LIFE SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

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B400.4199

All Options

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**Employee Basic Term Life Insurance Schedule**

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B400.4200

All Options

**Basic Term Life Insurance Amount** An amount equal to 100% of Your Insured Earnings, rounded to the next higher \$1,000.00, if not already a multiple of that amount, to a maximum of \$250,000.00.

B400.4223

All Options

**Redetermination** Subject to any of the Policy's proof of Insurability requirements, Your basic life insurance amount will be redetermined on the date a change in Your Insured Earnings occurs, to an amount determined in accordance with the formula shown above, on the basis of Your then current Insured Earnings. Your Employer must report updates to your Insured Earnings as they occur. If you are not Actively At Work on a Full-time basis on that date, Your insurance amount will be redetermined on the date you return to Active Full-time Work. But, if Your basic life insurance amount was previously reduced because of an age or retirement reduction, it will not be redetermined due the change in earnings.

B400.4349

All Options

**Reduction of Basic Life Insurance Amount Based on Age** If You are less than age 70 when Your insurance under this Policy starts, Your insurance amount is reduced at 12:01 A.M Standard Time for Your place of residence on the date You reach age 70, by 50% of the amount which otherwise applies to Your classification. But in no case will such reduced amount be less than \$1,000.00. This reduction also applies to Your initial insurance amount if Your insurance starts after You reach age 70.

With respect to any of the reductions described above, the reduced insurance amount is in place of the amount which otherwise applies to Your classification.

B400.4360

## All Options

**Proof of Insurability** Depending on the coverage selected, or as otherwise required in this Certificate, You, Your Spouse and/or Dependents may be required to supply proof that the person applying for coverage is insurable for the amount and type of coverage selected. This requirement is called Proof of Insurability. For purposes of this section, any person applying for coverage requiring Proof of Insurability is referred to as "Applicant."

To determine if the Applicant is required to submit Proof of Insurability for the type and amount of coverage sought, please see below.

Any applicant required to submit Proof of Insurability is required to complete and submit to Us an Enrollment/Change form. We may also require the completion of additional forms so that We may determine whether the Applicant is insurable, according to Our underwriting standards for the amount and type of coverage applied for. To determine if the Applicant is insurable, We may also need to obtain and review the Applicant's

- Health and medical history;
- Prescription history;
- Records relating to treatment, diagnostic testing, hospitalization, and
- Records pertaining to Applicant's driving and motor vehicle history.

No coverage requiring Proof of Insurability will become effective unless and until it is approved by Us in writing. Our receipt of any premiums associated with coverage requiring Proof of Insurability does not waive or modify any requirement that must be satisfied for coverage to begin, including but not limited to the requirement that the Applicant submit Proof of Insurability. In the event that any premiums are overpaid, Our only obligation is to return the amount of overpaid premiums.

The Policyholder, or its designee, must give Us complete and accurate information so that we may determine:

- Who is insured;
- The type and amount of coverage for which someone is insured; and
- Any other information required so that Guardian may meet its obligations under the Policy.

**Proof Of Insurability Requirements** Proof Of Insurability requirements apply to Basic Term Life Insurance. Such requirements may apply to the full insurance amount, or just part of it, as outlined below. When Proof Of Insurability requirements apply, it means You must submit to Us Proof that You are insurable, and We must approve the Proof in writing before the insurance, or the specified part becomes effective.

We require Proof of Insurability as follows:

If You:

- Do not meet this Policy's enrollment requirement within 30 days after You first become eligible; or

- Enroll after You previously had coverage which ended because You failed to make a required payment,

We will require that You provide Proof Of Insurability. And, You will not be covered until We approve that proof in writing.

If Your Active Full-Time Work ends before You meet any Proof Of Insurability requirements that apply You will still have to meet those requirements if You are later re-employed by the Employer or an associated company.

B400.4376

## All Options

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### Changes to Insurance

B400.6066

## All Options

**Changes In Insurance Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your amount of coverage will not become effective prior to the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

B400.6069

## All Options

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, insurance will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are:

- Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and
- Make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which a larger amount of insurance is provided, You must make the required contribution for the new amount within 31 days of the change. If You do not make the required contribution within 31 days of the change or within 31 days of becoming Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, if You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, when Your classification changes, no increase will be allowed due to such change or any later change. In that case, in order to become insured for the larger amount, You must:

- Make the required contribution for the new amount; and
- Furnish Proof Of Insurability to Us, which We approve in writing.

If the insurance amount was previously reduced because of age or retirement, it will be retained at the reduced amount.

B400.6072

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RIDER - Accelerated Life Benefit**

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

**Note: This benefit is not available for retirees.**

**Employee Accelerated Basic Life Benefit**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: USE OF THIS BENEFIT MAY HAVE TAX IMPLICATIONS. IT MAY ALSO AFFECT GOVERNMENT BENEFITS OR CLAIMS OF CREDITORS. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR TAX OR FINANCIAL ADVISOR BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR THIS BENEFIT.**

**THE AMOUNT OF YOUR GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE IS PERMANENTLY REDUCED BY THE GROSS AMOUNT OF THE ACCELERATED LIFE BENEFIT.**

**Accelerated Life  
Benefit**

You may be eligible for an Accelerated Life Benefit if you meet the following conditions:

- You have a Terminal Condition;
- You supply the required written proof of Your Terminal Condition (see "Notice of Claim");
- You apply for this benefit in writing while living and before You attain age 60. If You are unable to request this benefit yourself, Your legal representative may request it on Your behalf.

This benefit is a payment of part of Your Group Term Life Insurance made to You before death. You may use this benefit in any way You choose, subject to the restrictions stated below.

If You qualify for the Accelerated Life Benefit, We will subtract the Gross Amount paid to You as an Accelerated Life Benefit from the amount of Your Group Term Life Insurance under the Certificate. The remaining amount of Group Term Life Insurance is permanently reduced by the Gross Amount of this benefit.

You may only receive one Employee Accelerated Life Benefit during Your lifetime. This benefit does not have to be repaid, even if You:

- Live longer than 12 months from the date We receive Your request for this benefit; or
- Recover from the Terminal Condition.

However, the amount of this benefit will not be restored to Your remaining Group Term Life Insurance. And, You may not receive another Accelerated Life Benefit under any circumstances and even if You:

- Have a relapse; or

- You are subsequently diagnosed as having another Terminal Condition.

**Benefit Amount For The Accelerated Life Benefit** The amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit for which You may apply is based on the amount of group term life insurance for which You are insured on the day before You apply for the benefit subject to the following minimum and maximum amounts.

The minimum benefit amount is the lesser of: (1) \$10,000.00; or (2) 80% of Your amount of Group Term Life Insurance.

The maximum benefit amount is the lesser of: (1) \$250,000.00; or (2) 80% of Your amount of Group Term Life Insurance.

**Discount** The amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit which is available to You is discounted to the present value in 12 months from the date this benefit is paid. The discount is based on the maximum adjustable policy loan interest rate permitted in the state in which the group policy is delivered.

A detailed statement of the method of computing the amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit is available from Us on request.

**Payment Of The Accelerated Life Benefit** If We approve Your request for this benefit, We pay the amount You have elected, less the present value discount. We pay this benefit to You in one lump sum. This payment is subject to all of the other terms of the Certificate.

**Notice of Claim** You must send Us a request which includes written proof from a Doctor who is operating within the scope of his or her license that You have a Terminal Condition. We must approve such proof in writing before this benefit is paid.

**Physical Examinations** We may have You examined by a Doctor of Our choice to determine whether the Terminal Condition exists. We will pay the cost of such exam.

If We approve Your request to receive this benefit, We will provide You with a statement along with Your benefit payment which shows:

- The amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit You requested;
- The amount of the present value discount;
- The amount of Your Accelerated Life Benefit check; and
- The remaining amount of Your Basic Life Insurance coverage.

Even if You have been approved for a waiver of premium benefit under this Certificate, You may still apply for an Accelerated Life Benefit. But, if You convert Your Group Term Life Insurance, the terms of the converted life policy will apply. Any amount to which You could otherwise convert is permanently reduced by the gross amount of Your Accelerated Life Benefit.

**If You Have Assigned Your Group Term Life Insurance** If You have already assigned Your Group Term Life Insurance, or any portion thereof, You cannot apply for an Accelerated Life Benefit.

**If You Are Legally Incompetent** If You are not legally competent, Your lawful guardian, conservator, legal representative, or any person or fiduciary with the lawful authority to act on Your behalf or handle Your affairs may apply for the Accelerated Life Benefit on Your behalf.

**Your Remaining Group Term Life Insurance** The remaining amount of Your Group Term Life Insurance after You receive an Accelerated Life Benefit payment is subject to any increases or reductions that would otherwise apply to Your insurance. Applicable reductions are applied to the amount of Group Term Life Insurance for which You were insured on the day before the date You applied for the Accelerated Life Benefit.

If Your Life Benefit is scheduled to reduce within 12 months of the date You apply for the Accelerated Life Benefit, any applicable reduction will also be applied to Your Accelerated Benefit amount.

The premium cost of Your remaining insurance is based on the amount of Group Term Life Insurance for which You were insured on the day before the date You applied for the Accelerated Life Benefit.

The total amount of Group Term Life Insurance Your beneficiary would otherwise receive on Your death is reduced by the Gross Amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit.

If You die after applying, and were eligible, for the Accelerated Life Benefit, but before We send You the benefit, Your beneficiary will receive the full amount of Group Term Life Insurance for which You were insured on the day before the date You applied for the Accelerated Life Benefit.

**Restrictions** We will not pay an Accelerated Life Benefit if:

- Your coverage under the Certificate ends for any reason after You apply for the Accelerated Life Benefit, but before We pay such benefit;
- You are required by law to use the proceeds of the Group Term Life Insurance from the Certificate to meet the claims of creditors, whether or not You are in bankruptcy;
- You are required by court order to pay all or part of the proceeds of the Group Term Life Insurance from the Certificate to another person; or
- You are required by a government agency to use the payment to apply for, receive or maintain a governmental benefit or entitlement.

**Definitions** This section defines certain terms appearing in this Rider. Additional terms, not listed here, are defined in the Certificate.

- **Doctor:** Any medical practitioner We are required by law to recognize. He or she must:
  - Be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and
  - Provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice.
- **Gross Amount:** This term means the amount of the Accelerated Life Benefit elected by You before subtraction of the discount.



- **Group Term Life Insurance:** This term means the amount of Employee Basic Group Term Life Insurance for which You are insured under the Certificate. The term does not include any:
  - Accidental death benefits; or
  - Scheduled increase in the amount of Employee Basic Group term life insurance that is due within the 12 month period after the date You apply for the Accelerated Life Benefit.
- **Terminal Condition:** This term means a medical condition that is reasonably expected to result in death within 12 months from the date You apply for the Accelerated Life Benefit.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Prestileo", is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B401.1991

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RIDER - Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit**

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

Terms not specifically defined within this Rider are defined in the Certificate.

**Employee Basic Term Life Insurance  
Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit**

This rider applies to Your Basic term life insurance.

**Seatbelt And Airbag Benefits** If You die as a direct result of an automobile accident while properly wearing a seatbelt, We will increase Your term life benefit amount by \$10,000. And, if You die as a direct result of an automobile accident while both properly wearing a seatbelt, and sitting in a seat equipped with an airbag, We will increase Your term life benefit amount by an additional \$5,000, for a total increase of \$15,000.

**Notice of Claim:** You must send Us a request which includes written proof that You were properly wearing a seatbelt. A law enforcement official investigating the accident must certify that the seatbelt was properly fastened and that the automobile in which the deceased was traveling was equipped with airbags. A copy of such certification must be submitted to Us with the claim for benefits. We must approve such proof in writing before this benefit is paid.

**Proof of Loss:** You must send written Proof of Loss to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss.

If We cannot determine that You were wearing a seatbelt at the time of the Accident, We will increase Your term life benefit amount by \$1,000.

If We determine that a seatbelt was not worn at the time of the automobile accident directly resulting in Your death, or if the required official report is not provided, no Seatbelt or Airbag benefit will be paid.

The total amount payable for the Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit under Your Basic term life insurance and Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance may not exceed \$30,000.

**Late Notice and Proof of Loss:** We will not void or reduce Your claim if we do not receive Notice and Proof of Loss within the required time. In that case, Notice and Proof of Loss must be sent as soon as reasonably possible.

**Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:**

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

Group Life Claims Department  
P.O. Box 981573  
El Paso, TX 79998-1573

**Exclusions** This Policy does not pay a Seatbelt or Airbag Benefit for loss of life caused by, or related to an accident occurring:

- While You are legally intoxicated; or
- While You are voluntarily using a controlled substance, unless:
  - It was prescribed for You by a doctor; and
  - It was used as prescribed.

A controlled substance is anything called a controlled substance in Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, as amended from time to time.

- While You were intentionally or voluntarily inhaling or ingesting a gas, chemical, solvent, poison or other substances not intended for internal consumption; or
- During Your commission of, or attempt to commit a felony as defined per the laws in the jurisdiction in which the felony was committed or attempted, or as defined under federal law if the offense charged was a federal offense.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B401.2040

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RIDER - Waiver of Premium Benefit**

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

**Employee Basic Term Life Insurance  
Waiver Of Premium Benefit**

**Important Notice** This rider applies to Your Basic term life insurance. It does not apply to any of Your dependent life insurance under the Certificate. To continue dependent life insurance, You must convert Your dependent coverage. See "Converting This Dependent Term Life Insurance" for details.

**If You Are Disabled** If You are Totally Disabled, and meet the requirements in "How And When To Apply," We will extend Your Basic life insurance without payment of premiums from You or the Employer in an amount equal to the amount of Basic life insurance for which You are insured on Your last day of Active Work.

**How And When To Apply** To apply for this benefit, You must submit, while living, written medical proof of Your Total Disability satisfactory to Us within one year of the start of that disability. Any claim filed after one year from the start of Total Disability will be denied, unless We receive written proof that:

- You lacked the legal capacity to file the claim; or
- It was not reasonably possible for You to file the claim within the required period of time.

To be approved for this benefit, You must:

- Become Totally Disabled before You reach age 60 and while insured by the Certificate; and
- Remain Totally Disabled for at least 6 months in a row.

You should apply for this benefit immediately at the start of Your Total Disability.

**Continued Proof For Waiver of Premium Benefit** We may require written proof that You remain Totally Disabled and receive regular Doctor's care to maintain this benefit. This proof must be given to Us within 30 days of the date We request it.

We can also require that You take part in a medical assessment by a medical professional of Our choice as often as We feel is reasonably necessary during the first 2 years We have waived Your life insurance premiums pursuant to the Rider. After 2 years, We cannot have You examined more than once a year.

**Until You Have Been Approved For This Benefit** If Your life insurance under the Certificate ends after You have become Totally Disabled and applied for Waiver of Premium Benefits, but before We have approved You for this benefit, You may:

- Continue to pay your group premium payments, including any part which would have been paid by the Employer, until You are approved or declined for this benefit; or
- Apply to convert to an individual permanent or term life insurance policy.

Please read "Converting This Employee Basic Term Life Insurance" for details on how to convert.

Converting Your life insurance does not stop You from claiming Your rights under this section. But, if You apply to convert and obtain a policy, and We later approve You for this benefit, We will cancel the converted policy on the date We approve You for this Benefit. See "Converting This Employee Basic Term Life Insurance" for details on how We do this. Once You are approved for this benefit, Your insurance under the Certificate will be reinstated at no further cost to You or the Employer.

If You are declined for the Waiver of Premium benefit, You will have the option to apply to convert to an individual permanent or term life insurance policy. If You do not convert within 31 days of the date You are declined for the Waiver of Premium benefit, and You have not returned to Active Work, Your coverage will end.

**If the Certificate terminates before You are approved**

If this group Certificate terminates and You are Totally Disabled and eligible, but not yet approved, for this Waiver of Premium benefit, You must apply to convert to an individual permanent or term policy, and remain insured under such policy until You are approved by Us for the Waiver of Premium benefit.

**When This Waiver Begins**

Once approved by Us, Your Waiver of Premium benefit will be effective on the date following the day You have been Totally Disabled for 6 months in a row.

**When This Waiver Ends**

Your Waiver of Premium benefit will end on the earliest of:

- The date You are no longer Totally Disabled;
- The date We ask You to be examined by Our Doctor, and You refuse;
- The date You do not give Us the proof of Total Disability We require;
- the date you have been out of the United States and/or Canada or a country or region approved by Us for more than 2 months in a 12 month period;
- The date You are no longer receiving regular Doctor's care appropriate to the cause of Your claimed Total Disability;
- The day before the date You reach age 65.

If Your Waiver of Premium Benefit ends and You do not return to Active Work, You will have the option to convert the Employee Basic life insurance that was in effect on the date the Waiver of Premium Benefit ends.

Please read "Converting This Employee Basic Term Life Insurance" for details on how to convert.

**If You Die While Covered By This Waiver of Premium Benefit**

If You die while covered for this benefit, We will pay Your beneficiary the amount of Basic life insurance for which You were insured as of Your last day of Active Full-Time Work. This payment is subject to all the terms of the Certificate and all reductions which would have applied had You remained an Active at Work Employee.

**If You Die Prior to Approval for This Waiver of Premium Benefit**

If You die prior to being approved for the Waiver of Premium Benefit and within 12 months of the onset date of Total Disability We'll pay Your beneficiary the amount for which You were covered as of Your last day of Active Full-Time Work, subject to all reductions which would have applied had You stayed an active Employee provided You:

- Were Totally Disabled, as defined by this Rider, through the date of death,
- Became Totally Disabled prior to age 60; and
- Became Totally Disabled while insured; and
- We received the required premiums for this coverage.

**Proof Of Death**

We will pay the term life insurance benefit as soon as We receive:

- Written proof of Your death; and
- Medical proof that You were continuously Totally Disabled until Your death.

This proof must be sent to Us within one year of Your date of death.

B400.3840

**All Options**

**Definitions**

This section defines certain terms appearing in this Rider. Additional terms, not listed here, are defined in the Certificate.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** This term means any modification or adjustment that the Employer willingly provides to:

- A job;
- An employment practice;
- A work process; or
- The work place.

The modification or adjustment must make it possible for a Disabled person to:

- Reach the same level of performance as a similarly situated non-disabled person; or
- Enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are available to a similarly situated non-disabled person.

The modification or adjustment must not place an undue hardship on the Employer.

**Regular and Appropriate Care:** This term means, with respect to Your disabling condition(s) and any other condition(s) which, if left untreated, would adversely affect Your disabling condition, You:

- Visit a Doctor as frequently as recommended by a Doctor to effectively manage these conditions; and
- Are receiving appropriate treatment designed to achieve maximum medical improvement in these conditions.

Appropriate treatment is that treatment a patient would make a reasonable decision to accept after duly considering the options of medical professionals, and such treatment must be provided by a Doctor or Doctors whose specialty is appropriate for You:

- Disability; and
- Any other conditions which left untreated would adversely affect Your disabling condition.

Regular and Appropriate Care does not require treatment for a disabling condition where no additional medical treatment will likely cure or improve that condition and You have achieved maximum medical improvement.

**"Total Disability" and "Totally Disabled":** This term means that, due to sickness or injury, You are:

- Not able during the first 24 months of Your claimed Total Disability to perform all the major duties of Your occupation with Reasonable Accommodation, and after 24 months You are not able to perform any occupation for which You are reasonably fitted by education, training or experience.

This Rider is a part of this Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of this Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B401.2003

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RIDER - Portability Privilege**

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

**PORTABILITY PRIVILEGE**

This rider applies only to Your Employee Basic term life insurance.

**Portability  
Conditions**

Portability is subject to all of the conditions described below.

- You may Port if Your coverage under the Certificate if coverage ends because:
  - You are no longer employed by the Employer; or
  - You are no longer a member of an eligible class of Employees
- You may **not** Port unless You have been covered by the Certificate, or the plan it replaced, for Employee Basic term life insurance for at least three months in a row prior to the date Your coverage under the Certificate ends.
- You may **not** Port if You have reached age 70 on the date coverage under the Certificate ends.
- You may **not** Port if You are eligible for the Certificate's Waiver of Premium Benefit.
- You may **not** Port if coverage under the Certificate ends due to:
  - Failure to pay any required premium; or
  - Termination of the Certificate

**Portability Options**

You may Port the full amount of Your Basic term life insurance in force as of the date Your coverage under the Certificate ends. If You do not wish to Port the full amount, You may choose to Port 50% of such amount, if such amount under the Certificate is at least \$50,000 and does not exceed \$1,000,000.

**The Portable  
Certificate Of  
Coverage**

If You Port, You will obtain a new Certificate of coverage, which will be issued under the Portable group policy and will describe the benefits provided. The Portable group policy has been established specifically for, and limited to, providing portability coverage for Employees whose coverage ends under an Employer's plan. The benefits provided by the Portable certificate of coverage may not be the same as the benefits provided by the Certificate provided by your Employer. The group term life insurance provided by the Portable Certificate of coverage will not provide any of the following benefits or types of coverage:

- Accidental death or dismemberment;



- Income replacement;
- Or Waiver of Premium benefits.

The premium for the Portable certificate of coverage will be based on:

- the covered person's rate class under the Ported Policy; and
- Your age bracket as shown in the Life Portability Coverage Premium Notice.

The Portable Certificate of Coverage ends at age 70.

**How To Port** You must:

- Apply to Us in writing; and
- Pay the required premium.

You must do this within 31 days from the date Your coverage under the Certificate ends. In order to port Your Basic term life insurance, We will not ask for proof that You are insurable.

**Portability And Conversion**

If You choose to Port, the Certificate's conversion privilege will not be available. In the event that a person would be eligible to both convert and to Port, only one of these privileges may be chosen. Coverage under both a converted policy and a Portable certificate of coverage at the same time is not permitted. You should read the entire Certificate, as well as any related materials carefully before making a choice.

**Definitions**

This section defines certain terms appearing in this Rider. Additional terms, not listed here, are defined in the Certificate.

- **Port or "To Port":** these terms mean to choose a Portable certificate of coverage which provides group term life insurance.

This rider is a part of this Certificate. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or affects any other terms of this Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B400.3878

## The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

### CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

This Rider is effective on the Policy Date. If this Rider is added after the Policy Date, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date.

The **Redetermination** provision(s) in the Certificate Schedule of Benefits are replaced in their entirety with the following:

**Redetermination** Your basic life insurance amount will be redetermined on the date Your earning's change in accordance with the formula shown in the Schedule of Benefits for basic life insurance and based on Your Insured Earnings on the date of the redetermination.

#### Redetermination Requirements

Your Employer must report your current Insured Earnings to us for the redetermination to take place.

An increase in Your life insurance amount may be subject to the Proof of Insurability requirements. Please refer to the Proof of Insurability section of the Schedule of Benefits for more information.

If You are not Actively at Work on the redetermination date, the redetermination will not take effect until the date You return to Active Work.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B438.1120

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## AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider amends the Certificate and Policy as follows and is effective on the later of the Policy Date or the date requested by the Policyholder.

The definition of **Spouse** and **Domestic Partner** is replaced with the following:

**Spouse:** The person to whom You are legally married or Your **Domestic Partner** or civil union partner.

**Domestic Partner:** The same-sex or different-sex person with whom You have registered Your relationship with any state or local governmental domestic partner registry

Or

the same-sex or different-sex person with whom you have not registered your relationship if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You live and share financial assets and obligations with this person.
- This person is at least 18 years of age, is able to provide legal consent, and is not a blood relative.
- Neither you nor this person are in a marriage or domestic partnership with anyone else or legally separated from anyone else.
- You submit acceptable documentation that you meet the above criteria. An affidavit attesting to these facts may be required.

Except as specifically noted above for relationships that are not registered, **Domestic Partners** are not subject to any proof of relationship or waiting period requirements that are not also imposed upon marriages. A **Domestic Partner** registry certificate will be accepted as fully equivalent to a marriage certificate. Similarly, a dissolution of domestic partnership notice will be accepted as fully equivalent to a divorce decree.

This Rider is part of the Certificate and Policy. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate or Policy.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B601.0243

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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### The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Your group term life insurance benefits may be covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). If so, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under 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 insurance contracts, 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.

#### **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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your 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.

#### **Enforcement of Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare 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 (see Claims Procedures below).

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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

**Assistance with Questions**

If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

**Life Insurance Claims Procedure**

If you seek benefits under the plan you should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (hereinafter referenced as Guardian.)

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with the authority to interpret and construe the terms of the Policy, the Certificate, the Schedule of Benefits, and any riders, or other documents or forms that may be attached to the Certificate or the Policy, and any other plan documents. Guardian has the authority to determine eligibility for benefits and coverage under those documents. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of ERISA.

**Definitions**

"Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

**Timing for Initial Benefit Determination of Life Insurance Claims**

The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 90 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 90 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to special circumstances, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 90-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the determination is expected to be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

**Adverse Benefit  
Determination of  
Life Insurance  
Claims**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information needed to perfect the claim, and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures; and
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination.

B997.0239

**All Options**

**Appeals of Adverse  
Determinations of  
Life Insurance  
Claims**

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, you will have up to 60 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 60 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 60 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 60-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits; and
- Provide a statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the Plan, the claimant's right to obtain information about such procedures, and a statement that the claimant's right to bring an action under ERISA section 502(a).

**Waiver of Premium** If you apply for an extension of life insurance benefits due to Total Disability under the Waiver of Premium benefit under this plan, these claim procedures will apply to such request:

**Timing For Initial Benefit Determination for Waiver of Premium** The benefit determination period begins when claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse determination must be provided.

Guardian will make a determination of whether the claimant meets the plan's standard for total disability not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a benefit determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**Adverse Benefit  
Determination**

If a claim for an extension of benefits is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information needed to perfect the claim, and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination; and
- In the case of adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

B997.0240

**All Options**

**Appeals of Adverse  
Determinations for  
Waiver of Premium**

If a claim for Waiver of Premium is denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;



- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
- Provide a statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by you, of health care professionals who treated you, and vocational professionals who evaluated you;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that you present to us;

- Provide a statement describing the claimant's right to bring a civil suit under Section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 which shall also describe any applicable contractual limitations period that applies the claimant's right to bring such an action, including the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires for the claim, and;
- In the event the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S. Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

In addition to any legal rights you may have under section 502(a), if you believe that we have violated ERISA's procedural requirements, you may request that we review any claimed violation(s) and we will respond to you within ten days.

B997.0241



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## CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

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### The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

The Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Coverage described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective January 1, 2024. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under this Policy or under any other plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Policyholder by Guardian.

#### GROUP ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT COVERAGE

Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is eligible for the coverage, and in the amount, described herein. In order to be eligible for coverage, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of this Policy's eligibility and Effective Date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Policyholder's records as a validly covered Employee under the Policy; (c) satisfy any necessary Proof of Insurability requirements; and all required premium payments have been made by or on behalf of the Employee.

The Employee and/or his or her Dependents are not covered by any part of this Policy for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Policyholder's records.

**FOR INSURED PERSONS AGE 65 OR OLDER WHO PAY SOME OF ALL OF THE COST OF THIS INSURANCE: YOU HAVE A 30 DAY EXAMINATION PERIOD AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS CERTIFICATE DURING WHICH YOU MAY CANCEL THE COVERAGE AND RETURN THIS CERTIFICATE BY MAIL OR OTHER DELIVERY METHOD. SUCH RETURN WILL VOID THE CERTIFICATE FROM THE BEGINNING, AND THE PARTIES WILL BE IN THE SAME POSITION AS IF A CERTIFICATE HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED. ALL PREMIUMS PAID WILL BE FULLY REFUNDED IN A TIMELY MANNER NOT LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE COMPANY RECEIVES THE RETURNED CERTIFICATE.**

Policyholder: WHATNOT INC.  
Group Policy Number: 00572118

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Harris Oliner, Senior Vice President,  
Corporate Secretary



Michael Prestileo,  
Senior Vice President

B401.2172



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**COMPLAINT NOTICE**

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This notice is to advise You that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance You may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 598-8000

If You feel Your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian You may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:

Department of Insurance  
300 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Consumer Hotline: 1-800-927-HELP (4357)  
TDD: 1-800-482-4TDD (4883)  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)

B401.2173

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### The Contract and Limitation Of Authority

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The entire contract between the Policyholder and Us consists of:

- The Policy;
- The Schedule of Premium Rates;
- This Certificate(s) which describe(s) the insurance for which Covered Persons are insured;
- Any attached riders, schedule of benefits or amendments; and Your application.

In the event of a conflict, the Policy shall reign.

We can amend the Policy at any time, without the consent of the insured Employees or any other person having a beneficial interest in it:

- Upon written request made by the Policyholder and agreed to by Us; or
- On any date Our obligation under the Policy with respect to the Policyholder, or under this Certificate with respect to You, is changed do to the requirements of state or federal law or regulation.

Upon request, You may obtain a copy of the Policy from Us.

If We amend this Certificate, except upon request made by You, We must give You written notice of such change.

Any amendments to this Certificate will be without prejudice to any claim arising prior to the date of the change.

No person, except by a writing signed by the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us to:

- Determine whether any contract, policy or certificate is to be issued;
- Waive or alter any provisions of any contract or policy, or any of Our requirements;
- Bind Us by any statement or promise relating to the contract issued or to be issued; or
- Accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.



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### **Applicable Benefits**

This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. You will only be covered for benefits if:

- They were previously selected in an enrollment form or other required form; and
- We have received any required premium.

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### **Incontestability**

Any statement made by You, in the absence of fraud, will be deemed a representation and not a warranty. No statement will be used to avoid insurance, reduce benefits or defend a claim unless it is material to the risk accepted or the hazard assumed by Us, has been signed by You, and a copy of the statement has been given to You or to Your Beneficiary. We shall not contest this coverage after it has been in force during Your lifetime for three years from the Effective Date of the Policy.

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### **Physical Examination And Autopsy**

We have the right to have a doctor of Our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made under the Certificate as often as We feel necessary. We also have the right to have an autopsy performed in the case of death where allowed by law. We will pay for all such examinations and autopsies.

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### **Overpayment Recovery**

If We overpay benefits, all such benefits must be repaid in full. We have the right to reduce the benefit, or reduce any other benefits payable under this Certificate, toward recovery of any overpayment.

B401.2175

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT COVERAGE EMPLOYEE COVERAGE

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### Conditions Of Eligibility

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Subject to the conditions of eligibility set forth below, and to all of the other conditions of this Certificate, You are eligible for Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage if You are

- In an eligible class of Employees;
  - Are an active Full time Employee;
  - Legally working in the United States and/or Canada or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us;
- and
- Working at least the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at:
    - The Employer's place of business;
    - Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
    - Any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of your occupational duties.

You are **not** eligible for Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage if You are

- A temporary or seasonal Employee.

**The Waiting Period** If You are in an eligible class, You are eligible for Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage under this Certificate after You complete the service waiting period, if any, established by the Employer and as stated in the Schedule of Benefits.

**Multiple Employment** If You work for both the Employer and a covered associated company, or for more than one covered associated company, We will treat You as if only one firm employs You. You will not have multiple Accidental Death and Dismemberment Coverage under this Certificate. But, if this Certificate uses the amount of Your Insured Earnings to set the rates, determine class, figure insurance amounts, or for any other reason, such Insured Earnings will be figured as the sum of Your Insured Earnings from all covered Employers.

B400.6098

## When Coverage Starts

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For coverage to start, You must be fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for the Employer and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on Your scheduled Eligibility Date. And, for coverage to start, You must satisfy all of the Conditions of Eligibility described above, and the conditions shown below which apply to You. If You are not fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, We will postpone the start of Your coverage until You are so capable and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class for one full day, with the capacity to do so for one full week.

Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date.

B400.6105

## All Options

### Exception to When Coverage Starts

Sometimes a scheduled Eligibility Date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled Eligibility Date falls on:

- A holiday;
- A vacation day;
- A non-scheduled work day;
- A day during an approved leave of absence not due to sickness or injury, of 90 days or less; or
- A day during a period of absence that is less than 7 days in duration;

and if:

- You are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your regular occupation for Your Employer for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 AM Standard Time for Your place of residence on the scheduled Eligibility Date ; and
- You were performing the major duties of Your regular occupation and working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class on Your last regularly scheduled work day;

Your coverage will start on the scheduled Eligibility Date. However, in no event will any coverage or part of coverage for which You must elect and pay all or part of the cost, start if You are on an approved leave, layoff or absence and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for You under a prior plan which this Certificate replaced.

B400.6106

## All Options

**Transfer Business Exception** If due to sickness or injury, You are not Actively At Work and not working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class, on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, You will be insured for this Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance if:

- You were insured under the Employer's prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan at the time the prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan ended and the group accidental death and dismemberment plan became effective with Us, with no break in group coverage;
- You were a member of an eligible class under the Employer's prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan and are eligible under this Certificate;
- Premiums for You were paid up to date for the Employer's prior insurer's group plan and this Certificate;
- Premiums are not currently being waived under the Waiver of Premium Rider, or You were not eligible, under the terms of the Employer's prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan, to have premiums waived under the Waiver of Premium provision; and
- You are not receiving or eligible to receive benefits under the Employer's prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan.

Any Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit payable will be the lesser of:

- The Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit payable under this Certificate; or
- The accidental death and dismemberment benefit payable under the Employer's prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan had it remained in force; reduced by any amount paid by the prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan.

If You are covered under the Exception to When Coverage Starts, You will not be eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit provision under this Certificate until such a time You are Actively At Work as defined by this Certificate.

If You meet the conditions stated above, You will remain insured under this provision until the first to occur of:

- The date You are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your occupation for the Employer, and capable of doing so for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class;
- The date insurance terminates for one of the reasons stated in When Employee Coverage Ends;

- The last day of a period of 12 consecutive months which begins on this Certificate's Effective Date;
- The date You become eligible for the Waiver of Premium Benefit provision under the prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan; or
- The last day You would have been covered under the prior insurer's group accidental death and dismemberment plan, had the prior plan not terminated.

B400.1004

## All Options

### When Coverage Ends

Your coverage will end on the first of the following dates:

- The date Your Active Work ends for any reason, except as noted below under Coverage During Leave of Absence. Such reasons include:
  - Disability;
  - Death;
  - Retirement;
  - Layoff;
  - Leave of absence;
  - The end of employment; and
  - Expiration of the employment contract.
- The date You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.
- The date You are no longer working in the United States and/or Canada, or no longer working outside the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us. Any incidental business or personal travel outside of the United States and/or Canada, or outside of a country or region approved by Us, is covered. Such travel will be considered incidental if it is for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days.
- The date the group Certificate ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for You.

You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time after Your coverage would otherwise end. Contact Your Employer regarding any continuation options available.

B400.6110

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## CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

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### Coverage During Disability

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If Your Active Work ends because You are Totally Disabled, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of all required premiums, until the earlier of:

- The date you are no longer Totally Disabled, as defined by this Certificate;
- 12 months; from the date Your Total Disability began;
- The date you are approved for any Waiver of Premium Benefit for which you are eligible; or
- The date of Your 99th birthday.

We may require written Proof of Loss that You remain Totally Disabled and receiving regular Doctor's care to maintain this benefit. This Proof of Loss must be given to Us within 30 days of the date we request it.

Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

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### Coverage During Temporary Layoff

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If Your Active Work ends because You are temporarily laid off, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of all required premium, until the earlier of:

- The end of the temporary layoff; or
- The end of the month in which You are laid off plus 1 months following the date the temporary layoff begins.
- The end of the time period covered under a severance agreement not to exceed 1 months.

If You die or become Disabled under this Certificate while Your coverage is being continued during a temporary layoff, Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

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### Coverage During Temporary Leave of Absence

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If Your Active Work ends because You go on a leave of absence that has been approved by Your Employer, You and Your Employer may agree to continue Your insurance, subject to continued payment of all required premiums, until the earlier of:

- The end of the Employer approved leave of absence; or

- The end of the month in which Your leave begins plus 1 months following the date the approved leave of absence begins.

If You become disabled under this Certificate while Your coverage is being continued during a leave of absence, Your eligibility for benefits will be governed by all the terms of this Certificate.

B400.6111

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**EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT  
(AD&D) INSURANCE**

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B400.6134

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**Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment  
Insurance And Catastrophic Loss Benefits**

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B400.6136

We will pay the benefits described below if You suffer an irreversible loss due to an Accident and the Accident occurs while You are insured by this Certificate. The loss also must:

- Be a result of the Accident; and
- Occur within 365 days of the date of the Accident.

**Payment Of Benefits** We will pay this insurance as soon as We receive written Proof of Loss as shown in the Claims Provisions section of this Certificate.

**Payment Of Benefits** For Covered Loss of life, We pay the beneficiary of Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance under the Employer's Policy with Us.

For all other Covered Losses, We pay You if You are living. If You are not living, We pay the beneficiary of Your Term Life coverage under the Employer's Plan with Us.

Subject to all the terms of this Certificate, We pay all benefits in a lump sum as soon as We receive written proof of Covered Loss and proof of claim. This should be sent to Us as soon as possible.

**The Beneficiary** You decide who receives this benefit when You die. You may designate a beneficiary by doing so in writing on a form and filing the form with the Employer.

You can change Your beneficiary at any time by providing written notice. But, the change will not take effect until We or the Employer records the change.

We will not be liable for any amounts paid before receiving notice of a beneficiary change.

In no event may a beneficiary be changed by a Power of Attorney.

If You named more than one person as a primary beneficiary, but You do not specify what shares each such primary beneficiary is entitled to receive, We will divide the benefits equally among all such named primary beneficiaries who survive You. If someone You named as a primary beneficiary dies before You, that person's share will be divided equally by the primary beneficiaries still alive; unless You have specified otherwise.



If You have named a contingent beneficiary or contingent beneficiaries, We will pay Your contingent beneficiary or contingent beneficiaries, if no primary beneficiary survives You. If there is more than one contingent beneficiary who is eligible for benefits, We will divide the benefits equally among all such named contingent beneficiaries who survive You; unless You have specified otherwise.

If there is no primary or contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries eligible for benefits when You die, We will pay this benefit as follows:

- To Your Spouse;
- If Your Spouse does not survive You, then to Your children who survive You in equal shares;
- If no Spouse or children survive You, then to Your parents who survive You in equal shares;
- If no Spouse, children, or parents survive You, then to then to Your brothers and sisters in equal shares;
- If none of the above parties survive You, then to Your executors or administrators of Your estate.

**Payment Of Funeral Expenses** We have the option of paying up to \$500 of this benefit to any person who incurred expenses for Your funeral.

B401.2183

#### All Options

**Covered Losses** Benefits will be paid only for losses listed in the Table of Covered Losses shown below. Your insurance amount is shown in the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Schedule Of Benefits.

B400.6147

#### All Options

### ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT

#### Table Of Covered Losses

Covered Loss	Benefit
Loss of life	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Disappearance	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Loss of a hand	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "loss of one arm".

Loss of a foot	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "loss of one leg".
Loss of sight in one eye	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Loss of thumb and index finger of same hand	25% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "Loss of a hand" or "loss of one arm".
Loss of four fingers of same hand	25% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "Loss of a hand" or "loss of one arm".
Loss of all toes of same foot	25% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "Loss of a foot" or "loss of one leg".
Loss of the great toe (hallux)	15% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "Loss of a foot" or "loss of one leg".

#### **CATASTROPHIC LOSS BENEFITS**

Loss of speech and hearing	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Loss of speech or hearing	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Quadriplegia	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount. No benefit will be paid if benefits have been paid for "Loss of a foot" or "loss of one leg".
Paraplegia	75% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Hemiplegia	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount.

Uniplegia	25% of Your AD&D insurance amount
Loss of cognitive function	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Comatose state, in excess of one month	100% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Loss of one arm or leg	75% of Your AD&D insurance amount.
Third degree burns covering 75% or more of the body	75% of Your AD&D insurance amount
Third degree burns covering 50% or more but less than 75% of the body	50% of Your AD&D insurance amount

B400.6144

## All Options

As used here:

- "Loss of cognitive function" means a significant decline or loss in intellectual aptitude. Such loss must result from an Accidental injury. And, it must be supported by clinical proof or standardized tests that precisely measure decline in the areas of:
  - Short term memory;
  - Orientation to time, place and person;
  - Deductive or abstract reasoning; and
  - Judgement as it relates to awareness of safety.
- "Loss of a hand" means the hand is completely severed at or above the wrist.
- "Loss of a foot" means the foot is completely severed at or above the ankle.
- "Loss of hearing" means that hearing in both ears is lost entirely.
- "Loss of sight" means total and permanent loss of sight.
- "Loss of thumb and index finger of same hand" or "Loss of four fingers of same hand" means complete severance at the metacarpophalangeal joints of the same hand.
- "Loss of all toes of same foot" means complete severance at the metatarsalphalangeal joint.
- "Loss of the great toe (hallux)" means complete severance at the metatarsalphalangeal joint.
- "Loss of one arm" means the arm is completely severed at or above the elbow.

- "Loss of one leg" means the leg is completely severed at or above the knee.
- "Loss of speech" means that speech is lost entirely.
- "Hemiplegia" means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, unilaterally.
- "Paraplegia" means total paralysis of both lower limbs.
- "Quadriplegia" means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, bilaterally.
- "Uniplegia" means paralysis of one arm or one leg

B400.6150

## All Options

**Multiple Losses** For more than one Covered Loss due to the same Accident, We will pay up to 100% of Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance amount. We will not pay more than 100% of Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance amount for all losses due to the same Accident, except as shown under the Common Carrier Benefit, Seatbelt And Airbag Benefits and Repatriation Benefit.

B400.6151

## All Options

**Common Carrier Benefit** If You suffer a Covered Loss due to an Accident which occurs while You are riding in a public conveyance as a fare paying passenger, We increase the benefit payable. In that case, We will pay two times the amount which otherwise applies to the loss.

B400.6154

## All Options

**Repatriation Benefit** We pay an extra sum for Covered Loss of life due to an Accident which occurs at least 75 miles from Your home. In that case, We pay up to \$5,000 for costs to prepare and transport Your body to a mortuary chosen by You or an authorized agent. In the event that a Repatriation Benefit is paid under Your Group Term Life Insurance Certificate, no additional benefit will be paid under this Accidental Death and Dismemberment Certificate.

B400.6155

## All Options

**Exposure** If You suffer a Covered Loss shown in the Table of Covered Losses due to an Accidental bodily injury caused by being unavoidably exposed to the elements, We will pay the amount which otherwise applies to the loss. If Covered Loss benefits are deemed payable under Exposure, the Covered Loss benefit is only paid once, not in addition to the Exposure payments.

B400.6156

## All Options

**Disappearance** You will have a presumed Covered Loss due to an Accident if:

- You are riding in a public conveyance that is involved in an Accident;
- As a result of the Accident, the public conveyance is wrecked, sinks, is stranded or disappears;
- Your body is not found within 365 days of the day the Accident; and
- The Accident occurs while You are covered by this Certificate.

If Covered Loss benefits are deemed payable under Disappearance, the Covered Loss benefit is only paid once, not in addition to the Disappearance payments.

B400.6157

## All Options

**Helmet Benefit** If You die as a result of a Motorcycle Accident while properly wearing a Helmet and You are the driver and hold a valid driver's license with a Motorcycle endorsement and We determine an Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit is payable, We will increase Your benefit by the lesser of:

- 50% of the benefit amount; or
- \$25,000.

We must receive evidence that the Employee's death resulted from a Motorcycle Accident, and that the Employee was wearing a Helmet at the time of the Accident. A copy of the police report is required.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

**Helmet:** This term means a protective head covering made of a hard material to resist impact and that conforms to the Department Of Transportation helmet certification.

**Motorcycle:** This term means a motor vehicle licensed for use on public highways which requires a Motorcycle endorsement on a driver's license to operate the vehicle.

B401.2266

## All Options

**Workplace Assault** If You suffer a Covered Loss due to an Accidental bodily injury caused by a Felonious Act of Violence and We determine that an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit is payable, We will pay a Workplace Assault benefit subject to all the terms below:

- A benefit is payable under the Certificate's Employee Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Catastrophic Loss Benefit due to a Covered Loss;

- The Felonious Act of Violence must occur while You are working for Your Employer, at Your Employer's usual place of business, at an alternative work site at the direction of Your Employer, including Your home or a location to which the job requires You to travel;
- The loss did not occur while You were committing a felonious act; and
- The Felonious Act of Violence was not committed by members of Your family or household.

**What We Pay:** Subject to all the terms of this Certificate, the Workplace Assault Benefit pays the lesser of: (a) 10% of the benefit amount; or (b) \$25,000.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

- **A Felonious Act of Violence:** This term includes but is not limited to robbery, theft, hijacking, assault and battery, sniping, murder or civil disturbance. The Workplace Assault benefit is subject to all the exclusions under the Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit, including act of war language.

B401.2186

## All Options

**Rehabilitation Benefit** If You suffer a Covered Loss other than loss of life due to an Accidental bodily injury and We determine an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit is payable, We will pay a Rehabilitation Benefit subject to all of the terms below:

- A benefit is payable under this Certificate's Employee Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Catastrophic Loss Benefit due to a Covered Loss other than loss of life;
- You require rehabilitative training, for which there is an Incurred Expense, due to Your Accidental bodily injury;
- You are trained for another occupation because You cannot perform Your occupation due to the Accidental bodily injury; and
- The expense is incurred within one year of the date of the Accident.

**What We Pay:** Subject to all the terms of this Certificate, the Rehabilitation Benefit pays the lesser of:

- The expense incurred for rehabilitative training; or
- 5% of the benefit amount payable for the Covered Loss; or
- \$2,500. We pay this benefit in arrears, upon receipt of incurred expense for training. Proof must be submitted within 90 days of the Incurred Expense.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

**Incurred Expense:** This term means the actual cost of the

- Training; and
- Materials needed for the training.

B400.6166

## All Options

### **Adaptive Home & Vehicle Benefit**

If You suffer a Covered Loss other than loss of life due to an Accidental bodily injury and We determine that an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit is payable, We will pay an Adaptive Home and Vehicle Benefit subject to all of the terms below:

- A benefit is payable under this Certificates Employee Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Catastrophic Loss Benefit due to a Covered Loss other than loss of life; and
- The home alteration must be:
  - Made to Your principal residence;
  - Made by a licensed contractor that is not You, Your Spouse, child, parent, sibling or business associate; and
  - Reasonable based on Your residual capabilities; and
- The vehicle modification must be:
  - Made to Your Private Automobile; and
  - Carried out by a licensed technician that is not You, Your Spouse, child, parent, sibling or business associate; and
  - Approved by the Motor Vehicle Department; and
- The expense is incurred within one year of the date of the Accident.

**What We Pay:** Subject to all the terms of this Policy, the Adaptive Home and Vehicle Benefit pays the lesser of:

- 5% of the Insurance Amount; or
- \$2,500; or
- The actual one-time cost.

We pay this benefit in arrears, upon receipt of incurred expense for the alteration or modification. Proof must be submitted within 90 days of the incurred expense.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

**Incurred Expense:** This term means the actual cost (materials and labor) of the alteration and modification.

**Private Automobile:** This term means a four-wheeled, private passenger car, station wagon, pick-up truck, van or jeep-type automobile which is not being used as a public conveyance.

B400.6159

## All Options

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### **Spousal Education And Retraining Benefit**

If You suffer a Specified Loss due to an Accidental bodily injury, We will pay a Spousal Education and Retraining Benefit subject to all of the terms shown below.

**Definitions** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

- **Hemiplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, unilaterally.
- **Institute Of Higher Learning:** This term includes, but is not limited to:
  - Universities;
  - Colleges;
  - Trade schools; and
  - Professional schools.

It does not include graduate level programs.

- **Loss Of Cognitive Function:** This term means a significant decline or loss in intellectual aptitude. Such loss must result from an Accidental injury. And, it must be supported by clinical proof or standardized tests that precisely measure decline in the areas of:
  - Short term memory;
  - Orientation to time, place and person;
  - Deductive or abstract reasoning; and
  - Judgment as it relates to awareness of safety.
- **Net Tuition Expense:** This term means Tuition Expense less any scholarships or grants to which the Spouse is entitled.
- **Paraplegia:** This term means total paralysis of both lower limbs.
- **Quadriplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, bilaterally.



- **Specified Loss:** This term means:
  - Loss of life;
  - A comatose state which lasts for a period in excess of one month;
  - Spinal cord injury which results in Hemiplegia, Paraplegia or Quadriplegia; or
  - Severe head injury which results in Loss of Cognitive Function.
- **Tuition Expense:** This term means charges incurred for courses or lab fees. It does not include:
  - Cost of books;
  - Cost of other related course materials;
  - Student activity fees; or
  - Room and board.

**When And How The Spousal Education And Retraining Benefit Begins**

We will pay a Spousal Education and Retraining Benefit when all of the conditions shown below are met:

- A benefit is payable under this Certificate's Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance and Catastrophic Loss Insurance due to a Specified Loss;
- You and Your Spouse share the same place of residence on the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss; and
- We receive proof of Your enrollment in an Institute Of Higher Learning. You must:
  - Be enrolled on the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss; or
  - Enroll within 12 months of that date.

**What We Pay**

Subject to all the terms of this Policy, this benefit per academic term will be equal to the lesser of:

- Your Net Tuition Expense for the term;
- 5% of the Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance benefit and Catastrophic Loss Insurance Benefit paid as a result of the Specified Loss; and
- \$2,500 And, this benefit is subject to a lifetime maximum of \$20,000.

We pay this benefit to the person who has primary responsibility for these expenses.

This benefit is paid per academic term. The maximum number of benefit payments is based on whether You are enrolled in a part-time or full-time course of study. For full-time study, the maximum number of benefit payments is eight. For part-time study, the maximum number of benefit payments is four.

**Continued Eligibility For The Spousal Education And Retraining Benefit** We require periodic proof of Your continued enrollment in an Institute Of Higher Learning. And, You must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent. We also require proof, per academic term of:

- Your Tuition Expenses; and
- Any scholarships and grants to which You are entitled.

**When The Spousal Education And Retraining Benefit Ends** This benefit ends on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- The date You are no longer enrolled in an Institute Of Higher Learning;
- The date You fail to maintain a minimum grade point average as shown above;
- The date You fail to furnish any required proof as shown above;
- The date the lifetime maximum benefit is paid; and
- The date the maximum number of benefit payments have been made.

If you die as a result of an Accidental bodily injury and the Spousal Education and Retraining benefit is in effect on the date You die and there is no qualified dependent Spouse who could qualify for this benefit, we will pay a one time benefit of \$500 to the beneficiary in one sum.

B400.6165

## All Options

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### Dependent Child Education Benefit

If You suffer a Specified Loss due to an Accidental bodily injury, We will pay a Dependent Child Education Benefit on behalf of a Qualified Dependent Child subject to all of the terms shown below.

**Definitions** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

- **Hemiplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, unilaterally.
- **Institute Of Higher Learning:** This term includes, but is not limited to:
  - Universities;
  - Colleges;
  - Trade schools; and
  - Professional schools.

It does not include graduate level programs

- **Loss Of Cognitive Function:** This term means a significant decline or loss in intellectual aptitude. Such loss must result from an Accidental injury. And, it must be supported by clinical proof or standardized tests that precisely measure decline in the areas of: (1) short term memory; (2) orientation to time, place and person; (3) deductive or abstract reasoning; and (4) judgement as it relates to awareness of safety.
- **Net Tuition Expense:** This term means Tuition Expense less any scholarships or grants to which the dependent child is entitled.
- **Paraplegia:** This term means total paralysis of both lower limbs.
- **Quadriplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, bilaterally.
- **Qualified Dependent Child:** This term means a child who is:
  - Your biological child, lawfully adopted child, stepchild, or any other child who is living with You in a regular parent-child relationship; and
  - Dependent on You for his or her chief support and maintenance.
- **Specified Loss:** This term means:
  - Loss of life;
  - A comatose state which lasts for a period in excess of one month;
  - Spinal cord injury which results in Hemiplegia, Paraplegia or Quadriplegia; or
  - Severe head injury which results in Loss of Cognitive Function.
- **Tuition Expense:** This term means charges incurred for courses or lab fees. It does not include:
  - Cost of books;
  - Cost of other related course materials;
  - Student activity fees; or
  - Room and board.

**When And How The  
Dependent Child  
Education Benefit  
Begins**

We will pay a dependent child education benefit when all of the conditions shown below are met:

- A benefit is payable under this Certificate's Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Catastrophic Loss Insurance due to a Specified Loss;
- On the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss, the Qualified Dependent Child must be 22 years of age or younger; and
- We receive proof of the Qualified Dependent Child's enrollment in an Institute Of Higher Learning. He or she must be a full-time student, as defined by the institute. And, he or she must:

- Be enrolled on the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss; or
- Be in the 12th grade and enroll within 12 months of that date.

**What We Pay** Subject to all the terms of this Policy, this benefit per academic term will be equal to the lesser of:

- The Qualified Dependent Child's Net Tuition Expense for the term;
- 5% of the Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit and Catastrophic Loss Insurance Benefit paid as a result of the Specified Loss; and
- \$2,500 And, this benefit is subject to a lifetime maximum of \$20,000.

We pay this benefit to the person who has primary responsibility for these expenses.

This benefit is paid per academic term. The maximum number of benefit payments is eight.

**Continued Eligibility For The Dependent Child Education Benefit** We require periodic proof that a child remains a Qualified Dependent Child as shown above. We also require proof, per academic term of:

- His or her Tuition Expenses; and
- Any scholarships and grants to which he or she is entitled.

**When The Dependent Child Education Benefit Ends**

This benefit ends on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- The date the child is no longer a Qualified Dependent Child as shown above;
- The date the child is no longer enrolled in an Institute Of Higher Learning;
- The date the child fails to furnish any required proof as shown above;
- The date the lifetime maximum benefit is paid; and
- The date the maximum number of benefit payments have been made.
- The end of a period of six years from the date the first child education benefit payment is made.

If you die as a result of an Accidental bodily injury and the Dependent Child Education benefit is in effect on the date You die and there is no Qualified Dependent Child who could qualify for this benefit, we will pay a one time benefit of \$500 to the beneficiary in one sum.

B400.6171

## Day Care Expense Benefit

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If You suffer a Specified Loss due to an Accidental bodily injury, We will pay a Day Care Expense Benefit subject to all of the terms shown below.

**Definitions** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

- **Hemiplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, unilaterally.
- **Loss Of Cognitive Function:** This term means a significant decline or loss in intellectual aptitude. Such loss must result from an Accidental injury. And, it must be supported by clinical proof or standardized tests that precisely measure decline in the areas of:
  - Short term memory;
  - Orientation to time, place and person;
  - Deductive or abstract reasoning; and
  - Judgement as it relates to awareness of safety.
- **Paraplegia:** This term means total paralysis of both lower limbs.
- **Quadriplegia:** This term means total paralysis of upper and lower limbs, bilaterally.
- **Qualified Day Care Program:** This term means a program of child care which:
  - Is provided in a facility that is licensed as a day care center or is operated by a licensed day care provider; and
  - Charges a fee for the care of children.

The term does not include child care provided by a:

- Parent;
- Stepparent;
- Grandparent;
- Sibling;
- Aunt; or
- Uncle.
- **Qualified Dependent Child:** This term means a child who is:
  - Your biological child, lawfully adopted child, stepchild, or any other child who is living with You in a regular parent-child relationship; and
  - Dependent on You for his or her chief support and maintenance.

- **Specified Loss:** This term means:
  - Loss of life
  - A comatose state which lasts for a period in excess of one month;
  - Spinal cord injury which results in Hemiplegia, Paraplegia or Quadriplegia; or
  - Or severe head injury which results in Loss of Cognitive Function.

**When And How The  
Day Care Expense  
Benefit Begins**

We will pay a day care expense benefit when all of the conditions shown below are met:

- A benefit is payable under this Certificate's Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Catastrophic Loss due to a Specified Loss;
- On the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss, the Qualified Dependent Child must be under the age of seven of age or younger; and
- We receive proof of the Qualified Dependent Child's enrollment in a Qualified Day Care Program. His or her enrollment must start within 12 months of the date of the Accidental injury which results in the Specified Loss.

**What We Pay**

Subject to all the terms of this Policy, this benefit will be equal to the lesser of:

- \$10,000 per year; and
- The actual yearly day care expenses for all of Your Qualified Dependent Children.

If this benefit is payable as both an Employee Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit and a Dependent Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit under this Certificate, the total benefit paid will not exceed the yearly day care expenses for all of Your Qualified Dependent Children.

We pay this benefit to the person who has primary responsibility for these expenses.

**Continued Eligibility  
For The Day Care  
Expense Benefit**

We require periodic proof:

- That a child remains enrolled in a Qualified Day Care Program; and
- Of the child's day care expenses.

**When The Day Care  
Expense Benefit  
Ends**

This benefit ends on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- The date the child is no longer a Qualified Dependent Child as shown above;
- The date the child is no longer enrolled in a Qualified Day Care Program;

- The date We do not receive any required proof as shown above; and
- The end of a period of four years from the date the first day care expense benefit was paid.

If you die as a result of an Accidental bodily injury and the Day Care Expense benefit is in effect on the date You die and there is no Qualified Dependent Child who could qualify for this benefit, we will pay a one time benefit of \$500 to the beneficiary in one sum.

B400.6174

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## CLAIM PROVISIONS

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**Administration:** We have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine Your eligibility for benefits under this Plan.

We will:

- Obtain only such information that is necessary to evaluate a claim for benefits. This information will be obtained as set forth herein with respect to notice and proofs of loss.
- Consider and interpret the terms of this Plan and all information obtained by Us and submitted that relates to a claim for benefits and make a determination based on that information and in accordance with the terms of this Plan and applicable California state law.
- If a claim is approved, review the determination as often as is reasonably necessary to determine continued eligibility for benefits.
- If a claim is denied, provide the claimant within a reasonable period of time a written notification of an adverse determination. Such notification will include the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.

**Notice of Claim:** Written notice of intent to file a claim under this Certificate must be sent to Us within 20 days of the date of the loss, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. This Notice should include the name of the insured and the Policy number. If the claim is being made for any other Covered Person, his or her name should also be shown. For details, You can call Us at 1-800-525-4542.

**Claim Forms:** We will furnish forms for filing proof of death within 15 days of receipt of Notice. If we do not furnish the forms on time, We will accept a written Notice and adequate proof of death that is the basis of the claim as Proof of Loss.

**Proof of Loss:** You must send written Proof of Loss to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of Your legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

Proof of Loss and other claim data should be submitted to:



**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

Group Life Claims Department

P.O. Box 981573

El Paso, TX 79998-1573

**Time of Payment of Claim:** We will pay the Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Benefit immediately upon receipt of written Proof of Loss.

**Legal Actions:** No legal action against Guardian related to this Certificate may be brought until 60 days from the date Proof of Loss has been given as shown above. No legal action may be brought against Guardian related to claims for benefits under this Certificate after three years from the date of the final benefit determination.

B401.2193

## All Options

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### DEFINITIONS

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This section defines certain terms appearing in Your Certificate.

B400.7183

## All Options

**Accident** This term means an unexpected event or occurrence, which results in bodily injury or death while a Covered Person is insured by this Certificate. The term Accident does not include a Sickness.

B401.2194

## All Options

**Active Work or Actively At Work** These terms mean You are able to perform, and are performing, all of the regular duties of Your work for the Employer at:

- One of the Employer's usual places of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and the Employer have agreed on for Your work.

B400.7186

## All Options

**Certificate** This term means this Certificate of Coverage, including any riders and enrollment forms that may be attached to this Certificate.

B400.7188

## All Options

**Covered Loss** This term means loss due to an Accident while a Covered Person is insured by this Certificate and as outlined in the Table of Covered Losses.

B400.7189

## All Options

**Covered Person** This term means the Employee insured by this Certificate.

B400.7191

## All Options

**Domestic Partner** This term means Your domestic partner who is registered with the California Secretary of State.

B401.2196

## All Options

**Effective Date** The date the Certificate goes into force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage, or any change to the Certificate as requested by the Policyholder and approved by Us and in force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage.

B400.7192

## All Options

**Eligibility Date** This term means the earliest date a Covered Person is eligible for coverage under this Certificate, and he or she has satisfied all requirements for coverage to begin, as required by this Certificate.

- For Employee coverage, this term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Certificate.
- For an Employee in Active Work who had completed any waiting period required by the Employer as of the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date means the Effective Date of this Certificate.
- For an Employee in Active Work as of the Effective Date of this Certificate who has not completed any waiting period required by the Employer, the Eligibility Date will be the first date following the completion of the required waiting period.
- For an Employee hired on or after the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of the Employee's date of hire, or the first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer.

If this plan requires Employees to elect coverage under this Certificate, the Eligibility date will be the later of:

- The Employee's date of hire;
- The first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer; or
- The approval by Us in writing of any coverage for which You were required to provide Proof of Insurability.

B400.7194

## All Options

**Employee** This term means a person who works for the Employer at the Employer's place of business and whose income is reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service, and/or a state, for tax purposes. Partners and proprietors will also be treated as Employees if the eligibility requirements are met.

B400.7195

## All Options

**Employer** This term means WHATNOT INC. .

B400.7196

## All Options

**Enrollment Period** This term means the 31 day period which starts on the date You first become eligible for coverage.

B400.7197

## All Options

**Full-Time** This term means You are not a part time Employee as defined by Your Employer and the average number of hours You worked for the six months prior to the last full day worked was at least 30 hours per week at:

- Your Employer's place of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.

B401.3005

## All Options

**Insured Earnings** Only Your earnings from the Employer will be included as Insured Earnings.

- **For Partners And S Corporation Shareholders** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below:
  - Your compensation as an Employee or S Corporation shareholder, or guaranteed payments as a Partner, as reported on Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less the gross total of unadjusted Employee business expenses as included on the corresponding Schedule A Itemized Deductions.
  - Your non-passive income (loss) from trade of business as reported on Schedule E - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less any expenses incurred and reported elsewhere on Your Return; and
  - Your contributions during the prior calendar year, deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

If You are not a partner or S Corporation shareholder for the full prior calendar year, Your earnings will be based on the annualized sum of the listed amounts for the period of time that You were a partner or S Corporation shareholder during that calendar year.

- **For Sole Proprietors:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below.
  - Your annual net profit as determined from Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040 for the prior calendar year
  - Your contribution during the prior calendar year deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Annual net profit is calculated as gross income less total expenses.

If You are not a sole proprietor for the prior calendar year. In that case, We will calculate annual net profit and annual contributions using the full number of months that You were a sole proprietor during such time.

- **For Employees Who Are Compensated On Less Than A 12 Month Basis:** Insured Earnings means annual earnings determined from Your annual contract salary. If You do not have an annual contract salary, Insured Earnings means Your prior calendar year salary.

Your annual contract salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included. The term also does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate Insured Earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the 12 months before earlier of the the date you ceased working your normally scheduled hours and the date of Your covered loss or death.

We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Whose Income Is Reported On A IRS Form 1099:**

Insured Earnings means Your annual earnings as figured from the 1099 form(s) received from the Employer for the prior calendar year. Earnings are calculated as Your earned income as reported on the 1099 form(s) minus business expenses as reported on Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040. The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

B400.7200

## All Options

- **For Any Other Employee Who Receives Base Salary Only:** Insured Earnings means Your base annual salary from the Employer.

Your base annual salary includes shift differential.

The term also includes Your annual contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included. The term also does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Commissions;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate Insured Earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the 12 months before the earlier of the date you ceased working your normally scheduled hours and the date of Your covered loss or death.

We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per Week.

B400.7201

## All Options

**Legally Intoxicated** "Intoxicated" means that the Covered Person's blood alcohol content meets or exceeds the percentage or amount of blood alcohol content that creates a legal presumption of intoxication under the laws of the state or territory in which the loss occurred for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, regardless of whether the Covered Person was operating a motor vehicle at the time the loss occurred.

B400.7219

## All Options

**Month or Months or Monthly** These terms mean a consecutive 30 day period.

B400.7220

## All Options

**Policy or Plan** This term means the Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Coverage described in the Policy and in this Certificate.

B400.7223

## All Options

**Proof Of Insurability** This term means the completion of an evidence of insurability form, which shows that a person is insurable.

B400.6388

## All Options

**Proof of Loss** This term means the documents that We use to substantiate an accidental death and dismemberment claim. Examples of documents used for Proof of Loss include:

- An original certified finalized death certificate;
- The beneficiary designation in effect at the time of death;
- Enrollment information documenting that the insured was properly enrolled for the amount of coverage claimed;
- A fully completed claim form; and
- Any additional information deemed necessary during the course of Our claim investigation. This may include, but is not limited to, an autopsy report, investigative reports, toxicology reports and medical records.

B401.2197

## All Options

**Third degree Burn** This term means a burn involving the full thickness of skin including the tissue beneath the skin; burns in which both the epidermis and dermis are destroyed with damage extending into underlying tissues.

B400.7227

**All Options**

**Spouse** This term means Your lawful spouse, which shall include the marriage between opposite or same-sex partners legally performed in other jurisdictions. This term shall also include Your Domestic Partner.

B401.2198

**All Options**

**We, Us and Our** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

B400.7229

**All Options**

**You or Your** These terms mean the insured Employee.

B400.7230



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## EXCLUSIONS

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Conditions that are not considered Covered Losses and that are not covered under the terms of this Certificate.

- Willful self-injury, suicide, or attempted suicide while sane or insane;
- Sickness, disease, mental infirmity, or result of any medical or surgical treatment;
- Infection, except pyogenic infections which result from a bodily injury or bacterial infections which result from the unintentional ingestion of contaminated substances;
- The intentional or voluntary inhalation or ingestion of gas, chemical, solvent, poison or other substances not intended for internal consumption;
- An injury the Covered Person suffers while taking part in a riot or other civil disorder; or in the commission of or attempt to commit a felony, as defined per the laws in the jurisdiction in which the felony was committed or attempted, or as defined under federal law if the offense charged was a federal offense;
- Injury suffered while travelling on any type of aircraft if the Covered Person is an instructor or crew member; or has any duties at all on that aircraft;
- Injury suffered in declared or undeclared war or act of war or armed aggression;
- Injury suffered while the Covered Person is a member of any armed force;
- Injury suffered while the Covered Person is Legally Intoxicated; or
- Injury suffered while the Covered Person is voluntarily using a controlled substance, unless:
  - It was prescribed for the Covered Person by a doctor; and
  - It was used as prescribed.

A controlled substance is anything called a controlled substance in Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, as amended from time to time.

B401.2787

All Options

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**GROUP ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT  
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

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B400.7846

All Options

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**Employee Basic Accidental Death And Dismemberment (AD&D)  
Insurance Schedule**

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B400.7859

All Options

**Basic AD&D Insurance Amount** An amount equal to 100% of Your Insured Earnings, rounded to the next higher \$1,000.00, if not already a multiple of that amount, to a maximum of \$250,000.00.

B400.7870

All Options

**Redetermination** Subject to any of the Policy's proof of insurability requirements, Your Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance amount will be redetermined on the date a change in Your Insured Earnings occurs, to an amount determined in accordance with the formula shown above, on the basis of Your then current Insured Earnings. Your Employer must report updates to your Insured Earnings as they occur. If You are not actively at work on a Full-Time basis on that date, Your insurance amount will be redetermined on the date You return to active Full-Time service. But, if Your Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance amount was previously reduced because of an age or retirement reduction, it will not be redetermined due to the change in earnings.

B400.7883

All Options

**Reduction of Basic AD&D Insurance Amount Based on Age** If You are less than age 70 when Your insurance under this Policy starts, Your insurance amount will be reduced at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on the date You reach age 70, by 50% of the amount which otherwise applies to Your classification. But in no case will such reduced amount be less than \$1,000.00. This reduction also applies to Your initial insurance amount if Your insurance starts after You reach age 70.

The reduced amount is in place of the amount which otherwise applies to Your classification.

B400.7898

## All Options

**Proof of Insurability** Depending on the coverage selected, or as otherwise required in this Certificate, You, Your Spouse and/or Dependents may be required to supply proof that the person applying for coverage is insurable for the amount and type of coverage selected. This requirement is called Proof of Insurability. For purposes of this section, any person applying for coverage requiring Proof of Insurability is referred to as "Applicant."

To determine if the Applicant is required to submit Proof of Insurability for the type and amount of coverage sought, please see below.

Any applicant required to submit Proof of Insurability is required to complete and submit to Us an Enrollment/Change form. We may also require the completion of additional forms so that We may determine whether the Applicant is insurable, according to Our underwriting standards for the amount and type of coverage applied for. To determine if the Applicant is insurable, We may also need to obtain and review the Applicant's health and medical history; prescription history; records relating to treatment, diagnostic testing, hospitalization and the like; and records pertaining to Applicant's driving and motor vehicle history.

No coverage requiring Proof of Insurability will become effective unless and until it is approved by Us in writing. Our receipt of any premiums associated with coverage requiring Proof of Insurability does not waive or modify any requirement that must be satisfied for coverage to begin, including but not limited to the requirement that the Applicant submit Proof of Insurability. In the event that any premiums are overpaid, Our only obligation is to return the amount of overpaid premiums.

The Policyholder, or its designee, must give Us complete and accurate information so that we may determine:

- Who is insured;
- The type and amount of coverage for which someone is insured; and
- Any other information required so that Guardian may meet its obligations under the Policy.

**Proof Of Insurability Requirements** Proof Of Insurability requirements apply to Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. Such requirements may apply to the full insurance amount, or just part of it, as outlined below. When Proof Of Insurability requirements apply, it means You must submit to Us Proof that You are insurable, and We must approve the Proof in writing before the insurance, or the specified part becomes effective.

We require Proof of Insurability as follows:

If You:

- Do not meet this Policy's enrollment requirement within 30 days after You first become eligible; or

- Enroll after You previously had coverage which ended because You failed to make a required payment,

We will require that You provide Proof Of Insurability. And, You will not be covered until We approve that proof in writing.

If Your Active Full-Time Work ends before You meet any Proof Of Insurability requirements that apply You will still have to meet those requirements if You are later re-employed by the Employer or an associated company.

B400.8032

## All Options

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### Changes to Insurance

B400.9564

## All Options

**Changes In Insurance Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your amount of coverage will not become effective prior to the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

B400.9567

## All Options

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, insurance will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are:

- Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and
- Make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which a larger amount of insurance is provided, You must make the required contribution for the new amount within 31 days of the change. If You do not make the required contribution within 31 days of the change or within 31 days of becoming Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, if You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, when Your classification changes, no increase will be allowed due to such change or any later change. In that case, in order to become insured for the larger amount, You must:

- Make the required contribution for the new amount; and
- Furnish Proof Of Insurability to Us, which We approve in writing.

If the insurance amount was previously reduced because of age or retirement, it will be retained at the reduced amount.

B400.9570

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**CERTIFICATE RIDER - Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit**

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

Terms not specifically defined within this Rider are defined in the Certificate.

**Employee Basic Accidental Death  
and Dismemberment Insurance  
Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit**

This rider applies to Your Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance.

**Seatbelt And Airbag  
Benefits**

If You die as a result of an automobile Accident while properly wearing a seatbelt, We will increase Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit amount by \$10,000. And, if You die as a result of an automobile Accident while both properly wearing a seatbelt, and sitting in a seat equipped with an airbag, We will increase Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit amount by an additional \$5,000, for a total increase of \$15,000.

**Notice of Claim:** You must send Us a request which includes written proof that You were properly wearing a seatbelt. A law enforcement official investigating the accident must certify that the seatbelt was properly fastened and that the automobile in which the deceased was traveling was equipped with airbags. A copy of such certification must be submitted to Us with the claim for benefits. We must approve such proof in writing before this benefit is paid.

**Proof of Loss:** You must send written Proof of Loss to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss.

If We cannot determine that You were wearing a seatbelt at the time of the Accident, We will increase Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit amount by \$1,000.

If We determine that a seatbelt was not worn at the time of the automobile Accident resulting in Your death, or if the required official report is not provided, no Seatbelt or Airbag Benefit will be paid.

The total amount payable for the Seatbelt and Airbag Benefit under Your Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance and Basic Group Term Life Insurance and may not exceed \$30,000.

**Late Notice and  
Proof of Loss:** We will not void or reduce Your claim if we do not receive Notice and Proof of Loss within the required time. In that case, Notice and Proof of Loss must be sent as soon as reasonably possible.

**Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:**

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**  
**Group Life Claims Department**  
**P.O. Box 981573**  
**El Paso, TX 79998-1573**

**Exclusions** This Certificate Rider does not pay a Seatbelt or Airbag Benefit for loss of life caused by, or related to an Accident occurring:

- While You are Legally Intoxicated;
- While You are voluntarily using a controlled substance, unless:
  - It was prescribed for You by a Doctor; and
  - It was used as prescribed.

A controlled substance is anything called a controlled substance in Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, as amended from time to time.

- While You were intentionally or voluntarily inhaling or ingesting a gas, chemical, solvent, poison or other substances not intended for internal consumption; or
- During Your commission of, or attempt to commit a felony as defined per the laws in the jurisdiction in which the felony was committed or attempted, or as defined under federal law if the offense charged was a federal offense.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B401.2227

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**CERTIFICATE RIDER**

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This Rider is effective on the Policy Date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the replacement of the Incontestability provision to the following:

**Time Limit On Certain Defenses**

After the Policy has been in force for a period of two years, no statements of the Policyholder contained in the application, and no statement relating to insurability made by any Employee eligible for coverage under the Policy shall be used to deny a claim or in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which such statement was made after the insurance has been in force prior to the contest for a period of two years during the lifetime of the person with respect to whom any such statement was made.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B439.0618

## The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

### CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

This Rider is effective on the Policy Date. If this Rider is added after the Policy Date, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date.

The **Redetermination** provision(s) in the Certificate Schedule of Benefits are replaced in their entirety with the following:

**Redetermination** Your basic accidental death and dismemberment insurance amount will be redetermined on the date Your earning's change in accordance with the formula shown in the Schedule of Benefits for basic accidental death and dismemberment insurance and based on Your Insured Earnings on the date of the redetermination.

#### Redetermination Requirements

Your Employer must report your current Insured Earnings to us for the redetermination to take place.

An increase in Your accidental death and dismemberment insurance amount may be subject to the Proof of Insurability requirements. Please refer to the Proof of Insurability section of the Schedule of Benefits for more information.

If You are not Actively at Work on the redetermination date, the redetermination will not take effect until the date You return to Active Work.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B439.0631



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## AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider amends the Certificate and Policy as follows and is effective on the later of the Policy Date or the date requested by the Policyholder.

The definition of **Spouse** and **Domestic Partner** is replaced with the following:

**Spouse:** The person to whom You are legally married or Your **Domestic Partner** or civil union partner.

**Domestic Partner:** The same-sex or different-sex person with whom You have registered Your relationship with any state or local governmental domestic partner registry

Or

the same-sex or different-sex person with whom you have not registered your relationship if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You live and share financial assets and obligations with this person.
- This person is at least 18 years of age, is able to provide legal consent, and is not a blood relative.
- Neither you nor this person are in a marriage or domestic partnership with anyone else or legally separated from anyone else.
- You submit acceptable documentation that you meet the above criteria. An affidavit attesting to these facts may be required.

Except as specifically noted above for relationships that are not registered, **Domestic Partners** are not subject to any proof of relationship or waiting period requirements that are not also imposed upon marriages. A **Domestic Partner** registry certificate will be accepted as fully equivalent to a marriage certificate. Similarly, a dissolution of domestic partnership notice will be accepted as fully equivalent to a divorce decree.

This Rider is part of the Certificate and Policy. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate or Policy.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B601.0243

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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### The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Your group term accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefits may be covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). If so, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under 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 insurance contracts, 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.

#### **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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your 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.

#### **Enforcement of Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare 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 (see Claims Procedures below).

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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

**Assistance with  
Questions**

If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

**Accidental Death  
and  
Dismemberment  
Insurance Claims  
Procedure**

If you seek benefits under the plan you should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (hereinafter referenced as Guardian.)

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with the authority to interpret and construe the terms of the Policy, the Certificate, the Schedule of Benefits, and any riders, or other documents or forms that may be attached to the Certificate or the Policy, and any other plan documents. Guardian has the authority to determine eligibility for benefits and coverage under those documents. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of ERISA.

**Definitions**

"Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

**Timing for Initial  
Benefit  
Determination of  
Accidental Death  
and  
Dismemberment  
Insurance Claims**

The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 90 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 90 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to special circumstances, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 90-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the determination is expected to be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

**Adverse Benefit  
Determination of  
Accidental Death  
and  
Dismemberment  
Insurance Claims**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information needed to perfect the claim, and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;
- Identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an adverse benefit determination, or a statement, that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination; and
- In the case of adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

B997.0242

## All Options

### **Appeals of Adverse Determinations of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Claims**

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, you will have up to 60 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 60 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 60 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 60-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;

- In the event the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Waiver of Premium** If you apply for an extension of accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefits due to Total Disability under the Waiver of Premium benefit under this plan, these claim procedures will apply to such request:

**Timing For Initial Benefit Determination for Waiver of Premium** The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse determination must be provided.

Guardian will make a determination of whether the claimant meets the plan's standard for total disability not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a benefit determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**Adverse Benefit Determination** If a claim for an extension of benefits is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information needed to perfect the claim, and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;

- A statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by you, of health care professionals who treated you and vocational professionals who evaluated you;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that you present to us;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination; and
- In the case of adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

B997.0243

## All Options

### Appeals of Adverse Determinations for Waiver of Premium

If a claim for Waiver of Premium is denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;

- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
- Provide a statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by you, of health care professionals who treated you, and vocational professionals who evaluated you;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that you present to us;



- Provide a statement describing the claimant's right to bring a civil suit under Section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 which shall also describe any applicable contractual limitations period that applies the claimant's right to bring such an action, including the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires for the claim, and;
- In the event the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S. Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

In addition to any legal rights you may have under section 502(a), if you believe that we have violated ERISA's procedural requirements, you may request that we review any claimed violation(s) and we will respond to you within ten days.

B997.0244

**You May not be covered by all options in this Certificate.**

This Certificate contains all the benefits and options that are available under the Policy. You are insured only for those benefits and options that you are eligible and enrolled for, and for which the required premium has been paid.

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## CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

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### **The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

*10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000*

The group Short Term Disability income coverage described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective January 1, 2024. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under this Policy or under any other plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Policyholder by Guardian.

#### **GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE**

Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is Eligible for the coverage, and in the amount, described herein. In order to be eligible for coverage, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of the Policy's eligibility and Effective Date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Policyholder's records as a validly covered Employee under the Policy; and (c) all required premium payments must have been made by or on behalf of the Employee; and (d) satisfy any necessary Proof of Insurability requirements.

The Employee is not covered by any part of the Policy for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Policyholder's records.

Policyholder: WHATNOT INC.  
Group Policy Number: 00572118

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B400.0045

## **COMPLAINT NOTICE**

This notice is to advise you that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance you may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: (212) 598-8000 or (800) 541-7846**

If you feel your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian, you may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:

**California Department of Insurance  
Consumer Communication Bureau  
300 South Spring Street; South Tower  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Consumer Hotline: 1 (800) 927-4357 or TDD: 1 (800) 482- 4833  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)**

B401.1882



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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### Applicable Benefits

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This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. You will only be covered for benefits if:

- They were previously selected in an enrollment form or other required form; and
- We have received any required premium.

B401.1884

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### Limitation of Authority

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Only the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us in a written and signed statement to:

- Determine whether any contract, Policy or certificate is to be issued;
- Waive or alter any contract or Policy provisions, or any of Our requirements;
- Bind Us by any statement or promise relating to the contract issued or to be issued; or
- Accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

Agents and brokers do not have the authority to change the contract or Policy or waive any of its provisions.

B400.0049

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### Incontestability

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After two years from its date of issue of this Certificate, no misstatements, except fraudulent statements, made by You in the application for coverage shall be used to void this Certificate or deny a claim for a loss incurred or for a disability commencing after the expiration of the two year period.

No claim for loss incurred or disability commencing after two years from the date of issue of this Certificate shall be reduced or denied on the ground that a disease or physical condition not excluded from coverage by name or physical condition effective on the date of loss had existed prior to the effective date of coverage of this Certificate.

B401.1886

## **Examination**

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We have the right to have a Doctor(s) of Our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made under this Certificate as often as We feel necessary. We will pay for all such examinations.

B400.0052



## All Options

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# ELIGIBILITY FOR SHORT TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE

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## Conditions of Eligibility

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You are eligible for Short Term Disability if You are:

- In an eligible class of Employees;
- Are an active Full-Time Employee;
- Legally working in the United States and/or Canada or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us; and
- Working at least the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at:
  - The Employer's place of business;
  - Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
  - Any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of the major duties of Your job.

B400.0054

## All Options

You are **not** eligible for Short Term Disability if You are:

- A temporary or seasonal Employee.

B400.0057

## All Options

**Proof of Insurability:** Part or all of Your insurance amounts may be subject to Proof of Insurability. The Schedule Of Benefits explains if and when We require proof. You will not be covered for any amount that requires such proof until You give the proof to Us and We approve that proof in writing.

B400.0060

## All Options

**The Waiting Period:** If You are in an eligible class, You are eligible for Short Term Disability under this Certificate after you complete the service waiting period, if any, established by the Employer.

B400.0061

## All Options

**Multiple Employment:** If You work for both the Employer and a covered associated company, or for more than one covered associated company, We will treat You as if only one firm employs You. You will not have multiple Short Term Disability coverage under this Certificate. But, if this Certificate uses the amount of Your Insured Earnings to set the rates, determine class, figure coverage amounts, or for any other reason, such earnings will be figured as the sum of Your Insured Earnings from all covered Employers.

B400.0062

## All Options

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### When Coverage Starts

For coverage to start, You must be fully capable of performing the major duties of Your own job for the Employer working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on Your scheduled Eligibility Date. And, for coverage to start, You must meet all of the Conditions of Eligibility described above and the conditions shown below which apply to You. If You are not fully capable of performing the major duties of Your own job on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, We will postpone the start of Your coverage while this Certificate is in force. We will postpone coverage until You are so capable and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class for one full day, with the capacity to do so for one full week.

Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date.

B401.2261

## All Options

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### Exception to When Coverage Starts

Sometimes a scheduled Eligibility Date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled Eligibility Date falls on:

- A holiday;
- A vacation day;
- A non-scheduled work day;
- A day during an approved leave of absence not due to Sickness or Injury, of 90 days or less; or
- A day during a period of absence that is less than 7 days in duration;

**and if:**

- You were fully capable of performing the major duties of Your own job for the Employer for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 AM Standard Time for Your place of residence on the scheduled Eligibility Date; and

- You were performing the major duties of Your own job and working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class on Your last regularly scheduled work day.

Your coverage will start on the scheduled Eligibility Date. However, any coverage or part of coverage for which You must elect and pay all or part of the cost, will not start if You are on an approved leave and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for You under a prior plan which this Certificate replaced.

Any part of Your coverage which is subject to Proof of Insurability will not start unless You send such proof to Us, and We approve it in writing. Once We have approved it, that part of Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your approved Eligibility Date.

B401.2262

## All Options

### **When Coverage Ends**

Your coverage will end on the first of the following dates:

- The date Your Active Full-Time Work ends for any reason, except as shown below under Continuation Of Coverage.
- The date You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.
- The date You are no longer working in the United States and/or Canada, or no longer working outside of the United States for a United States based employer in a country or region approved by Us. Any incidental business or personal travel outside of the United States and/or Canada, or outside of a country or region approved by Us, is covered. Such travel will be considered incidental if it is for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days.
- The date the group Certificate ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for You.
- The date You die.

You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time after Your coverage would otherwise end. Read this Certificate carefully for details and discuss with your Employer or administrator. Any provisions that allow continuation of such group benefits must be offered and administered on a fair and equitable basis.

B400.0070

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**CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE**

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**Coverage During Disability**

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You may be Disabled when Your Active Full-Time Work ends due to a non-job related Injury or Sickness for which benefits are not payable. In that case, Your coverage will remain in force during the:

- Elimination Period, subject to payment of required premiums; and
- The period of time for which benefits are payable by this Certificate.

But, in order for Your coverage to continue, the Disability:

- Must be covered by this Certificate.

If You're Disabled when Your Active Full-Time Work ends due to a job-related Injury or Sickness for which benefits are not payable, Your coverage will remain in force until the earlier of the date:

- You are terminated from employment with the Employer; or
- You have been Disabled for 6 Months.

B440.0066

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## SHORT TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE

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This coverage replaces part of Your income if You become Disabled due to a covered Sickness or Injury. What We pay is governed by all the terms of this Policy.

This Certificate includes the Short Term Disability Schedule of Benefits. Your class and benefit options are shown in the Schedule of Benefits that applies to You.

Terms with special meanings are defined, and are capitalized. See the Definitions section of this Certificate. Other terms with special meanings are defined where they are used.

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### Benefit Provisions

**How Payments Start:** To start getting payments from this Certificate, You must meet all of the conditions listed below and elsewhere in this Certificate.

- You must:
  - Become Disabled while covered by this Certificate; and
  - Remain Disabled and covered for this Certificate's Elimination Period.
- You must provide Proof of Loss, as described in Claim Provisions.

Benefits accrue as of the first day after the end of the Elimination Period, subject to all Certificate terms.

You can satisfy the Elimination Period while working, provided You are Disabled.

**When Payments End:** Your benefits from this Certificate will end on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- The date You are no longer Disabled.
- The date You fail to provide Proof of Loss as required by this Certificate.
- The date You earn, or are able to earn, the maximum earnings allowed while Disabled under this Certificate.
- The date You are able to perform the major duties of Your Own Occupation on a Full-Time basis with Reasonable Accommodation.
- The date You die.
- The end of the Maximum Payment Period.
- The date no further benefits are payable under any provision in this Certificate that limits the Maximum Payment Period.

- The date You are no longer receiving Regular and Appropriate Care from a Doctor.

The date payments end in accordance with a Rehabilitation Agreement.

However, this date will not apply if the Rehabilitation Agreement is not fulfilled but You remain Disabled in accordance with the terms of this Plan and the Maximum Payment Period has not been reached.

B401.1888

## All Options

**Maximum Payment Period:** The Maximum Payment Period is shown in the Schedule Of Benefits.

Benefits payable during the Maximum Payment Period will not be affected by the termination of the Certificate, subject to all the terms and conditions of the Certificate that were in effect on the first date of Your Disability. Any change to the Certificate with an Effective Date after the first date of Your Disability will not apply to benefits payable during the Maximum Payment Period.

B400.0145

## All Options

**Recurring Disability:** Benefits from this Certificate end if You cease to be Disabled. But, a later Disability may be treated as a Recurring Disability, if all of the conditions listed below are met:

- You must return to Active Work right after Your benefits end.
- The Disability must recur less than two weeks after You were last entitled to benefits.
- The later Disability must be due to the same or related cause of Your earlier Disability.
- This Certificate must not end during Your return to Active Work.
- You must not become covered under any other similar group income replacement plan during the time You return to Active Work.
- When You return to Active Work after being disabled, You must be covered by this Certificate and all required premium must be paid.
- A subsequent Disability will not be considered a Recurring Disability if Your benefits for the prior Disability ended because Your prior Disability had been paid for the Maximum Payment Period.

If the later Disability is a Recurring Disability, You will not need to satisfy a new Elimination Period. The Recurring Disability will be subject to all the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date the earlier Disability began.

If all of the conditions listed above are not met, the later Disability will be treated as a new period of Disability. You will be required to satisfy a new Elimination Period. The new period of Disability will be subject to all the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date the new period of Disability starts.

B400.0146

**Calculation of Weekly Benefit:** Your benefit is governed by the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date Disability starts. Any changes to this Certificate that take place as follows are inapplicable to, and will not affect, Your benefit:

- While You are Disabled; or
- During a period of Active Work that occurs between an initial period of Disability and a Recurring Disability.

We calculate Your Gross Weekly Benefit according to the Schedule of Benefits.

From Your Gross Weekly Benefit, subtract the amount of any income listed in Other Income Benefits that You receive or are entitled to receive. The result is Your Weekly Benefit.

B400.0148

## All Options

**Redetermination:** This Certificate redetermines Your Insured Earnings on the date a change in Your Insured Earnings occurs. The Employer must report updates to all Employees Insured Earnings as they occur. Changes to Your Insured Earnings are subject to any Proof of Insurability requirements that may apply to this Certificate. As of this Certificate's redetermination date, We use Your Insured Earnings on record with Us to:

- Set rates;
- Project benefit amounts and limits; and
- Calculate premium payable under this Certificate.

You must be Actively at Work on a Full-Time basis on that date. If You are not, We do not do this until the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis. But, changes in earnings will not apply to a Recurring Disability.

B400.0156

## All Options

**Other Income Benefits:** You may receive, or be entitled to receive, income shown in the list below. We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by such other income benefits to determine Your Weekly Benefit from this Certificate.

- Commissions or monies received, payable but not deferred, or paid after Disability benefits start.

This includes:

- Vested and nonvested renewal commissions;

- Bonuses;
- Royalties; and
- Other distributions.
- Disability benefits from any mandated benefit act or law. This includes all temporary disability or state disability benefits required by law.
- Disability benefits from all group policies or plans of the Employer. This includes payments made by a group life insurance plan due to Your Disability. This does not include payments made from a group life insurance plan's:
  - Accelerated death benefit; or
  - Like provision that allows payment of such plan's proceeds due to terminal illness.
- Disability benefits from any other group policy or plan; but, if the other group plan was in force prior to this Certificate, and the other group plan also deducts for Disability benefits from any other group plan, We will not deduct these other group Disability benefits.
- Income received from partnership distributions but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Weekly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Insured Earnings.
- Benefits from: The United States Social Security Act; The Railroad Retirement Act; or any other like U.S. or Canadian plan or act.

This includes:

- (a) All Disability benefits for which: (i) You are entitled; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled due to Your Disability;
- (b) All unreduced retirement benefits for which: (i) You are entitled and awarded; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled and awarded due to Your entitlement; and
- (c) All reduced retirement benefits paid to: (i) You; and (ii) Your Spouse and children due to Your receipt of such benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the retirement benefits described in (b) and (c) above, to the extent that You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded to receive such income prior to the start of Disability. We will reduce the Gross Weekly Benefit by marginal increases in such income You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded after Disability begins.



We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by Your dependents' benefits described in (a), (b) and (c) above if: (i) the dependents' benefits are provided to You by the Social Security Administration; (ii) at the time that the Social Security Administration makes its first payment of the dependent benefits described in (a), (b), and (c) above, the dependent child remains a minor dependent or an adult Disabled dependent; and (iii) the dependent benefits You are entitled to are greater than any dependent benefit being received by another person. Under these circumstances, We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the difference between the amount the dependent was awarded under the prior recipient and the amount awarded the dependent under Your benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the benefits to which You are entitled, as described in (a), (b), and (c) above unless such benefits are greater than any widow/widower benefit You are receiving. And then We reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the difference.

- Income of the type that is included in Your Insured Earnings for purposes of determining Your Gross Weekly Benefit under this Certificate.
- That portion of Retirement Plan retirement benefits which the Employer funds.
- That portion of Retirement Plan Disability benefits which the Employer funds.
- Retirement benefits or Retirement Plan disability benefits, due to Your Disability, from any Government Plan other than those shown above.
- Temporary Disability benefits under a Worker's Compensation law.
- Disability benefits from any third party when Your Disability is the result of the negligence or intentional tort liability of that third party.

We reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit with income shown above that You are entitled to receive without regard to the reason You are entitled to receive it.

Our right to reduce Your benefit by such income shall not be negated by a transfer of claim liability to a third party. Payment by such third party by law, settlement, judgment, waiver or otherwise shall not negate Our right.

B401.1893

## All Options

**Other Income Not Subject to Deduction:** We will not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by any income You receive or are entitled to receive from the list below.

- Deferred compensation arrangements such as 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans;
- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Tax sheltered annuities;

- Stock ownership plans;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA);
- Individual disability income policies;
- Credit disability insurance;
- Non qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- Pension plans for partners;
- Retirement plans of another Employer not affiliated with this Certificate;
- Military pension and disability plans;
- Income from a sick leave, salary continuance, or paid time off plan;
- Critical Illness insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Accident insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Specified Disease insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Cancer insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit.

B400.0172

**Lump Sum Payments Of Other Income:** Income with which We Integrate may be paid in a lump sum. In this case, We take the equivalent weekly rate stated in the award into account when We determine Your Weekly Benefit. If no weekly rate is given, We divide the lump sum payment by the number of calendar days in the period for which it was awarded. This will determine the daily rate. Then, multiply the daily rate by 7. The result is the prorated weekly rate.

**Cost of Living Freeze:** You may receive a cost of living increase in other income with which We integrate. In this case, We do not further reduce Your Weekly Benefit by the amount of such increase.

**Claim For Other Income:** We require that You pursue a claim for other income benefits to which You may be entitled. If these benefits are denied, We may require You to appeal such denial if it is reasonable to believe that You have a valid claim to receive the benefits.

If You unreasonably refused to pursue such claim for other income benefits, and We have a means of reasonably estimating the amount payable, We will estimate the amount due to You and Your Spouse and children. We will take this estimated amount into account when We determine Your Weekly Benefit.

If We do reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by an estimated amount, We will cease doing so and adjust Your Weekly Benefit when We receive written proof:

- Of the amount awarded; or
- That the other income benefits have been denied, and no further appeals are possible.

If We underpay You, We will pay the full amount of the underpayment in a lump sum.

We will provide You with an accounting of any underpayment/overpayment.

We offer to assist You in applying for other income benefits. Examples of the kinds of assistance We offer are:

- Helping You fill out applications and forms;
- Assisting You to find suitable legal counsel; and
- Providing medical and vocational data from Our files to support Your claims.

B401.1899

## All Options

**Adjustment Of Weekly Benefit For Disability Earnings:** We adjust the Weekly Benefit for Disability Earnings as follows:

We pay the greater of the amount calculated under Method 1 or Method 2.

Method 1:

- If your Disability Earnings are less than 20% of Your Insured Earnings, We do not reduce your Weekly Benefit.
- If your Disability Earnings are 20% or more of Your Insured Earnings, We reduce Your Weekly Benefit by 50% of Your Disability Earnings.

Method 2:

- (1) Subtract Your Disability Earnings from Your Insured Earnings.
- (2) Divide the result in (1) above by Your Insured Earnings.
- (3) Multiply the result in (2) above by Your Weekly Benefit. This is the amount We pay.

If Your Disability Earnings fluctuate widely from week to week, We may adjust Your Weekly Benefit using an average Disability Earnings amount. The average Disability Earnings amount will be computed using Your most current week's Disability Earnings and the prior two weeks Disability Earnings.

B401.1902

## All Options

**Maximum Allowable Disability Earnings:** This Certificate limits the amount of income You may earn, or may be able to earn, and still be considered Disabled.

If Your Disability Earnings are more than 80% of Your Insured Earnings, payments from this Certificate will end for the claimed disability. Payments from this Certificate will also end if You are able to earn more than 80% of Your Insured Earnings.

B401.1903

## All Options

**Minimum Payment:** The minimum weekly payment for Disability under this Certificate is \$25.00.

B400.0201

## All Options

### Exclusions

This Certificate does not pay benefits for Disability caused by:

- Declared or undeclared war, act of war, or armed aggression;
- Service in the armed forces, National Guard, or military reserves of any state or country;
- Your taking part in a riot or civil disorder;
- Your commission of, or attempt to commit, a felony. A felony means either:
  - A crime as defined as such under the laws in the jurisdiction in which the crime was committed or attempted; or
  - In states where the law does not define crimes in terms of felonies and misdemeanors, felony means any crime punishable for a minimum of a one year term of incarceration in a jail or prison, as determined by the law of the jurisdiction where the crime was committed or attempted; or
  - A crime as defined as such under federal law;
- The intentional or voluntary inhalation or ingestion of gas, chemical, solvent, poison or other substances not intended for internal consumption, irrespective of any pre-existing or co-morbid condition;
- Intentional self-inflicted injuries;
- An Injury that occurs while, or a Sickness that develops from, performing an occupational duty except for those Employees who are not eligible to participate in Workers' Compensation, occupational disease law, or any other law of like intent; or for an Injury that occurs while, or a Sickness that develops from, performing an occupational duty while working for another employer.

This Certificate does not pay any benefits for any period of Disability:

- During which You are confined to a facility as a result of Your conviction of a crime;

- Which starts before You are covered by this Certificate; or
- During which Your loss of earnings is not solely due to Your Disability.

This Certificate does not pay benefits due solely to a risk of Relapse or exacerbation of a prior Injury or illness in the absence of current impairment and Disability.

B401.1906

## All Options

## Services

**Rehabilitation And Case Management:** We will review Your Disability to see if certain services are likely to help You return to Gainful Work. If needed, We may ask for more medical or vocational information.

When Our review is complete, We may offer You the opportunity to participate in a voluntary Rehabilitation Program. You are not required to accept the program; rather, it is made available to assist You in Your efforts to return to Gainful Work.

The Rehabilitation Program will start when a written Rehabilitation Agreement is signed by:

- You;
- Us; and
- Your Employer, if needed.

The program may include, but is not limited to:

- Vocational assessment of Your work potential;
- Coordination and transition planning with an Employer for Your return to work;
- Consulting with Your Doctor on Your return to work and need for accommodations;
- Training in job seeking skills and resume preparation; and
- Retraining.

We have the right to determine which services are appropriate.

In consult with You and Your Doctor, We will agree on which services are appropriate and useful.

If We are unable to mutually agree upon the services that are appropriate, We reserve the right to end the Rehabilitation Program.

If You accept the Rehabilitation Agreement, We will pay an enhanced benefit, which is in addition to Your regular Weekly Benefit. The enhanced benefit will be 110% of the Weekly Benefit that would otherwise be paid. This enhanced benefit will be payable as of the first Weekly Benefit after the Rehabilitation Program starts.

We stop paying the enhanced benefit on the earliest of:

- The date Your benefits from this Certificate end;
- The date You violate the terms of the Rehabilitation Agreement;
- The date You end the Rehabilitation Program; or
- The date it is determined that the Rehabilitation Program is not meeting the goal of returning You to Gainful Work; and the date the Rehabilitation Agreement ends.

**Dependent Care Expenses:** While You are participating in a Rehabilitation Program, We will pay a dependent care expense benefit, when all of the following conditions are met:

- You incur expense to provide care for a qualified dependent; and
- The care is provided by a licensed provider other than a family member by blood or marriage.

The dependent care expense benefit will be the lesser of:

- \$100.00 per week per qualified dependent; not to exceed \$300.00 per week for all qualified dependents combined; and
- The actual weekly day care expense incurred by You.

We will stop paying the dependent care expense benefit on the earlier of the date You are no longer:

- Incurring dependent care expenses for a qualified dependent;
- Participating in a Rehabilitation Program; or
- Entitled to receive a Weekly Benefit from this Certificate.

As used here, "qualified dependent" means a person who is:

- Dependent upon You for main support and maintenance; and
- Under the age of 14; and
- Your biological child, lawfully adopted child, stepchild or any other child who is living with You in a regular parent-child relationship.

The term also means a family member, related by blood or marriage, age 14 or over who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for him or herself and is dependent upon You for main support and maintenance.

B401.1908

## All Options

**Worksite Modification:** In order to accommodate Your Disability, an Employer may incur a cost to modify his or her worksite. We may reimburse the Employer, up to \$2,500.00 for the cost of the worksite modification. We make this payment if We agree that the modification will enable You to:

- Return to work; or
- Remain at work.

B400.0212

## Claim Provisions

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**Administration:** We have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine Your eligibility for benefits under this Plan.

We will:

- Obtain only such information that is necessary to evaluate a claim for benefits. This information will be obtained as set forth herein with respect to notice and proofs of loss.
- Consider and interpret the terms of this Plan and all information obtained by Us and submitted that relates to a claim for benefits and make a determination based on that information and in accordance with the terms of this Plan and applicable California state law.
- If a claim is approved, review the determination as often as is reasonably necessary to determine continued eligibility for benefits.
- If a claim is denied, provide the claimant within a reasonable period of time a written notification of an adverse determination. Such notification will include the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant may appeal the decision. We will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal. The review will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination. If a claim is not appealed, then the decision will be Guardian's final decision.

**Notice of Claim:** You must send Us written notice of Your intent to file a claim under this Certificate within 20 days of the date the Injury occurs or the Sickness starts, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. This Notice should include Your name and the Policy number. For details, You can call Us at 1-800-268-2525.

**Claim Forms:** We, upon receipt of a written notice of claim, will furnish to You such forms as are usually furnished by Us for filing Proofs of Loss. If such forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice, You shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Certificate as to Proof of Loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in this Certificate for filing Proofs of Loss, written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which the claim is made.



**Proof Of Loss:** Written proof of loss must be furnished to Us, in case of claim for loss for which this Certificate provides any periodic payment contingent upon continuing loss, within 90 days after the termination of the period for which We are liable, and in case of claim for any other loss, within 90 days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of Your legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

You are required to cooperate with Guardian in its evaluation of any claim for benefits. You must provide Proof of Loss at Your expense, consisting of the following listed below. Failure to provide this information may prevent, delay, suspend, reduce or terminate Your eligibility for benefits.

- The date Disability began.
- Your last day of Active Work.
- The cause of Disability.
- The extent of Disability, including limitations and restrictions preventing You from performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation.
- If Your occupation requires that You carry liability or malpractice insurance, information including, but not limited to: the policy, any applications for such coverage, and any changes to the terms and conditions of such policies prior to or after the first date of Disability.
- Objective Medical Evidence and Objective Proof of Your Restrictions and Limitations, beginning with the date Disability began.
- The prognosis of Disability.
- The name and address of all Doctors, hospitals and health care facilities where You have been treated for Your Disability since the date Disability began.
- Proof that You are currently receiving Regular and Appropriate Care from a Doctor and have been receiving that care from the date Disability began.
- Proof of Insured Earnings.
- Proof of Disability Earnings.
- Payroll or absence data from the Employer for the three Months prior to the date Disability began, or other period We specify.
- Proof of application for all other sources of income to which You may be entitled, that may affect Your payment from this Certificate.
- Proof of receipt of other income that may affect Your payment from this Certificate.

- Proof of identity and residency, including, but not limited to, a current government issued photo identification.
- Documentation of travel outside the United States;
- Any other information We may reasonably require to determine if You are Disabled and eligible for benefits and coverage under this Certificate.

You must provide Objective Medical Evidence from a Doctor who is not Yourself, or a relative by blood or marriage, or who is a business associate.

Proof of Insured Earnings and Disability Earnings may consist of:

- Copies of Your W-2 forms;
- Payroll records from Your Employer(s);
- Copies of Your U.S. individual income tax returns;
- Copies of the U.S. income tax returns from any business in which You hold an ownership or shareholder interest;
- A statement from a certified public accountant;
- Copies of any income records accepted or required by the IRS; or
- Any other records We deem necessary.

Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**  
 Group Short Term Disability Claims Department  
 P.O. Box 14331  
 Lexington, KY 40512.

**Authorization Required:** You must provide Us with written, unaltered authorizations in a form provided by Us to obtain medical, financial, vocational, occupational, and governmental information required to determine Our liability under this Certificate. We may agree to obtain such authorization by use of voice or other electronic means. You must provide Us with such authorizations as often as We may require, in order that they remain current. Failure to provide such authorizations may prevent, delay, suspend or terminate Your eligibility for benefits.

**Examinations:** We, at our own expense, shall have the right and opportunity to examine You when and as often as it may reasonably be required during the pendency of a claim hereunder.

**Ongoing Proof Of Loss:** To continue to receive payments from this Certificate, You must give Us current Proof of Loss within 90 days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity of the employee, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

**Payment Of Benefits:** We pay benefits to You, if You are legally competent. If You are not, We pay benefits to your lawful guardian, conservator, legal representative, or any person or fiduciary with the lawful authority to act on Your behalf or handle Your affairs. Benefits are paid in United States currency.

We pay benefits biweekly at the end of the period for which they are payable.

No benefits are payable for this Certificate's Elimination Period.

Benefits to which You are entitled may remain unpaid at Your death. Such benefits may be paid at Our discretion to:

- Your estate; or
- Your Spouse, parents, children, or brothers and sisters.

**Partial Week Payment:** You may be Disabled for only part of a week. In this case, We compute Your payment as 1/7th of the benefit to which You would be entitled for the full week times the number of days You are Disabled.

**Overpayment Recovery:** If We overpaid You, You must repay Us in full. We have the right to reduce Your payment or apply any benefits payable, including the minimum payment, toward recovery of the overpayment.

**Legal Actions:** No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Certificate prior to the expiration of 60 days after written Proof of Loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of this Certificate. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three years after time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

**Workers' Compensation:** The Short Term Disability benefits provided by this Certificate are not in place of and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

B401.1909

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## RECOVERY FROM A THIRD PARTY

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**Purpose:**When You have the right to recover amounts paid by this Certificate, We also have certain rights. These are explained below.

**Recovery:** If You receive a payment from any third party or insurance coverage due to an Injury, Sickness or condition, We have the right to recover from, and be repaid by, You for all amounts this Certificate has paid due to that Injury, Sickness or condition, up to and including the full amount You receive from any third party or insurance coverage.

**Lien Rights:**We will have a lien to the extent of benefits We paid due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition for which the third party is liable. The lien will be imposed on any recovery, whether by settlement, judgment, or otherwise, including from any insurance coverage, that You receive due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition. The lien may be enforced against any party who holds funds or proceeds which represent the amount of benefits paid by Us. This includes, but is not limited to:

- You;
- Your representative or agent;
- The third party;
- The third party's insurer, representative or agent; and
- Any other source who holds such funds.

**First Priority Claim:**This Certificate's recovery rights are a first priority claim against all third parties and are to be paid to Us before any other claim for Your damages. This Certificate will be entitled to full repayment on a first dollar basis from any third party's payments, even if such payment to the plan will result in a recovery to You which is not sufficient:

- To make You whole; or
- To compensate You in part or in whole for the damages sustained.

This Certificate is not required to participate in or pay court costs or attorney fees to the attorney hired by You to pursue Your damage claim.

**Applicable To All Settlements And Judgments:**We are entitled to full recovery regardless of whether:

- Any liability for payment is admitted by a third party; or
- The settlement or judgment received by You identifies the benefits the Certificate paid.

This Certificate is entitled to recover from any and all settlements or judgments, even those designated as pain and suffering or non-economic damages only.

**Cooperation:** You must fully cooperate with Our efforts to recover the benefits paid under this Certificate. You must notify Us within 30 days of the date when any notice is given to any party, including an insurance company or attorney, of Your intention to pursue or investigate a claim to recover damages or obtain compensation due to Injury, Sickness or condition sustained by You. You and Your agents, must provide all information requested by Us or Our representative. This includes, but is not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as We may reasonably request. Failure to do this may result in the termination of benefits or the instigation of legal action against You.

You must do nothing:

- To prejudice Our rights as described in this section; or
- To prejudice Our ability to enforce the terms of this section.

This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from making any settlement or recovery that attempts to reduce or exclude the full amount of all benefits paid by this Certificate.

We have the right to conduct an investigation regarding the Injury, Sickness or condition to identify any third party. We reserve the right to notify the third party and his or her agents of Our lien. Agents include, but are not limited to:

- Insurance companies; and
- Attorneys.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below:

- **Legal Guardian:** This term means a person who has The care or the legal or fiduciary responsibility to manage the affairs or Property of another.
- **Insurance Coverage:** This term means any insurance Which provides coverage for:
  - Medical expense payments; or
  - Liability.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Uninsured motorist coverage;
  - Underinsured motorist coverage;
  - Personal umbrella coverage;
  - Medical payments coverage;
  - Workers compensation coverage;
  - No-fault automobile insurance coverage; or
  - Any first party insurance.
- **Third Party:** This term means any party actually, possibly, or potentially responsible for making any payment to You due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition. This term also means such party's:

- Liability insurer; or
- Any insurance coverage.

But, this term does not mean:

- Us; or
- You.
- **You:** This term means the covered Employee. It also includes Your parent or Legal Guardian if You are a minor or incompetent.

B401.1910

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## DEFINITIONS

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**Active Work, Actively At Work or Actively Working:** These terms mean You are able to perform, and are performing, all of the regular duties of Your work for the Employer, on a Full-Time basis at:

- One of the Employer's usual places of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and the Employer have agreed on for Your work.

B400.0225

### All Options

**Certificate:** This term means this Certificate of Coverage, including the Schedule of Benefits and any riders and enrollment forms that may be attached to this Certificate.

B400.0336

**Disability or Disabled:** These terms, when used alone, mean: (a) Total Disability or Totally Disabled; or (b) Partial or Residual Disability.

**Total Disability or Totally Disabled** means that as a result of Sickness or Injury You are not able to perform with reasonable continuity the substantial and material acts necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation in the usual or customary way.

Substantial and material acts means the important tasks, functions and operations generally required by employers from those engaged in Your Usual Occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified.

In determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation, We will first look at the specific duties required by the Employer or job. If You are unable to perform one or more of these duties with reasonable continuity, We will then determine whether those duties are customarily required of other persons engaged in Your Usual Occupation. If any specific, material duties required of You by the Employer or job differ from the material duties customarily required of other persons engaged in Your Usual Occupation, then We will not consider those duties in determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation.

Usual occupation may be interpreted to mean the employment, business, trade or profession that involves the substantial and material acts of the occupation You were regularly performing for the Employer when the disability began. Usual occupation is not necessarily limited to the specific job You performed for the Employer.

**Partial or Residual Disability** means You are not Totally Disabled and that while actually working in an occupation, as a result of Sickness or Injury, You are unable to earn 80% or more of Your pre- disability earnings. Pre-disability earnings will be adjusted for inflation using the CPI-W index.

Neither loss of a professional or occupational license due to misconduct or unlawful activity, nor receipt of, or entitlement to, Social Security Disability benefits in and of themselves constitutes Disability under this Certificate.

B401.1911

**Disability Earnings:** This term means the weekly income You earn from Working While Disabled. It includes salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses and any other compensation earned or accrued while working including pension, profit sharing contributions, sick pay, paid time off, holiday and vacation pay. When You have an ownership interest in the business, Disability Earnings also includes business profits, attributable to You, whether received or not. It includes any income You earn while Disabled and return to the Employer, partnership, or any other similar business arrangement to cover any business or overhead expenses. If You had secondary employment prior to Disability, Disability Earnings will only include earnings from the secondary employment if the employment began after the beginning of Your Disability.

B401.1913

#### All Options

**Doctor:** Any medical practitioner We are required by law to recognize. He or she must:

- Be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and
- Provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice.

B400.0235

#### All Options

**Effective Date:** The date the Policy goes into force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage, or any change to the Policy as requested by the Policyholder and approved by Us and in force and effect as stated on cover page of the Certificate of Coverage.

B400.0236

#### All Options

**Eligibility Date:** This term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Certificate, and you have satisfied all requirements for coverage to begin, as required by this Certificate.

- For an Employee in Active Work who has completed any waiting period required by the Employer as of the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the Effective Date of this Certificate.



- For an Employee in Active Work as of the Effective Date of this Certificate who has not completed any waiting period required by the Employer, the Eligibility Date will be the first date following the completion of the required waiting period.
- For an Employee hired on or after the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of the Employee's date of hire, or the first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer.
- If this Certificate requires Employees to elect coverage under this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of:
  - The Employee's date of hire;
  - The first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer; or
  - The date We approve in writing Your application for any coverage for which You are required to supply Proof of Insurability.

B400.0238

## All Options

**Elimination Period:** This term means the period of time, as shown in the Schedule of Benefits, You must be Disabled, due to a covered Disability, before this Certificate's benefits are payable.

Any days during which You return to work earning more than 80% of Your Insured Earnings will not count toward the Elimination Period, but You will continue to accumulate days of Disability for days for which You return to work earning less than 80% during the Elimination Period as long You meet the definition of Disability each Week during the Elimination Period. If You are or become eligible under any other similar group income replacement plan while You are working during the Elimination Period, You will not be entitled to benefits from this Certificate.

We do not require You to complete an Elimination Period if:

- You were covered under a similar income replacement plan the Employer had with another carrier on the day before this Certificate starts; and
- Your Disability would have been a Recurring Disability under the prior plan had it remained in effect.

B400.0239

## All Options

**Employee:** This term means a person who works for the Employer at the Employer's place of business and whose income is reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service, and/or a state for tax purposes. Partners and proprietors will also be treated as Employees if the Conditions of Eligibility requirements are met.

B400.0241

## All Options

**Employer:** This term means WHATNOT INC.

B400.0243

## All Options

**Full-Time:** This term means:

You are not a Part-time Employee as defined by Your Employer and the average number of hours You worked for the six Months prior to the last full day worked was at least 30 hours per week at:

- Your Employer's place of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of Your job.

B400.0244

**Gainful Occupation or Gainful Work:** These terms mean work for which You are, or may become, qualified by:

- Training;
- Education; or
- Experience.

When You are able to perform such work, You can be expected to earn at least 80% of Your Insured Earnings, within 12 months of returning to work.

B401.1914

## All Options

**Government Plan:** This term means any of the following:

- The United States Social Security Act;
- The Railroad Retirement Act;
- The Canadian Pension Plan; or
- Any other plan provided under the laws of a state, province or any other political subdivision.

It also includes:

- Any public employee Retirement Plan; or
- Any plan provided in place of the above named plan or acts.

It does not include:

- Any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law;

- The Jones' Act;
- The Longshoreman's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act; or
- The Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure.

B400.0246

#### All Options

**Gross Weekly Benefit:** This term means this Certificate's Weekly Benefit before it is integrated with other income and earnings.

B400.0247

**Injury:** This term means physical harm or damage to Your body that occurs while You are covered by this Certificate.

B401.1915

#### All Options

**Insured Earnings:** Only Your earnings from the Employer will be included as Insured Earnings.

We calculate benefit amounts and limits based on the amount of Your Insured Earnings as of the date immediately prior to the start of Your Disability.

B400.0252

#### All Options

- **For Partners And S Corporation Shareholders:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below, divided by 52.
  - Your compensation as an Employee or S Corporation shareholder, or guaranteed payments as a Partner, as reported on Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less the gross total of unadjusted Employee business expenses as included on the corresponding Schedule A-Itemized Deductions.
  - Your non-passive income (loss) from trade of business as reported on Schedule E - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less any expenses incurred and reported elsewhere on Your Return; and
  - Your contributions during the prior calendar year, deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

You may not have been a partner or S Corporation shareholder for the full prior calendar year. In that case, Your earnings are based on the weekly average of the sum of the listed amounts averaged for the full number of weeks that You were a partner or S Corporation shareholder during that calendar year.

- **For Sole Proprietors:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below.
  - Your average weekly net profit as determined from Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040 for the prior calendar year.
  - Your average weekly contribution during the prior calendar year deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Weekly net profit is calculated as gross income less total expenses.

You may not have been a sole proprietor for the prior calendar year. In that case, We calculate average weekly net profit and average weekly contributions using the full number of weeks that You were a sole proprietor during such time.

- **For Any Other Employee Who Receives Base Salary Only:** Insured Earnings means Your base weekly salary from the Employer. Your base weekly salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included.

The term also does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Commissions;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate weekly earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the eight weeks before the start of Your Disability. We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Who Are Compensated On Less Than A 12 Month Basis:** Insured Earnings means Your average rate of weekly earnings determined from Your annual contract salary. If You do not have an annual contract salary, Insured Earnings means Your prior calendar year salary divided by twelve. Your annual contract or prior calendar year salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included.

The term also does not include:

- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate weekly earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the eight weeks before the start of Your Disability. We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Whose Income Is Reported On A IRS Form 1099:** Insured Earnings means Your average rate of weekly earnings as figured from the 1099 form(s) received from the Employer for the prior calendar year. Earnings are calculated as Your earned income as reported on the 1099 form(s) minus business expenses as reported on Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040. Your average rate of weekly earnings is calculated as such earnings divided by 52 or the number of weeks You worked for the Employer during such calendar year, if less than 52.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

B400.0253

#### All Options

**Maximum Payment Period:** This term means the longest time that benefits are paid by this Certificate, subject to all terms, limitations and exclusions.

B400.0262

#### All Options

**Month or Months or Monthly:** These terms mean a consecutive 30 day period.

B400.0264

#### All Options

**No-Fault Motor Vehicle Coverage:** This term means a motor vehicle plan that pays disability or medical benefits no matter who was at fault in an accident.

B400.0265

**Objective Medical Evidence:** This term includes:

- Diagnostic testing;
- Laboratory reports; and
- Medical records of a Doctor's exam documenting clinical signs, presence of symptoms and test results relevant to your Disability and claimed restrictions and limitations and consistent with Generally Accepted Medical Standards.

"Generally Accepted Medical Standards" are those supported by nationally recognized authorities in the health care field unless a state medical standard exists, in which case the state medical standard shall apply. Generally Accepted Medical Standards are those supported by nationally recognized authorities in the health care field including:

- The American Medical Association (AMA);
- The AMA Board of Medical Specialties;
- The Food and Drug Administration;
- The Centers for Disease Control;
- The National Cancer Institute;
- The National Institutes of Health;

- The Department of Health and Human Services; and
- Any state agency, board, or regulatory body charged with determining acceptable medical standards in the state in which You reside.

B401.1916

**Objective Proof of Your Restrictions and Limitations:** During the Own Occupation period this term means objective proof of Your inability to perform the duties of Your Own Occupation, and including all restrictions and limitations relating to Your inability to work.

B401.1917

**Own Occupation or Usual Occupation:** this term means:

- The occupation(s) You are routinely performing for Your Employer immediately prior to the first date of Disability, and is further defined as follows. Own Occupation:
  - Includes any employment, trade, or profession that is substantially similar in terms of tasks, functions, skills, abilities, knowledge, training and experience, required by Employers from those engaged in a particular occupation in the general labor market in the national economy; and
  - Is not defined with reference to a specific Employer or specific location or particular work environment; and
  - Only includes the occupation or occupations for which You are covered under this Certificate, and
  - Generates the Insured Earnings covered by this Certificate.

B401.1918

## All Options

**Policy:** This term means the group Short Term Disability income coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B400.0272

## All Options

**Reasonable Accommodation:** This term means any modification or adjustment that the Employer willingly provides to:

- A job;
- An employment practice;
- A work process; or the work place.

The modification or adjustment must make it possible for a Disabled person to:

- Reach the same level of performance as a similarly situated non-disabled person; or
- Enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are available to a similarly situated non-disabled person.

The modification or adjustment must not place an undue hardship on the Employer.

B400.0274

## All Options

**Recurring Disability:** This term means a later Disability that:

- Is related to an earlier Disability for which this Certificate paid benefits; and
- Meets the conditions described in the Recurring Disability section of this Certificate.

B400.0275

**Regular and Appropriate Care:** This term means, with respect to Your disabling condition(s) and any other condition(s) which, if left untreated, would adversely affect Your disabling condition, You:

- Visit a Doctor as frequently as recommended by a Doctor to effectively manage these conditions; and
- Are receiving appropriate treatment designed to achieve maximum medical improvement in these conditions.

Appropriate treatment is that treatment a patient would make a reasonable decision to accept after duly considering the opinions of medical professionals, and such treatment must be provided by a Doctor or Doctors whose specialty is appropriate for You:

- Disability; and
- Any other conditions which left untreated would adversely affect Your disabling condition.

Regular and Appropriate Care does not require treatment for a disabling condition where no additional medical treatment will likely cure or improve that condition, and You have achieved maximum medical improvement.

B401.1920

## All Options

**Rehabilitation Agreement:** This term means a formal agreement between:

- You;
- Us; and



- Your Employer, if needed.

It outlines the Rehabilitation Program in which You agree to take part.

B400.0277

**Rehabilitation Program:** This term means a program of work or job-related training for You. Its aim is to restore Your wage earning abilities.

B401.1921

## All Options

**Retirement Plan:** This term means a defined benefit or defined contribution plan funded wholly or in part by the Employer's deposits for Your benefit. The term does not include:

- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Non-qualified deferred compensation plans;
- Individual retirement accounts;
- Tax sheltered annuities;
- 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plans; or
- Stock ownership plans.

Retirement Plan **retirement benefits** are lump sum or periodic payments at normal or early retirement. Some Retirement Plans make payments for Disability (as defined by those plans) that start before normal retirement age. When such payments reduce the amount that would have been paid at normal retirement age, they are retirement benefits. When such payments do not reduce the normal retirement amount, they are **disability benefits**.

B400.0282

## All Options

**Short Term Disability:** This term means the Short Term Disability income coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B400.0283

## All Options

**Sickness:** This term means an illness or disease. Pregnancy is treated as a Sickness under this Certificate.

B400.0284

**Spouse:** This term means Your lawful spouse, which shall include Your registered domestic partner with the California Secretary of State.

B401.1922

**All Options**

**We, Us and Our:** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

B400.0286

**All Options**

**Week:** This term means, during the Elimination Period, a consecutive 7 day period.

B400.0287

**All Options**

**Weekly Benefit:** This term means this Certificate's Gross Weekly Benefit reduced by other income. If You are Working While Disabled, Your Weekly Benefit will be further reduced based on the amount of Your Disability Earnings.

B400.0288

**All Options**

**Working While Disabled:** This term means You are working and earning a gross monthly income of 20% or more of Insured Earnings.

B400.0290

**All Options**

**You or Your:** These terms mean the covered Employee.

B400.0291

All Options

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**SHORT TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

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**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Effective January 1, 2024 this Schedule of Benefits is attached to the Certificate. This Schedule of Benefits replaces any previously issued Schedule of Benefits.

B400.0630

All Options

**Elimination Period** For Disability due to Injury . . . . . 7 days  
**During Disability**

For Disability due to Sickness . . . . . 7 days

B400.0632

All Options

**Maximum Payment** For Disability due to Injury . . . . . 12 weeks  
**Period For Each**  
**Disability**

For Disability due to Sickness . . . . . 12 weeks

B400.0635

All Options

**Gross Weekly** 60% of Your Insured Earnings to a maximum benefit of \$2,500.00.  
**Benefit**

The benefit will be rounded to the nearest \$1.00, if not already a multiple of that amount.

**Note:** We integrate Your Gross Weekly Benefit with certain other income You may receive. Read all of the terms of this Certificate to see:

- The other income with which We integrate; and
- How We integrate.

B400.0639

## **Changes To Coverage**

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**Changes In Coverage Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your amount of coverage will not become effective prior to the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, coverage will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are: (1) Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and (2) make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which a larger amount of coverage is provided, You must make the required contribution for the new amount within 31 days of the change. If You do not make the required contribution within 31 days of the change or within 31 days of becoming Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, if You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, when Your classification changes, no increase will be allowed due to such change or any later change. In that case, in order to become covered for the larger amount, You must:

- Make the required contribution for the new amount; and
- Furnish Proof of Insurability to Us, which We approve in writing.

If the coverage amount was previously reduced because of age or retirement, it will be retained at the reduced amount.

B400.0661

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## CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider is effective on the Policy Date. If this Rider is added after the Policy Date, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date.

This Rider amends the Certificate by the replacement of the following Benefit Provisions:

**Other Income Benefits:** You may receive, or be entitled to receive, income shown in the list below. We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by such other income benefits to determine Your Weekly Benefit from this Certificate.

- Commissions or monies received, payable but not deferred, or paid after Disability benefits start.

This includes:

- Vested and nonvested renewal commissions;
- Bonuses;
- Royalties; and
- Other distributions.
- Disability benefits from any mandated benefit act or law. This includes all temporary disability or state disability benefits required by law.
- Disability benefits from all group policies or plans of the Employer. This includes payments made by a group life insurance plan due to Your Disability. This does not include payments made from a group life insurance plan's:
  - Accelerated death benefit; or
  - Like provision that allows payment of such plan's proceeds due to terminal illness.
- Disability benefits from any other group policy or plan; but, if the other group plan was in force prior to this Certificate, and the other group plan also deducts for Disability benefits from any other group plan, We will not deduct these other group Disability benefits.
- Income received from partnership distributions but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Weekly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Insured Earnings.
- Benefits from: The United States Social Security Act; The Railroad Retirement Act; or any other like U.S. or Canadian plan or act.

This includes:

- (a) All Disability benefits for which: (i) You are entitled; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled due to Your Disability;

- (b) All unreduced retirement benefits for which: (i) You are entitled and awarded; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled and awarded due to Your entitlement; and
- (c) All reduced retirement benefits paid to: (i) You; and (ii) Your Spouse and children due to Your receipt of such benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the retirement benefits described in (b) and (c) above, to the extent that You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded to receive such income prior to the start of Disability. We will reduce the Gross Weekly Benefit by marginal increases in such income You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded after Disability begins.

We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by Your dependent's benefits described in (a), (b) and (c) above if: (i) the dependent's benefits are provided to You by the Social Security Administration; (ii) at the time that the Social Security Administration makes its first payment of the dependent benefits described in (a), (b), and (c) above, the dependent child remains a minor dependent or an adult Disabled dependent; and (iii) the dependent benefits You are entitled to are greater than any dependent benefit being received by another person. Under these circumstances, We will reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the difference between the amount the dependent was awarded under the prior recipient and the amount awarded the dependent under Your benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the benefits to which You are entitled, as described in (a), (b), and (c) above unless such benefits are greater than any widow/widower benefit You are receiving. And then We reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by the difference.

- Income of the type that is included in Your Insured Earnings for purposes of determining Your Gross Weekly Benefit under this Certificate.
- That portion of Retirement Plan retirement benefits which the Employer funds.
- That portion of Retirement Plan Disability benefits which the Employer funds.
- Retirement benefits or Retirement Plan disability benefits, due to Your Disability, from any Government Plan other than those shown above.
- Temporary Disability benefits under a Worker's Compensation law.
- Disability benefits from any third party when Your Disability is the result of the negligence or intentional tort liability of that third party.

- Payments from a paid leave, or a similar plan that pays for an approved leave, but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Weekly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Insured Earnings.

We reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit with income shown above that You are entitled to receive without regard to the reason You are entitled to receive it.

Our right to reduce Your benefit by such income shall not be negated by a transfer of claim liability to a third party. Payment by such third party by law, settlement, judgment, waiver or otherwise shall not negate Our right.

B440.0415

## All Options

**Other Income Not Subject to Deduction:** We will not reduce Your Gross Weekly Benefit by any income You receive or are entitled to receive from the list below.

- Deferred compensation arrangements such as 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans;
- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Tax sheltered annuities;
- Stock ownership plans;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA);
- Individual disability income policies;
- Credit disability insurance;
- Non-qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- Pension plans for partners;
- Retirement plans of another Employer not affiliated with this Certificate;
- Military pension and disability plans;
- Income from a sick leave, salary continuance, or paid time off plan;
- Critical Illness insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Accident insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Specified Disease insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Cancer insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Prestileo".

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B440.0420



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**AMENDATORY RIDER**

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This Rider amends the Certificate and Policy as follows and is effective on the later of the Policy Date or the date requested by the Policyholder.

The definition of **Spouse** is replaced with the following:

**Spouse:** The person to whom You are legally married or Your **Domestic Partner** or civil union partner.

**Domestic Partner:** The same-sex or different-sex person with whom You have registered Your relationship with any state or local governmental domestic partner registry

Or

the same-sex or different-sex person with whom you have not registered your relationship if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You live and share financial assets and obligations with this person.
- This person is at least 18 years of age, is able to provide legal consent, and is not a blood relative.
- Neither you nor this person are in a marriage or domestic partnership with anyone else or legally separated from anyone else.
- You submit acceptable documentation that you meet the above criteria. An affidavit attesting to these facts may be required.

Except as specifically noted above for relationships that are not registered, **Domestic Partners** are not subject to any proof of relationship or waiting period requirements that are not also imposed upon marriages. A **Domestic Partner** registry certificate will be accepted as fully equivalent to a marriage certificate. Similarly, a dissolution of domestic partnership notice will be accepted as fully equivalent to a divorce decree.

This Rider is part of the Certificate and Policy. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate or Policy.

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B601.0245

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Your group Short Term and/or Long Term Disability Income benefits may be covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). If so, You are entitled to certain rights and protections under ERISA.

ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

**Receive Information  
about Your Plan and  
Benefits**

- (a) 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.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, 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.
- (c) 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.

**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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including Your 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.

**Enforcement of  
Your Rights**

If Your claim for a welfare 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 (see Claims Procedures below).

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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay You up to \$110.00 a day until You receive the material, 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 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 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 that Your claim is frivolous.

**Assistance with Questions**

If You have questions about the plan, You should contact the plan administrator. If You have questions about this statement or about Your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

**Disability Benefits Claims Procedure**

If You seek benefits under the plan You should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (hereinafter referenced as Guardian).

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with the authority to interpret and construe the terms of the Policy, the Certificate, the Schedule of Benefits, and any riders, or other documents or forms that may be attached to the Certificate or the Policy, and any other plan documents. Guardian has the authority to determine eligibility for benefits and coverage under those documents. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide Your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in Your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of ERISA.

**Definitions**

"Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

**Timing for Initial Benefit Determination**

The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a benefit determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

B997.0247

## **All Options**

### **Adverse Benefit Determination**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information necessary to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;
- A statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by You, of health care professionals who treated You and vocational professionals who evaluated You;

- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a Disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that You present to us;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination on appeal, and;
- In the case of an adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations** If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
- Provide a statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by You, of health care professionals who treated You, and vocational professionals who evaluated You;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a Disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that You present to us;
- Provide a statement describing the claimant's right to bring a civil suit under Section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 which shall also describe any applicable contractual limitations period that applies the claimant's right to bring such an action, including the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires for the claim, and;

- In the event the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

In addition to any legal rights You may have under section 502(a), if You believe that we have violated ERISA s procedural requirements, You may request that we review any claimed violation(s) and we will respond to You within ten days.

B997.0248

**You May not be covered by all options in this Certificate.**

This Certificate contains all the benefits and options that are available under the Policy. You are insured only for those benefits and options that you are eligible and enrolled for, and for which the required premium has been paid.





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## CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

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### **The Guardian**

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

The group Long Term Disability Income Coverage described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective January 1, 2024. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under this Plan or under any other plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the planholder by Guardian.

### **GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE**

Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is eligible for the coverage, and in the amount described herein. In order to be eligible for coverage, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of this Certificate's eligibility and Effective Date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Policyholder's records as a validly covered Employee under this Certificate; (c) all required premium payments must have been made by or on behalf of the Employee; and (d) satisfy any necessary Proof of Insurability requirements.

The Employee is not covered by any part of this Certificate for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Policyholder's records.

Policyholder: WHATNOT INC.

Group Policy Number: 00572118

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B400.0340

## **COMPLAINT NOTICE**

This notice is to advise you that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance you may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: (212) 598-8000 or (800) 541-7846**

If you feel your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian, you may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:

**California Department of Insurance  
Consumer Communication Bureau  
300 South Spring Street; South Tower  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Consumer Hotline: 1 (800) 927-4357 or TDD: 1 (800) 482- 4833  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)**

B401.2082

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**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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**Applicable Benefits**

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This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. You will only be covered for benefits if:

- They were previously selected in an enrollment form or other required form; and
- We have received any required premium.

B401.2084

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**Limitation of Authority**

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Only the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us in a written and signed statement to:

- Determine whether any contract, Policy or Certificate is to be issued;
- Waive or alter any contract or Policy provisions, or any of Our requirements;
- Bind Us by any statement or promise relating to the contract issued or to be issued; or
- Accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

Agents and brokers do not have the authority to change the contract or Policy or waive any of its provisions.

B400.0344

## **All Options**

### **Incontestability**

After two years from its date of issue of this Certificate, no misstatements, except fraudulent statements, made by You in the application for coverage shall be used to void this Certificate or deny a claim for a loss incurred, or for a disability commencing after the expiration of the two year period.

No claim for loss incurred or disability commencing after two years from the date of issue of this Certificate shall be reduced or denied on the ground that a disease or physical condition not excluded from coverage by name or physical condition effective on the date of loss had existed prior to the effective date of coverage of this Certificate.

B401.2086

## **All Options**

### **Examination**

We have the right to have a Doctor(s) of Our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made under this Certificate as often as We feel necessary. We will pay for all such examinations.

B400.0347

## All Options

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### ELIGIBILITY FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE

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#### Conditions Of Eligibility

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You are eligible for Long Term Disability if You are:

- In an eligible class of Employees;
- An active Full time Employee;
- Legally working in the United States and/or Canada or working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us; and
- Working at least the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at:
  - The Employer's place of business;
  - Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
  - Any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.

B400.0349

## All Options

You are **not** eligible for Long Term Disability if You are:

- A temporary or seasonal Employee.

B400.0352

## All Options

**Enrollment Requirement:** If You must pay all or part of the cost of Your coverage, We will not cover You until You enroll and agree to make the required payments.

B400.0354

## All Options

**Proof of Insurability:** Part or all of Your insurance amounts may be subject to Proof of Insurability. The Schedule Of Benefits explains if and when We require proof. You will not be covered for any amount that requires such proof until You give the proof to Us and We approve that proof in writing.

B400.0355

## All Options

**The Waiting Period:** If You are in an eligible class, You are eligible for Long Term Disability under this Certificate after You complete the service waiting period, if any, established by the Employer.

B400.0356

## All Options

**Multiple Employment:** If You work for both the Employer and a covered associated company, or for more than one covered associated company, We will treat You as if only one firm employs You. You will not have multiple Long Term Disability coverage under this Policy. But, if this Policy uses the amount of Your Insured Earnings to set the rates, determine class, figure coverage amounts, or for any other reason, such Insured Earnings will be figured as the sum of Your Insured Earnings from all covered Employers.

B400.0357

## All Options

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### When Coverage Starts

For coverage to start, You must be fully capable of performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation for the Employer and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time for Your place of residence on Your scheduled Eligibility Date. And, for coverage to start, You must meet all of the Conditions of Eligibility described above and the conditions shown below which apply to You. If You are not fully capable of performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation on Your scheduled Eligibility Date, We will postpone the start of Your coverage until You are so capable and working the minimum required number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class for one full day, with the capacity to do so for one full week.

Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your Eligibility Date.

B400.0360

## All Options

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### Exception to When Coverage Starts

Sometimes a scheduled Eligibility Date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled Eligibility Date falls on:

- A holiday;
- A vacation day;
- A non-scheduled work day;
- A day during an approved leave of absence not due to Sickness or Injury, of 90 days or less; or



- A day during a period of absence that is less than 7 days in duration;

**and if:**

- You are fully capable of performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation for the Employer for the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 AM Standard Time for Your place of residence on the scheduled Eligibility Date; and
- You were performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation and working the minimum number of hours of an Employee in Your eligible class on Your last regularly scheduled work day.

Your coverage will start on the scheduled Eligibility Date. However, any coverage or part of coverage for which You must elect and pay all or part of the cost, will not start if You are on an approved leave, layoff or absence and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for You under a prior plan which this Certificate replaced.

Any part of Your coverage which is subject to Proof of Insurability will not start unless You send such proof to Us, and We approve it in writing. Once We have approved it, that part of Your coverage is scheduled to start on Your approved Eligibility Date.

B400.0364

## **All Options**

### **When Coverage Ends**

Your coverage will end on the first of the following dates:

- The date Your Active Full-Time Work ends for any reason, except as shown below under Continuation Of Coverage.
- The date You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.
- The date You are no longer working in the United States and/or Canada, or no longer working outside of the United States for a United States based Employer in a country or region approved by Us. Any incidental business or personal travel outside of the United States and/or Canada, or outside of a country or region approved by Us, is covered. Such travel will be considered incidental if it is for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days.
- The date the group Certificate ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for You.

- The date You die.

You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time after Your coverage would otherwise end. Read this Certificate carefully for details and discuss with your Employer or administrator. Any provisions that allow continuation of such group benefits must be offered and administered on a fair and equitable basis.

B400.0371

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**CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE**

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**Coverage During Disability**

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You may be Disabled when Your Active Full-Time Work ends. In that case, Your coverage will remain in force during the:

- Elimination Period, subject to payment of required premiums; and
- The period of time for which benefits are payable by this Certificate.

But, in order for Your coverage to continue, the Disability:

- Must be covered by this Certificate;
- And benefits must not be excluded due to this Certificate's Pre-Existing Conditions provision, or any other exclusion.

If You're Disabled when Your Active Full-Time Work ends due to a job-related Injury or Sickness for which benefits are not payable, Your coverage will remain in force until the earlier of the date:

- You are terminated from employment with the Employer; or
- You have been Disabled for 6 Months.

B400.0378

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## LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE

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This coverage replaces part of Your income if You become Disabled due to a covered Sickness or Injury. What We pay is governed by all the terms of this Policy.

This Certificate includes the Long Term Disability Schedule of Benefits. Your class and benefit options are shown in the Schedule of Benefits that applies to You.

Terms with special meanings are defined, and are capitalized. See the definitions section of this Certificate. Other terms with special meanings are defined where they are used.

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### Benefit Provisions

**How Payments Start:** To start getting payments from this Certificate, You must meet all of the conditions listed below and elsewhere in this Certificate.

- You must:
  - Become Disabled while covered by this Plan; and
  - Remain Disabled and covered for this Plan's Elimination Period.
- You must provide Proof of Loss, as described in Claim Provisions.

Benefits accrue as of the first day after the end of the Elimination Period, subject to all Certificate terms.

You can satisfy the Elimination Period while working, provided You are Disabled.

**Waiver Of Premium:** We waive Your premiums for this coverage and for short term disability income coverage while You are entitled to receive a Monthly Benefit payment from this Certificate.

**When Payments End:** Your benefits from this Certificate will end on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- The date You are no longer Disabled.
- The date You fail to provide Proof of Loss as required By this Certificate.
- The date You earn, or are able to earn, the maximum earnings allowed while Disabled under this Certificate.
- The date You are able to perform the major duties of Your Own Occupation on a Full-Time basis with Reasonable Accommodation.
- After the Own Occupation period, the date You are able to perform the major duties of any Gainful Work on a Full-Time basis with Reasonable Accommodation.

- The date You die.
- The end of the Maximum Payment Period.
- The date no further benefits are payable under any provision in this Certificate that limits the Maximum Payment Period.
- The date You are no longer receiving Regular and Appropriate Care from a Doctor.
- The date payments end in accordance with a Rehabilitation Agreement. However, this date will not apply if the Rehabilitation Agreement is not fulfilled but You remain Disabled in accordance with the terms of this Plan and the Maximum Payment Period has not been reached.

B401.2087

## All Options

**Maximum Payment Period:** The Maximum Payment Period is shown in the Schedule Of Benefits. But, it may be less than that shown due to:

- The nature of Your Disability;
- The date You were first treated for the cause of Your Disability; and
- The length of time You have been covered by this Certificate.

See Disabilities With A Limited Maximum Payment Period and Pre-Existing Conditions.

Benefits payable during the Maximum Payment Period will not be affected by the termination of the Certificate, subject to all the terms and conditions of the Certificate that were in effect on the first date of Your Disability. Any change to the Certificate with an Effective Date after the first date of Your Disability will not apply to benefits payable during the Maximum Payment Period.

B400.0446

## All Options

**Recurring Disability:** Benefits from this Certificate end if You cease to be Disabled. But, a later Disability may be treated as a Recurring Disability, if all of the conditions listed below are met:

- You must return to Active Work right after Your benefits end.
- The Disability recurs less than six Months after You were last entitled to benefits.
- The later Disability must be due to the same or related cause of Your earlier Disability.
- This Certificate must not end during Your return to Active Work.
- You must not become covered under any other similar group income replacement plan during the time You return to Active Work.

- When You return to Active Work after being Disabled, You must be covered by this Certificate and all required premium must be paid.
- A subsequent Disability will not be considered a Recurrent Disability if Your benefits for the prior Disability ended because Your prior Disability had been paid for the Maximum Payment Period.

If the later Disability is a Recurring Disability, You will not need to satisfy a new Elimination Period. The Recurring Disability will be subject to all the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date the earlier Disability began.

If all of the conditions listed above are not met, the later Disability will be treated as a new period of Disability. You will be required to satisfy a new Elimination Period. The new period of Disability will be subject to all the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date the new period of Disability starts.

B400.0453

## All Options

**Calculation of Monthly Benefit:** Your benefit is governed by the terms of this Certificate in effect on the date Disability starts. Any changes to this Certificate that take place as follows are inapplicable to, and will not affect, Your benefit:

- While You are Disabled; or
- During a period of Active Work that occurs between an initial period of Disability and a Recurring Disability.

We calculate Your Gross Monthly Benefit according to the Schedule of Benefits.

From Your Gross Monthly Benefit, subtract the amount of any income listed in Other Income Benefits that You receive or are entitled to receive. The result is Your Monthly Benefit.

B400.0455

## All Options

**Redetermination:** This Certificate redetermines Your Insured Earnings on the date a change in Your Insured Earnings occurs. The Employer must report updates to all Employees' Insured Earnings as they occur. Changes to Your Insured Earnings are subject to any Proof of Insurability requirements that may apply to this Certificate. As of this Certificate's redetermination date, We use Your Insured Earnings on record with Us to:

- set rates;

- project benefit amounts and limits; and
- calculate premium payable under this Certificate.

You must be actively-at-work on a Full-Time basis on that date. If You are not, We do not do this until the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis. But, changes in earnings will not apply to a Recurring Disability.

B400.0473

## All Options

**Other Income Benefits:** You may receive, or be entitled to receive, income shown in the list below.

We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by such other income benefits to determine Your Monthly Benefit from this Certificate.

- Commissions or monies received, payable but deferred, or paid after Disability benefits start.

This includes:

- Vested and nonvested renewal commissions;
- Bonuses;
- Royalties; and
- Other distributions.
- Disability benefits from any mandated benefit act or law. This includes all temporary disability or state disability benefits required by law.
- Disability benefits from all group policies or plans of the Employer. This includes payments made by a group life insurance plan due to Your Disability. This does not include payments made from a group life insurance plan's:
  - Accelerated death benefit; or
  - Like provision that allows payment of such plan's proceeds due to terminal illness.
- Disability benefits from any other group policy or plan; but, if the other group plan was in force prior to this Certificate, and the other group plan also deducts for disability benefits from any other group plan, We will not deduct these other group disability benefits.
- Income received from partnership distributions, but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Monthly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings.
- Benefits from: The United States Social Security Act; The Railroad Retirement Act; or any other like U.S. or Canadian plan or act.

This includes:

- (a) All disability benefits for which: (i) You are entitled; and (ii) Your spouse and children are entitled due to Your Disability;

- (b) All unreduced retirement benefits for which: (i) You are entitled and awarded; and (ii) Your spouse and children are entitled and awarded due to Your entitlement; and
- (c) All reduced retirement benefits paid to: (i) You; and (ii) Your spouse and children due to Your receipt of such benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the retirement benefits described in (b) and (c) above, to the extent that You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded such income prior to the start of Disability. We will reduce the Gross Monthly Benefit by marginal increases in such income You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded after Disability begins.

We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by Your dependents' benefits described in (a), (b) and (c) above if: (i) the dependents' benefits are provided to You by the Social Security Administration; (ii) at the time that the Social Security Administration makes its first payment of the dependent benefits described in (a), (b), and (c) above, the dependent child remains a minor dependent or an adult Disabled dependent, and (iii) the dependent benefits You are entitled to are greater than any dependent benefit being received by another person. Under these circumstances, We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the difference between the amount the dependent was awarded under the prior recipient and the amount awarded the dependent under Your benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the benefits to which You are entitled, as described in (a), (b), and (c) above unless such benefits are greater than any widow/widower benefit You are receiving. And then We reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the difference.

- Income of the type that is included in Your Insured Earnings for purposes of determining Your Gross Monthly Benefit under this Certificate.
- That portion of Retirement Plan retirement benefits which the Employer funds.
- That portion of Retirement Plan disability benefits which the Employer funds.
- Retirement benefits or Retirement Plan disability benefits, due to Your Disability, from any Government Plan other than those shown above.
- Temporary disability benefits under a Worker's Compensation law.
- Disability benefits from any third party when Your Disability is the result of the negligence or intentional tort liability of that third party.

We reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit with income shown above that You are entitled to receive without regard to the reason You are entitled to receive it.

Our right to reduce Your benefit by such income shall not be negated by a transfer of claim liability to a third party. Payment by such third party by law, settlement, judgment, waiver or otherwise shall not negate Our right.

B401.2095



## All Options

**Other Income Not Subject To Deduction:** We will not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by any income You receive or are entitled to receive from the list below.

- Deferred compensation arrangements such as 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans;
- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Tax sheltered annuities;
- Stock ownership plans;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA);
- Individual disability income policies;
- Credit disability insurance;
- Non qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- Pension plans for partners;
- Retirement plans of another Employer not affiliated with this Certificate;
- Military pension and disability plans;
- Income from a sick leave, salary continuance, or paid time off plan;
- Critical Illness insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Accident Insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Specified Disease insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Cancer insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit.

B401.2168

## All Options

**Lump Sum Payments of Other Income:** Income with which We integrate may be paid in a lump sum. In this case, We take the equivalent Monthly rate stated in the award into account when We determine Your Monthly Benefit.

If no Monthly rate is given, We pro-rate the lump sum over the lesser of:

- 60 months; or
- The expected remaining number of Months for which You would be entitled to benefits from this Certificate based on the proof of loss submitted to Us.

B400.0486

## All Options

**Cost of Living Freeze:** You may receive a cost of living increase in other income with which We integrate. In this case, We do not further reduce Your Monthly Benefit by the amount of such increase.

B400.0487

## All Options

**Claim For Other Income:** We require that You pursue a claim for other income benefits to which You may be entitled. If these benefits are denied, We may require You to appeal such denial if it is reasonable to believe that You have a valid claim to receive the benefits. If You unreasonably refused to pursue such claim for other income benefits, and We have a means of reasonably estimating the amount payable, We will estimate the amount due to You and Your Spouse and children. We will take this estimated amount into account when We determine Your Monthly Benefit.

If We do reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by an estimated amount, We will cease doing so and adjust Your Monthly Benefit when We receive written proof:

- Of the amount awarded; or
- That the other income benefits have been denied; and no further appeals are possible.

If We underpay You, We will pay the full amount of the underpayment in a lump sum.

We will provide You with an accounting of any underpayment/overpayment.

We offer to assist You in applying for other income benefits. Examples of the kinds of assistance We offer are:

- Helping You fill our applications and forms;
- Assisting You to find suitable legal counsel; and
- Providing medical and vocational data from Our files to support Your claims.

B401.2097

## All Options

**Adjustment of Monthly Benefit For Disability Earnings:** We adjust the Monthly Benefit for Disability Earnings as follows:

For each of the first 12 Months after the date You first have Disability Earnings, add Your Gross Monthly Benefit and Your Disability Earnings.

- If the sum is not more than 100% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, We do not reduce Your Monthly Benefit.
- If the sum is more than 100% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, We reduce Your Monthly Benefit by the amount over 100% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings.

For each Month after that, We pay the greater of the amount calculated under Method 1 or Method 2.

Method 1:

- If Your Disability Earnings are less than 20% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, We do not reduce Your Monthly Benefit.
- If Your Disability Earnings are 20% or more of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, We reduce Your Monthly Benefit by 50% of Your Disability Earnings.

Method 2:

- (1) Subtract Your Disability Earnings from Your Indexed Insured Earnings.
- (2) Divide the result in (1) above by Your Indexed Insured Earnings.
- (3) Multiply the result in (2) above by Your Monthly Benefit. This is the amount We pay.

If Your Disability Earnings fluctuate widely from Month to Month, We may adjust Your Monthly Benefit using an average Disability Earnings amount. The average Disability Earnings amount will be computed using Your most current Month's Disability Earnings and the prior two Months Disability Earnings.

B400.0491

## All Options

**Maximum Allowable Disability Earnings:** This Certificate limits the amount of income You may earn, or may be able to earn, and still be considered Disabled.

If Your Disability Earnings are more than 80% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, payments from this Certificate will end for the claimed disability.

B401.2099

## All Options

**Indexing:** We apply an indexing factor to Your Insured Earnings on the date You have received 12 Monthly payments in a row and each anniversary after that. This factor increases the amount of income You may earn and still be considered Disabled. This adjustment does not increase Your Gross Monthly Benefit, Monthly Benefit, or any other benefit under this Certificate.

To make the first adjustment, We multiply Your Insured Earnings by the indexing factor for that year. To make adjustments in each later year, We multiply the amount of Your last indexed Insured Earnings by the indexing factor.

The indexing factor is the lesser of:

- 10%; or
- The average CPI-W from the prior calendar year.

B401.2162

## All Options

**Minimum Payment:** The minimum Monthly payment for Disability under this Certificate is 10% of Your Gross Monthly Benefit to a maximum of \$100.00.

B400.0504

## All Options

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## Limitations And Exclusions

**Disabilities With A Limited Maximum Payment Period:** We limit the Maximum Payment Period, if You are Disabled due to: a Mental Illness; drug or alcohol abuse. If You have a coexistent condition(s), which is not subject to the limits in this section, and constitutes a Disability in and of itself, We will not limit benefits as described below.

The Maximum Payment Period for all periods of Disability due to: a Mental Illness; drug or alcohol abuse; is 24 Months. This is a combined lifetime maximum for all such conditions and all periods of Disability.

No benefits will be paid for Disability due to a Mental Illness or drug or alcohol abuse if You are not receiving treatment for the cause of the Disability from a provider, or a facility that is:

- Licensed by the state to provide treatment for such condition; and

- Accredited or approved by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Facilities or Medicare.

If payments under this Certificate would otherwise end due to the limits in this section, We may extend such payments if You meet all of the following conditions:

- You must be Disabled due to a condition named above;
- You must be an inpatient in a qualified institution because of Your Disability; and
- You must have been treated as an inpatient for at least 14 days in a row.

In such case, We will extend payments, if You are Disabled and otherwise remain entitled to payments under the Certificate, until the earliest of:

- 90 days from the date of Your discharge, following the date benefits would otherwise have ended;
- The end of this Certificate's Maximum Payment Period; or
- The date Your Disability ends.

As used here, "qualified institution" means a legally operated hospital or other public or private facility licensed to provide inpatient medical care and treatment for the cause of Your Disability.

B400.0512

## All Options

**Pre-Existing Conditions:** You are not covered for a Disability caused or substantially contributed to by a pre-existing condition or medical or surgical treatment of a pre-existing condition.

You have a pre-existing condition if:

- You received medical treatment, care or services for a diagnosed condition or took prescribed medication for a diagnosed condition in the three months immediately prior to the effective date of Your insurance under this Certificate; or

You suffered from a physical, or mental condition, whether diagnosed or was misrepresented or not disclosed in Your application (i) for which You received a Doctor's advice or treatment within three months before the effective date of Your insurance under this Certificate, or (ii) which caused symptoms within three months before the effective date of Your insurance under this Certificate for which a prudent person would usually seek medical advice or treatment; and

- Disability caused or substantially contributed to by the condition begins in the first 12 months after the effective date of Your insurance under this Certificate.

No benefits are payable for Disability caused by, contributed to, by, or resulting from a Pre-Existing Condition; unless the Disability starts after You complete at least one full day of Active Work after the date You have been covered under this Certificate for 12 Months in a row.

Your Disability caused by, contributed to by or resulting from; a Pre-Existing Condition may begin after:

- A change which provides for an increase in the benefits payable by this Certificate; or
- A change in Your benefit election which increases the benefit payable by this Certificate.

In this case, Your benefit will be limited to the amount that would have been payable had the change not taken place. But, this limit does not apply if Your Disability starts after You complete at least one full day of Active Work after the date the change has been in force for 12 Months in a row.

We do not cover any Disability that starts before Your Eligibility Date for coverage under this Certificate.

B401.2102

## All Options

**Prior Coverage Credit:** If this Certificate replaces a similar disability income replacement plan the Employer had with another insurer, the Pre-Existing Condition provision may not apply to You, if coverage under this Certificate starts immediately after the termination of coverage under the prior disability income replacement plan. This Certificate must start right after the prior plan ends.

The Pre-Existing Condition provision will be waived for You if You:

- Are Actively Working on the Your Eligibility Date for coverage under this Certificate; and
- Have fulfilled the requirements of any Pre-Existing Condition provision of the prior plan provided by the Employer.

You may have been covered under the prior plan when it ended, but have not met the requirements of any Pre-Existing Condition provision of the prior plan. In that case, We credit any time used to meet the prior plan's Pre-Existing Condition provision toward meeting this Certificate's Pre-Existing Conditions provision. You must:

- Enroll for coverage under this Certificate on or before this Certificate's Effective Date; and
- Be Actively Working on Your Eligibility Date for coverage under this Certificate.

But, We limit Your maximum Monthly Benefit under this Certificate if:

- It is more than the maximum Monthly Benefit for which You were covered under the prior plan provided by the Employer;
- You become Disabled due to a Pre-Existing Condition; and

- This Certificate pays benefits for such Disability because We credit time as explained above.

In this case, We limit the maximum Monthly Benefit to the amount to which You would have been entitled under the prior plan.

We deduct all payments made by the prior plan under an extension provision.

B400.0520

## All Options

**Exclusions:** This Certificate does not pay benefits for Disability caused by:

- Declared or undeclared war, act of war, or armed aggression;
- Service in the armed forces, National Guard, or military reserves of any state or country;
- Your taking part in a riot or civil disorder;
- Your commission of, or attempt to commit a felony. A felony means either:
  - A crime as defined as such under the laws in the jurisdiction in which the crime was committed or attempted; or
  - In states where the law does not define crimes in terms of felonies and misdemeanors, felony means any crime punishable for a minimum of one year term of incarceration in a jail or prison, as determined by the law of the jurisdiction where the crime was committed or attempted; or
  - A crime as defined as such under federal law;
- The intentional or voluntary inhalation or ingestion of gas, chemical, solvent, poison or other substances not intended for internal consumption, irrespective of any pre-existing or co-morbid condition;
- Intentional self-inflicted injuries.

This Certificate does not pay any benefits for any period of Disability:

- During which You are confined to a jail, prison or other facility as a result of Your conviction of a crime;
- Which starts before You are covered by this Certificate;
- During which Your loss of earnings is not solely due to Your Disability.

This Certificate does not pay benefits due solely to a risk of relapse or exacerbation of a prior injury or illness in the absence of a current impairment and Disability.

B401.2105

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## Services

**Social Security Assistance:** If You are Disabled, We require You to apply for Social Security benefits. See Application for Other Income. If We believe You are eligible for such benefits, We may offer to assist You in applying for them. Receiving Social Security benefits will protect Your earnings record for retirement and enable You to qualify for Medicare coverage after 24 Months.

Services We can provide include:

- Help in completing Your application for such benefits, and any related forms;
- Assistance finding suitable legal counsel; and
- Copies of medical and vocational data needed to file Your claim.

We may also provide these and other services if Your benefits are under review for possible termination by the Social Security Administration.

You must apply for all income benefits for which You may be eligible, whether or not You use Our help. Using Our help does not cancel Your duties shown in Application for Other Income.

**Rehabilitation And Case Management:** We will review Your Disability to see if certain services are likely to help You return to Gainful Work. If needed, We may ask for more medical or vocational information.

When Our review is complete, We may offer You the opportunity to participate in a voluntary Rehabilitation Program.

You are not required to accept the program; rather, it is made available to assist You in Your efforts to return to Gainful Work.

The Rehabilitation Program will start when a written Rehabilitation Agreement is signed by:

- You;
- Us; and
- Your Employer, if needed.

The program may include, but is not limited to:

- Vocational assessment of Your work potential;
- Coordination and transition planning with an Employer for Your return to work;
- Consulting with Your Doctor on Your return to work and need for accommodations;
- Training in job seeking skills and resume preparation; and
- Retraining.



In consult with You and Your Doctor, We will agree on which services are appropriate and useful.

If We are unable to mutually agree upon the services that are appropriate, We reserve the right to end the Rehabilitation Program.

If You accept the Rehabilitation Agreement, We will pay an enhanced Benefit which is in addition to Your regular Monthly Benefit. The enhanced benefit will be 110% of the Monthly Benefit that would otherwise be paid. This enhanced benefit will be payable as of the first Monthly Benefit after the Rehabilitation Program starts.

We stop paying the enhanced benefit on the earliest of:

- The date Your benefits from this Certificate end;
- The date You violate the terms of the Rehabilitation Agreement;
- The date You end the Rehabilitation Program; or
- The date it is determined that the Rehabilitation Program is not meeting the goal of returning You to Gainful Work; and
- The date the Rehabilitation Agreement ends.

If You end a Rehabilitation Program without Our consent, You must Repay any enhanced benefits paid.

**Dependent Care Expenses:** While You are participating in a Rehabilitation Program, We will pay a dependent care expense benefit, when all of the following conditions are met:

- You incur expense to provide care for a qualified dependent; and
- The care is provided by a licensed provider other than a family member by blood or marriage.

The dependent care expense benefit will be the lesser of:

- \$350.00 per Month per qualified dependent; not to exceed \$1,000.00 per Month for all qualified dependents combined; and
- The actual Monthly day care expense incurred by You.

We will stop paying the dependent care expense benefit on the earlier of the date You are no longer:

- Incurring dependent care expenses for a qualified dependent;
- Participating in a Rehabilitation Program; or
- Entitled to receive a Monthly Benefit from this Certificate.

As used here, "qualified dependent" means a person who is:

- Dependent upon You for main support and maintenance; and
- Under the age of 14; and

- Your biological child, lawfully adopted child, stepchild or any other child who is living with You in a regular parent-child relationship.

The term also means a family member, related by blood or marriage, age 14 or over who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for him or herself and is dependent upon You for main support and maintenance.

B401.2106

## All Options

**Worksite Modification:** In order to accommodate Your Disability, an Employer may incur a cost to modify his or her worksite. We may reimburse the Employer, up to \$2,500.00 for the cost of the worksite modification. We make this payment if We agree that the modification will enable You to:

- Return to work; or
- Remain at work.

B400.0553

## All Options

**Early Intervention Services:** This Certificate includes voluntary, early intervention services as part of Our disability management program. The intent of these services is to:

- Assist Disabled persons in achieving higher levels of functionality; and
- Support the Employer's absence management goals by promoting stay-at work and return-to work agendas where possible.

When You are Disabled from one of the conditions listed below, a Long Term Disability claim form should be completed as soon as possible following the date of Disability. To facilitate an immediate intervention, the form should be submitted to Us within one week of the date Your Disability begins.

- Chronic fatigue conditions, including Epstein-Barr syndrome.
- Mental Illness.
- Repetitive motion syndromes or injuries.
- Fibromyalgia.
- Back pain or strain.
- Neck pain or strain.
- Chronic pain.
- Diabetes.
- Cardiovascular conditions.

On receipt of the completed claim form, We will determine whether the claim is appropriate for early intervention services. You will be notified of Our decision. Examples of services, which We may provide, at Our discretion, include, but are not limited to:

- Job accommodation;
- Ergonomic adjustments to workstations; or
- Proactive case management consultations with Your Doctor or other providers of medical care.

B401.2108

## All Options

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## Claim Provisions

**Administration:** We have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine Your eligibility for benefits under this Plan.

We will:

- Obtain only such information that is necessary to evaluate a claim for benefits. This information will be obtained as set forth herein with respect to notice and proofs of loss.
- Consider and interpret the terms of this Plan and all information obtained by Us and submitted that relates to a claim for benefits and make a determination based on that information and in accordance with the terms of this Plan and applicable California state law.
- If a claim is approved, review the determination as often as is reasonably necessary to determine continued eligibility for benefits.
- If a claim is denied, provide the claimant within a reasonable period of time a written notification of an adverse determination. Such notification will include the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant may appeal the decision. We will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal. The review will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination. If a claim is not appealed, then the decision will be Guardian's final decision.

**Notice of Claim:** You must send Us written notice of Your intent to file a claim under this Certificate within 20 days of the date the Injury occurs or the Sickness starts or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. This Notice should include Your name and the Policy number. For details, You can call Us at 1-800-538-4583.

**Claim Forms:** We, upon receipt of a written notice of claim, will furnish to You such forms as are usually furnished by Us for filing Proofs of Loss. If such forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice, You shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Certificate as to Proof of Loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in this Certificate for filing Proofs of Loss, written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which the claim is made.

**Proof Of Loss:** Written proof of loss must be furnished to Us, in case of claim for loss for which this Certificate provides any periodic payment contingent upon continuing loss, within 90 days after the termination of the period for which We are liable, and in case of claim for any other loss, within 90 days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of Your legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

You are required to cooperate with Guardian in its evaluation of any claim for benefits. You must provide Proof of Loss at Your expense, consisting of the following listed below. Failure to provide this information may prevent, delay, suspend, reduce or terminate Your eligibility for benefits.

- The date Disability began.
- Your last day of Active Work.
- The cause of Disability.
- The extent of Disability, including limitations and restrictions preventing You from performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation and any Gainful Occupation.
- If Your occupation requires that You carry liability or malpractice insurance, information including, but not limited to: the policy, any applications for such coverage, and any changes to the terms and conditions of such policies prior to or after the first date of Disability.
- Objective Medical Evidence and Objective Proof of Your Restrictions and Limitations, beginning with the date Disability began.
- The prognosis of Disability.
- The name and address of all Doctors, hospitals and health care facilities where You have been treated for Your Disability since the date Disability began.
- Proof that You are currently receiving Regular and Appropriate Care from a Doctor and have been receiving that care from the date Disability began.
- Proof of Insured Earnings.
- Proof of Disability Earnings.

- Payroll or absence data from the Employer for the three Months prior to the date Disability began, or other period We specify.
- Proof of application for all other sources of income to which You may be entitled, that may affect Your payment from this Certificate.
- Proof of receipt of other income that may affect Your payment from this Certificate.
- Proof of identity and residency, including, but not limited to, a current government issued photo identification.
- Documentation of travel outside the United States.
- Any other information We may reasonably require to determine if You are Disabled and eligible for benefits and coverage under this Certificate.

You must provide Objective Medical Evidence from a Doctor who is not Yourself, or a relative by blood or marriage, or who is a business associate.

Proof of Insured Earnings and Disability Earnings may consist of:

- Copies of Your W-2 forms;
- Payroll records from Your Employer(s);
- Copies of Your U.S. individual income tax returns;
- Copies of the U.S. income tax returns from any business in which You hold an ownership or shareholder interest;
- A statement from a certified public accountant;
- Copies of any income records accepted or required by the IRS; or
- Any other records We deem necessary.

Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

Group Long Term Disability Claims Department  
P.O. Box 26025  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-6025.

**Authorization Required:** You must provide Us with written, unaltered authorizations in a form provided by Us to obtain medical, financial, vocational, occupational, and governmental information required to determine Our liability under this Certificate. We may agree to obtain such authorization by use of voice or other electronic means. You must provide Us with such authorizations as often as We may require, in order that they remain current. Failure to provide such authorizations may prevent, delay, suspend or terminate Your eligibility for benefits.

**Examinations:** We, at our own expense, shall have the right and opportunity to examine You when and as often as it may reasonably be required during the pendency of a claim hereunder.

**Ongoing Proof of Loss:** To continue to receive payments from this Certificate, You must give Us current Proof of Loss within 90 days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity of the employee, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

**Payment of Benefits:** We pay benefits to You, if You are legally competent. If You are not, We pay benefits to your lawful guardian, conservator, legal representative, or any person or fiduciary with the lawful authority to act on Your behalf or handle Your affairs. Benefits are paid in United States currency.

We pay benefits once each Month at the end of the period for which they are payable.

No benefits are payable for this Certificate's Elimination Period.

Benefits to which You are entitled may remain unpaid at Your death. Such benefits may be paid at Our discretion to:

- Your estate; or
- Your Spouse, parents, children, or brothers and sisters.

**Partial Month Payment:** You may be Disabled for only part of a Month. In this case, We compute Your payment as 1/30th of the benefit to which You would be entitled for the full Month times the number of days You are Disabled. Payment will not be made for more than 30 days in any Month.

**Overpayment Recovery:** If We overpaid You, You must repay Us in full. We have the right to reduce Your payment or apply any benefits payable, including the minimum payment, toward recovery of the overpayment.

**Legal Actions:** No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Certificate prior to the expiration of 60 days after written Proof of Loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of this Certificate. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three years after time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

**Workers' Compensation:** The Long Term Disability benefits provided by this Certificate are not in place of and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

B401.2111

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## RECOVERY FROM A THIRD PARTY

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**Purpose:** When You have the right to recover amounts paid by this Certificate, We also have certain rights. These are explained below.

**Recovery:** If You receive a payment from any third party or insurance coverage due to an Injury, Sickness or condition, We have the right to recover from, and be repaid by, You for all amounts this Certificate has paid due to that Injury, Sickness or condition, up to and including the full amount You receive from any third party or insurance coverage.

**Lien Rights:** We will have a lien to the extent of benefits We paid due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition for which the third party is liable. The lien will be imposed on any recovery, whether by settlement, judgment, or otherwise, including from any insurance coverage, that You receive due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition. The lien may be enforced against any party who holds funds or proceeds which represent the amount of benefits paid by Us. This includes, but is not limited to:

- You;
- Your representative or agent;
- The third party;
- The third party's insurer, representative or agent; and
- Any other source who holds such funds.

**First Priority Claim:** This Certificate's recovery rights are a first priority claim against all third parties and are to be paid to Us before any other claim for Your damages. This Certificate will be entitled to full repayment on a first dollar basis from any third party's payments, even if such payment to the plan will result in a recovery to You which is not sufficient:

- To make You whole; or
- To compensate You in part or in whole for the damages sustained.

This Certificate is not required to participate in or pay court costs or attorney fees to the attorney hired by You to pursue Your damage claim.

**Applicable To All Settlements And Judgments:** We are entitled to full recovery regardless of whether:

- Any liability for payment is admitted by a third party; or
- The settlement or judgment received by You identifies the benefits the Certificate paid.

This Certificate is entitled to recover from any and all settlements or judgments, even those designated as pain and suffering or non-economic damages only.

**Cooperation:** You must fully cooperate with Our efforts to recover the benefits paid under this Certificate. You must notify Us within 30 days of the date when any notice is given to any party, including an insurance company or attorney, of Your intention to pursue or investigate a claim to recover damages or obtain compensation due to Injury, Sickness or condition sustained by You. You and Your agents, must provide all information requested by Us or Our representative. This includes, but is not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as We may reasonably request. Failure to do this may result in the termination of benefits or the instigation of legal action against You.

You must do nothing:

- To prejudice Our rights as described in this section; or
- To prejudice Our ability to enforce the terms of this section.

This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from making any settlement or recovery that attempts to reduce or exclude the full amount of all benefits paid by this Certificate.

We have the right to conduct an investigation regarding the Injury, Sickness or condition to identify any third party. We reserve the right to notify the third party and his or her agents of Our lien. Agents include, but are not limited to:

- Insurance companies; and
- Attorneys.

**Definitions:** As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below:

- **Legal Guardian:** This term means a person who has the care or the legal or fiduciary responsibility to manage the affairs or property of another.
- **Insurance Coverage:** This term means any insurance which provides coverage for:
  - Medical expense payments; or
  - Liability.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Uninsured motorist coverage;
  - Underinsured motorist coverage;
  - Personal umbrella coverage;
  - Medical payments coverage;
  - Workers compensation coverage;
  - No-fault automobile insurance coverage; or
  - Any first party insurance.
- **Third Party:** This term means any party actually, possibly, or potentially responsible for making any payment to You due to Your Injury, Sickness or condition. This term also means such party's:



- Liability insurer; or
- Any insurance coverage.

But, this term does not mean:

- Us; or
  - You.
- **You:** This term means the covered Employee. It also includes Your parent or Legal Guardian if You are a minor or incompetent.

B401.2112

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## DEFINITIONS

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This section defines certain terms appearing in Your Certificate.

**Active Work or Actively At Work or Actively Working:** These terms mean You are able to perform, and are performing, all of the regular duties of Your work for the Employer, on a Full-Time basis at:

- One of the Employer's usual places of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and the Employer have agreed on for Your work.

B400.0563

### All Options

**Certificate:** This term means this Certificate of Coverage, including the Schedule of Benefits and any riders and enrollment forms that may be attached to this Certificate.

B400.0565

### All Options

**CPI-W:** This term means that part of the United States Department of Labor Consumer Price Index that measures the relative value of the cost of a typical urban wage earner's purchase of certain goods and services. If the Department of Labor stops publishing the CPI-W, We have the right to use some other similar standard.

B400.0567

### All Options

**Disability or Disabled:**

These terms, when used alone, mean (a) Total Disability or Totally Disabled; or (b) Partial or Residual Disability.

**Total Disability or Totally Disabled** means that as a result of Sickness or Injury, during the Elimination Period and the Own Occupation period, You are not able to perform with reasonable continuity the substantial and material acts necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation and You are not working in Your Usual Occupation. After the end of the Own Occupation period, Total Disability or Totally Disabled means that as a result of Sickness or Injury You are not able to engage with reasonable continuity in any occupation in which You could reasonably be expected to perform satisfactorily in light of Your age, education, training, experience, station in life, and physical and mental capacity.

Substantial and material acts means the important tasks, functions and operations generally required by Employers from those engaged in Your Usual Occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified.

In determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation, We will first look at the specific duties required by the Employer or job. If You are unable to perform one or more of these duties with reasonable continuity, We will then determine whether those duties are customarily required of other persons engaged in Your Usual Occupation. If any specific, material duties required of You by the Employer or job differ from the material duties customarily required of other persons engaged in Your Usual Occupation, then We will not consider those duties in determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation.

Usual Occupation may be interpreted to mean the employment, business, trade or profession that involves the substantial and material acts of the occupation You were regularly performing for the Employer when the disability began. Usual Occupation is not necessarily limited to the specific job You performed for the Employer.

**Partial or Residual Disability** means You are not Totally Disabled and that while actually working in an occupation, as a result of Sickness or Injury, You are unable to engage with reasonable continuity in that or any other occupation in which You could reasonably be expected to perform satisfactorily in light of Your age, education, training, experience, station in life, and physical and mental capacity.

B401.2113

## All Options

**Disability Earnings:** This term means the Monthly income You earn from Working While Disabled. It includes salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses and any other compensation earned or accrued while working including pension, profit sharing contributions, sick pay, paid time off, holiday and vacation pay. When You have an ownership interest in the business, Disability Earnings also includes business profits, attributable to You, whether received or not. It includes any income You earn while Disabled and return to the Employer, partnership, or any other similar business arrangement to cover any business or overhead expenses. If You had secondary employment prior to Disability, Disability Earnings will only include earnings from the secondary employment if the employment began after the beginning of Your Disability.

B401.2116

## All Options

**Doctor:** Any medical practitioner We are required by law to recognize. He or she must:

- Be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and
- Provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice.

B400.0606

## All Options

**Effective Date:** The date the Certificate goes into force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage, or any change to the Policy as requested by the Policyholder and approved by Us and in force and effect as stated on cover page of the Certificate of Coverage.

B400.0607

## All Options

**Eligibility Date:** This term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Certificate, and you have satisfied all requirements for coverage to begin, as required by this Certificate.

- For an Employee in Active Work who has completed any waiting period required by the Employer as of the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date means the Effective Date of this Certificate.
- For an Employee in Active Work as of the Effective Date of this Certificate who has not completed any waiting period required by the Employer, the Eligibility Date will be the first date following the completion of the required waiting period.
- For an Employee hired on or after the Effective Date of this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of the Employee's date of hire, or the first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer.
- If this Certificate requires Employees to elect coverage under this Certificate, the Eligibility Date will be the later of:
  - The Employee's date of hire;
  - The first date following the completion of any waiting period required by the Employer; or
  - The date We approve in writing Your application for any coverage for which You are required to supply Proof of Insurability.

B400.0608

## All Options

**Elimination Period:** This term means the period of time, as shown in the Schedule of Benefits, You must be Disabled, due to a covered Disability, before this Certificate's benefits are payable.

Any days during which You return to work on a Full-Time basis performing the major duties of Your Own Occupation, will not count toward the Elimination Period.

But You will continue to accumulate days of Disability for days for which You are working on less than a Full-Time basis during the Elimination Period as long as You meet the definition of Disability each Month during the Elimination Period.

If You are or become eligible under any other similar group income replacement plan while You are working during the Elimination Period, You will not be entitled to benefits from this Certificate.

If, at the end of the Elimination Period, You are not able to perform, on a Full-Time basis, the major duties of Your Own Occupation, but You earn or are able to earn 80% or more of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, the Elimination Period will be extended until the earlier of:

- Six Months from the date benefits otherwise would have commenced; or
- Until You are unable to earn 80% or more of Your Indexed Insured Earnings.

If at the end of this time period, You earn or are able to earn 80% or more of Your Indexed Insured Earnings, You must start a new Elimination Period.

We do not require You to complete an Elimination Period if:

- You were covered under a similar income replacement plan the Employer had with another carrier on the day before this Certificate starts; and
- Your Disability would have been a Recurring Disability under the prior plan had it remained in effect.

B400.0609

## All Options

**Employee:** This term means a person who works for the Employer at the Employer's place of business and whose income is reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service, and/or a state for tax purposes. Partners and proprietors will also be treated as employees if the Conditions of Eligibility requirements are met.

B400.0611

## All Options

**Employer:** This term means WHATNOT INC.

B400.0612

## All Options

**Full-Time:** This term means:

You are not a Part-time Employee as defined by Your Employer and the average number of hours You worked for the six Months prior to the last full day worked was at least 30 hours per week at:

- Your Employer's place of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of occupational duties.

B400.0613

## All Options

**Gainful Occupation** or **Gainful Work:** These terms mean work for which You are, or may become, qualified by:

- Training;
- Education; or
- Experience.

When You are able to perform such work, You can be expected to earn at least 80% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings while Working While Disabled as much as Your Gross Monthly Benefit within 12 Months of returning to work.

B401.2117

## All Options

**Government Plan:** This term means any of the following:

- The United States Social Security Act;
- The Railroad Retirement Act;
- The Canadian Pension Plan; or
- Any other plan provided under the laws of a state, province or any other political subdivision.

It also includes:

- Any public employee Retirement Plan; or
- Any plan provided in place of the above named plan or acts.

It does not include:

- Any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law;

- The Jones' Act;
- The Longshoreman's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act; or
- The Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure.

B400.0616

#### All Options

**Gross Monthly Benefit:** This term means this Certificate's Monthly Benefit before it is integrated with other income and earnings.

B400.0617

#### All Options

**Injury:** This term means physical harm or damage to Your body that occurs while You are covered by this Certificate.

B401.2118

#### All Options

**Insured Earnings:** Only Your earnings from the Employer will be included as Insured Earnings.

We calculate benefit amounts and limits based on the amount of Your Insured Earnings as of the Redetermination date immediately prior to the start of Your Disability. See the "Redetermination" section of this Certificate.

B400.0620

#### All Options

- **For Partners And S Corporation Shareholders:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below, divided by 12.
  - Your compensation as an Employee or S Corporation shareholder, or guaranteed payments as a Partner, as reported on Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less the gross total of unadjusted Employee business expenses as included on the corresponding Schedule A- Itemized Deductions.
  - Your non-passive income (loss) from trade of business as reported on Schedule E - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040, for the prior calendar year, less any expenses incurred and reported elsewhere on Your Return; and
  - Your contributions during the prior calendar year, deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

You may not have been a partner or S Corporation shareholder for the full prior calendar year. In that case, Your earnings are based on the Monthly average of the sum of the listed amounts averaged for the full number of Months that You were a partner or S Corporation shareholder during that calendar year.

- **For Sole Proprietors:** Insured Earnings means the sum of the amounts listed below.
  - Your average Monthly net profit as determined from Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040 for the prior calendar year.
  - Your average Monthly contribution during the prior calendar year deposited into a:
    - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
    - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Monthly net profit is calculated as gross income less total expenses.

You may not have been a sole proprietor for the prior calendar year. In that case, We calculate average Monthly net profit and average monthly contributions using the full number of Months that You were a sole proprietor during such time.

- **For Any Other Employee Who Receives Base Salary Only:** Insured Earnings means Your base Monthly salary from the Employer. Your base Monthly salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included.

The term also does not include:

- Bonuses;
- Commissions;
- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.



If You are paid hourly, We calculate Monthly earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the two Months before the start of Your Disability. We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Who Are Compensated On Less Than A 12 Month Basis:** Insured Earnings means Your average rate of Monthly earnings determined from Your annual contract salary. If You do not have an annual contract salary, Insured Earnings means Your prior calendar year salary divided by twelve. Your annual contract salary will include shift differential.

The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:

- Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
- Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

Earnings based on excluded income and Employer contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan are not included.

The term also does not include:

- Overtime pay;
- Expense accounts;
- Stock options; and
- Any other extra compensation.

If You are paid hourly, We calculate monthly earnings based on actual hours worked or billed in the eight weeks before the start of Your Disability. We do not include pay for hours worked or billed over 40 per week.

- **For Employees Whose Income Is Reported On An IRS Form 1099:** Insured Earnings means Your average rate of Monthly earnings as figured from the 1099 form(s) received from the Employer for the prior calendar year. Earnings are calculated as Your earned income as reported on the 1099 form(s) minus business expenses as reported on Schedule C - Part II of Your Federal Income Tax Return(s), Form 1040. Your average rate of monthly earnings is calculated as such earnings divided by 12 or the number of Months You worked for the Employer during such calendar year, if less than 12. The term also includes Your contributions deposited into a:
  - Cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC section 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plan; and
  - Elective Employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account.

B400.0621

## All Options

**Long Term Disability:** This term means the Long Term Disability Income Coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B400.0662

## All Options

**Maximum Payment Period:** This term means the longest time that benefits are paid by this Certificate, subject to all terms, limitations and exclusions.

B400.0666

## All Options

**Mental Illness:** This term means any mental disorder, regardless of cause, listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) currently in use by the American Psychiatric Association (APA). If the APA stops publishing the DSM, We will use another similar source. A Mental Illness may be caused or contributed to, by or result in, physical, biological or chemical factors or symptoms.

For purposes of this Certificate, Mental Illness does not include:

- Irreversible dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease, stroke, trauma or viral infection; or
- Any other condition not typically treated by a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or other qualified mental health professional.

B400.0667

## All Options

**Month or Months or Monthly:** These terms mean a consecutive 30 day period.

B400.0668

## All Options

**Monthly Benefit:** This term means this Certificate's Gross Monthly Benefit reduced by other income. If You are Working While Disabled, Your Monthly Benefit will be further reduced based on the amount of Your Disability Earnings.

B400.0669

## All Options

**No-Fault Motor Vehicle Coverage:** This term means a motor vehicle plan that pays disability or medical benefits no matter who was at fault in an accident.

B400.0670

**Objective Medical Evidence:** This term includes:

- Diagnostic testing;
- Laboratory reports; and

- Medical records of a Doctor's exam documenting clinical signs, presence of symptoms and test results relevant to your Disability and claimed restrictions and limitations and consistent with Generally Accepted Medical Standards.

Generally Accepted Medical Standards are those supported by nationally recognized authorities in the health care field unless a state medical standard exists, in which case the state medical standard shall apply. Generally Accepted Medical Standards are those supported by nationally recognized authorities in the health care field including:

- The American Medical Association (AMA);
- The AMA Board of Medical Specialties;
- The Food and Drug Administration;
- The Centers for Disease Control;
- The National Cancer Institute;
- The National Institutes of Health;
- The Department of Health and Human Services; and
- Any state agency, board, or regulatory body charged with determining acceptable medical standards in the state in which You reside.

B401.2119

## All Options

**Objective Proof of Your Restrictions and Limitations:** During the Own Occupation period this term means objective proof of Your inability to perform the duties of Your Own Occupation, and including all restrictions and limitations relating to Your inability to work. After the Own Occupation period, this term means objective proof of Your inability to perform the duties of any Gainful Work and including all restrictions and limitations relating to Your inability to work.

B400.0672

## All Options

**Own Occupation or Usual Occupation:** This term means:

- The occupation(s) You are routinely performing for Your Employer immediately prior to the first date of Disability, and is further defined as follows. Own Occupation:
  - Includes any employment, trade, or profession that is substantially similar in terms of tasks, functions, skills, abilities, knowledge, training and experience, required by Employers from those engaged in a particular occupation in the general labor market in the national economy; and

- Is not defined with reference to a specific Employer or specific location or particular work environment; and
- Only includes the occupation or occupations for which You are covered under this Certificate, and
- Generates the Insured Earnings covered by this Certificate.

B401.2122

#### All Options

**Policy:** This term means the group Long Term Disability Income Coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B400.0683

#### All Options

**Reasonable Accommodation:** This term means any modification or adjustment that the Employer willingly provides to:

- A job;
- An employment practice;
- A work process; or
- The work place.

The modification or adjustment must make it possible for a Disabled person to:

- Reach the same level of performance as a similarly situated non-disabled person; or
- Enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are available to a similarly situated non-disabled person.

The modification or adjustment must not place an undue hardship on the Employer.

B400.0685

#### All Options

**Recurring Disability:** This term means a later Disability that:

- Is related to an earlier Disability for which this Certificate paid benefits; and
- Meets the conditions described in the Recurring Disability section of this Certificate.

B400.0686

## All Options

**Regular and Appropriate Care:** This term means, with respect to Your disabling condition(s) and any other condition(s) which, if left untreated, would adversely affect Your disabling condition, You:

- Visit a Doctor as frequently as recommended by a Doctor to effectively manage these conditions; and
- Are receiving appropriate treatment designed to achieve maximum medical improvement in these conditions.

Appropriate treatment is that treatment a patient would make a reasonable decision to accept after duly considering the opinions of medical professionals, and such treatment must be provided by a Doctor or Doctors whose specialty is appropriate for You:

- Disability; and
- Any other conditions which left untreated would adversely affect Your disabling condition.

Regular and Appropriate Care does not require treatment for a disabling condition where no additional medical treatment will likely cure or improve that condition, and You have achieved maximum medical improvement.

B401.2123

## All Options

**Rehabilitation Agreement:** This term means a formal agreement between:

- You;
- Us; and
- Your Employer, if needed

It outlines the Rehabilitation Program in which You agree to take part.

B400.0688

## All Options

**Rehabilitation Program:** This term means a program of work or job-related training for You that We approve. Its aim is to restore Your wage earning abilities.

B401.2124

## All Options

**Retirement Plan:** This term means a defined benefit or defined contribution plan funded wholly or in part by the Employer's deposits for Your benefit. The term does not include:

- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Non-qualified deferred compensation plans;

- Individual retirement accounts;
- Tax sheltered annuities;
- 401(k), 403(b), 457 or similar plans; or
- Stock ownership plans.

Retirement Plan "**retirement benefits**" are lump sum or periodic payments at normal or early retirement. Some Retirement Plans make payments for Disability (as defined by those plans) that start before normal retirement age. When such payments reduce the amount that would have been paid at normal retirement age, they are retirement benefits. When such payments do not reduce the normal retirement amount, they are "**disability benefits.**"

B400.0690

#### All Options

**Sickness:** This term means an illness or disease. Pregnancy is treated as a Sickness under this Certificate.

B400.0691

#### All Options

**Spouse:** This term means Your lawful spouse, which shall include Your registered domestic partner with the California Secretary of State.

B401.2125

#### All Options

**We, Us and Our:** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

B400.0696

#### All Options

**Working While Disabled:** This term means You are working and earning a gross Monthly income of 20% or more of Indexed Insured Earnings.

B400.0697

#### All Options

**You or Your:** These terms mean the Employee.

B400.0698

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME COVERAGE SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

B400.0707

## B400.0710

## B400.0718

Age When	Maximum
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Disability Starts	Payment Period
Age 60 . . . . .	5.00 years
Age 61 . . . . .	4.00 years
Age 62 . . . . .	3.50 years
Age 63 . . . . .	3.00 years
Age 64 . . . . .	2.50 years
Age 65 . . . . .	2.00 years
Age 66 . . . . .	1.75 years
Age 67 . . . . .	1.50 years
Age 68 . . . . .	1.25 years
Age 69 or older . . . . .	1.00 year

But, if Your Disability starts after age 60, and reach the end of the Maximum Payment Period shown in the table, and You have not reached your Social Security Normal Retirement Age, we will extend Your Maximum Payment Period until You reach Social Security Normal Retirement Age.

B400.0723

## All Options

**Gross Monthly Benefit** 60% of Your Insured Earnings to a maximum benefit of \$10,000.00.

The benefit will be rounded to the nearest \$1.00, if not already a multiple of that amount.

**Note:** We integrate Your Gross Monthly Benefit with certain other income You may receive. Read all of the terms of this Certificate to see:

- The other income with which We integrate; and
- How We integrate.

B400.0730

## All Options

### Changes To Coverage

**Changes In Coverage Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your amount of coverage will not become effective prior to the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, coverage will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are: (1) Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and (2) make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which a larger amount of coverage is provided, You must make the required contribution for the new amount within 31 days of the change. If You do not make the required contribution within 31 days of the change or within 31 days of becoming Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, if You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, when Your classification changes, no increase will be allowed due to such change or any later change. In that case, in order to become covered for the larger amount, You must:



- Make the required contribution for the new amount; and
- Furnish Proof of Insurability to Us, which We approve in writing.

If the coverage amount was previously reduced because of age or retirement, it will be retained at the reduced amount.

B400.0955

All Options

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## SUPPLEMENTAL RIDERS

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B400.1169

## CERTIFICATE RIDER

This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

---

### Income Recovery Benefit Rider

This Rider may pay an Income Recovery Benefit, if Monthly Benefits cease because You are no longer Disabled.

To be eligible for the Income Recovery Benefit, You must be:

- Able to perform the major duties of Your Own Occupation or, if the Certificate has paid all benefits for the Own Occupation period, able to perform the major duties of any Gainful Occupation;
- Working in Your Own Occupation or, if the Certificate has paid all benefits for the Own Occupation period, Your Gainful Occupation, the same number of hours as You did prior to Disability;
- Unable to earn the Certificate's maximum allowable Disability Earnings, due to the Sickness or Injury which caused the prior Disability.

We pay this benefit Monthly, in arrears. We determine the amount We pay in two steps.

In step one, We compute the following: (1) Your Gross Monthly Benefit as of the last month You were Disabled under the terms of the Certificate; less (2) Other Income Benefits.

In step two, We make a current earnings adjustment.

We add:

- Your Gross Monthly Benefit as of the last month You were Disabled under the terms of the Certificate; and
- Your current Disability Earnings.

If such sum exceeds 100% of Your Insured Earnings, We pay the amount in step one less the excess over 100%. If such sum does not exceed 100%, We pay the amount in step one.

We stop paying this benefit on the earliest of:

- The date You are able to earn the Certificate's maximum allowable Disability Earnings;
- The date You become Disabled;
- The date You stop working;

- The date 12 months in a row after the first Income Recovery Benefit is paid; or
- The end of the Maximum Payment Period.

We will not pay more than 12 monthly Income Recovery Benefit payments following any one period of Disability, including any Recurring Disability.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

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

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B400.1160

## CERTIFICATE RIDER

This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

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### Survivor Benefit Rider

This Rider may pay a Survivor Benefit, according to the terms below.

**What We Pay:** We pay a Survivor Benefit if You die after You:

- Had been Disabled for at least six months in a row; and
- Were entitled to receive at least one full Monthly Benefit prior to Your death.

When We receive proof of Your death, We pay Your Eligible Survivor a lump sum benefit.

But, We first apply such benefit to reduce any overpayment You may owe Us.

If You have no Eligible Survivor, We pay the Survivor Benefit to Your estate.

#### Accelerated Survivor Benefit

If You have a terminal illness, We may accelerate payment of this Rider's Survivor Benefit.

For purposes of the accelerated Survivor Benefit, a terminal illness means a medical condition that is expected to result in Your death within 6 months.

To receive an accelerated Survivor Benefit, You must:

- Be entitled to receive a Monthly Benefit from the Certificate;
- Request this benefit in writing; and
- Provide written proof of terminal illness from a Doctor.

But, We will not pay an accelerated Survivor Benefit if there are less than 6 months remaining in the maximum benefit period.

If You choose to receive an accelerated Survivor Benefit, no Survivor Benefit is payable on Your death.

#### Definitions

This section defines certain terms appearing in this Rider. Additional terms, not listed here, are defined in the Certificate.

**Eligible Survivor:** This term means Your Spouse, if living. If Your Spouse is not living, Your Eligible Survivor is Your:

- Unmarried child under age 20; and

- Unmarried child under age 26 who is enrolled as a full- time student at an accredited school.

If there is more than one such child when You die, this benefit will be paid to each child in equal shares.

**Spouse:** This term means Your lawful spouse, which shall include Your registered domestic partner with the California Secretary of State.

**Survivor Benefit:** This term means an amount equal to 3 times the amount of Your last Monthly Benefit after it is reduced by Disability Earnings.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B401.2156

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## CERTIFICATE AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider is effective on the Policy Date. If this Rider is added after the Policy Date, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date.

This Rider amends the Certificate by the replacement of the following Benefit Provisions:

**Other Income Benefits:** You may receive, or be entitled to receive, income shown in the list below.

We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by such other income benefits to determine Your Monthly Benefit from this Certificate.

- Commissions or monies received, payable but deferred, or paid after Disability benefits start.

This includes:

- Vested and nonvested renewal commissions;
- Bonuses;
- Royalties; and
- Other distributions.
- Disability benefits from any mandated benefit act or law. This includes all temporary Disability or state Disability benefits required by law.
- Disability benefits from all group policies or plans of the Employer. This includes payments made by a group life insurance plan due to Your Disability. This does not include payments made from a group life insurance plan's:
  - Accelerated death benefit; or
  - Like provision that allows payment of such plan's proceeds due to terminal illness.
- Disability benefits from any other group policy or plan; but, if the other group plan was in force prior to this Certificate, and the other group plan also deducts for Disability benefits from any other group plan, We will not deduct these other group Disability benefits.
- Income received from partnership distributions, but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Monthly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Indexed Insured Earnings.
- Benefits from: The United States Social Security Act; The Railroad Retirement Act; or any other like U.S. or Canadian plan or act.

This includes:

- (a) All Disability benefits for which: (i) You are entitled; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled due to Your Disability;

- (b) All unreduced retirement benefits for which: (i) You are entitled and awarded; and (ii) Your Spouse and children are entitled and awarded due to Your entitlement; and
- (c) All reduced retirement benefits paid to: (i) You; and (ii) Your Spouse and children due to Your receipt of such benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the retirement benefits described in (b) and (c) above, to the extent that You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded such income prior to the start of Disability. We will reduce the Gross Monthly Benefit by marginal increases in such income You and Your dependents were entitled and awarded after Disability begins.

We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by Your dependents' benefits described in (a), (b) and (c) above if: (i) the dependents' benefits are provided to You by the Social Security Administration; (ii) at the time that the Social Security Administration makes its first payment of the dependent benefits described in (a), (b), and (c) above, the dependent child remains a minor dependent or an adult Disabled dependent, and (iii) the dependent benefits You are entitled to are greater than any dependent benefit being received by another person. Under these circumstances, We will reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the difference between the amount the dependent was awarded under the prior recipient and the amount awarded the dependent under Your benefits.

We do not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the benefits to which You are entitled, as described in (a), (b), and (c) above unless such benefits are greater than any widow/widower benefit You are receiving. And then We reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by the difference.

- Income of the type that is included in Your Insured Earnings for purposes of determining Your Gross Monthly Benefit under this Certificate.
- That portion of Retirement Plan retirement benefits which the Employer funds.
- That portion of Retirement Plan Disability benefits which the Employer funds.
- Retirement benefits or Retirement Plan Disability benefits, due to Your Disability, from any Government Plan other than those shown above.
- Temporary Disability benefits under a Worker's Compensation law.
- Disability benefits from any third party when Your Disability is the result of the negligence or intentional tort liability of that third party.



- Payments from a paid leave, or a similar plan that pays for an approved leave, but only to the extent that such income plus the amount of Your Gross Monthly Benefit is more than 100% of Your Insured Earnings.

We reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit with income shown above that You are entitled to receive without regard to the reason You are entitled to receive it.

Our right to reduce Your benefit by such income shall not be negated by a transfer of claim liability to a third party. Payment by such third party by law, settlement, judgment, waiver or otherwise shall not negate Our right.

B441.0402

## All Options

**Other Income Not Subject To Deduction:** We will not reduce Your Gross Monthly Benefit by any income You receive or are entitled to receive from the list below.

- Deferred compensation arrangements such as 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans;
- Profit sharing plans;
- Thrift plans;
- Tax sheltered annuities;
- Stock ownership plans;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA);
- Individual disability income policies;
- Credit disability insurance;
- Non-qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- Pension plans for partners;
- Retirement plans of another Employer not affiliated with this Certificate;
- Military pension and disability plans;
- Income from a sick leave, salary continuance, or paid time off plan;
- Critical Illness insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Accident insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Specified Disease insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit;
- Cancer insurance, unless the benefit is paid out as a wage replacement benefit.

This Rider is part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Prestileo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B441.0406

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## AMENDATORY RIDER

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This Rider amends the Certificate and Policy as follows and is effective on the later of the Policy Date or the date requested by the Policyholder.

The definition of **Spouse** is replaced with the following:

**Spouse:** The person to whom You are legally married or Your **Domestic Partner** or civil union partner.

**Domestic Partner:** The same-sex or different-sex person with whom You have registered Your relationship with any state or local governmental domestic partner registry

Or

the same-sex or different-sex person with whom you have not registered your relationship if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You live and share financial assets and obligations with this person.
- This person is at least 18 years of age, is able to provide legal consent, and is not a blood relative.
- Neither you nor this person are in a marriage or domestic partnership with anyone else or legally separated from anyone else.
- You submit acceptable documentation that you meet the above criteria. An affidavit attesting to these facts may be required.

Except as specifically noted above for relationships that are not registered, **Domestic Partners** are not subject to any proof of relationship or waiting period requirements that are not also imposed upon marriages. A **Domestic Partner** registry certificate will be accepted as fully equivalent to a marriage certificate. Similarly, a dissolution of domestic partnership notice will be accepted as fully equivalent to a divorce decree.

This Rider is part of the Certificate and Policy. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate or Policy.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B601.0245

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## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

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The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Your group Short Term and/or Long Term Disability Income benefits may be covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). If so, You are entitled to certain rights and protections under ERISA.

ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

**Receive Information  
about Your Plan and  
Benefits**

- (a) 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.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, 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.
- (c) 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.

**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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including Your 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.

**Enforcement of  
Your Rights**

If Your claim for a welfare 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 (see Claims Procedures below).

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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay You up to \$110.00 a day until You receive the material, 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 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 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 that Your claim is frivolous.

**Assistance with Questions**

If You have questions about the plan, You should contact the plan administrator. If You have questions about this statement or about Your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

**Disability Benefits Claims Procedure**

If You seek benefits under the plan You should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (hereinafter referenced as Guardian).

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with the authority to interpret and construe the terms of the Policy, the Certificate, the Schedule of Benefits, and any riders, or other documents or forms that may be attached to the Certificate or the Policy, and any other plan documents. Guardian has the authority to determine eligibility for benefits and coverage under those documents. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide Your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in Your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of ERISA.

**Definitions**

"Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

**Timing for Initial Benefit Determination**

The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a benefit determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

B997.0247

## **All Options**

### **Adverse Benefit Determination**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information necessary to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;
- A statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by You, of health care professionals who treated You and vocational professionals who evaluated You;

- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a Disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that You present to us;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination on appeal, and;
- In the case of an adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations** If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an adverse benefit determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonably access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
- Provide a statement disclosing any internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion relied on in making the adverse benefit determination (or a statement that such information will be provided free of charge upon request); or a statement that no internal rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse benefit determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis of disagreement with or not following the views presented by You, of health care professionals who treated You, and vocational professionals who evaluated You;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following the views of any medical or vocational expert whose advice was obtained on our behalf in connection with the adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the determination;
- If applicable, provide an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following a Disability determination made by the Social Security Administration that You present to us;
- Provide a statement describing the claimant's right to bring a civil suit under Section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 which shall also describe any applicable contractual limitations period that applies the claimant's right to bring such an action, including the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires for the claim, and;



- In the event the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, provide either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

In addition to any legal rights You may have under section 502(a), if You believe that we have violated ERISA s procedural requirements, You may request that we review any claimed violation(s) and we will respond to You within ten days.

B997.0248

**You May not be covered by all options in this Certificate.**

This Certificate contains all the benefits and options that are available under the Policy. You are insured only for those benefits and options that you are eligible and enrolled for, and for which the required premium has been paid.



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**CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE**

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**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000  
[www.guardianlife.com](http://www.guardianlife.com)

The Group Vision Insurance Coverage described in this Certificate is attached to the group Policy effective January 1, 2023. This Certificate replaces any Certificate previously issued under the Policy or under any other plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Employer by Guardian.

**GROUP VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Guardian certifies that the Employee to whom this Certificate is issued is eligible for the coverage, and in the amount, described herein. In order to be eligible for coverage, the Employee must: (a) satisfy all of this Employer's eligibility and Effective Date requirements; (b) be listed in Our and/or the Employer's records as a validly covered Employee under the Policy; and (c) all required premium payments must have been made by or on behalf of the Employee.

The Employee is not covered by any part of the Certificate for which he or she has waived coverage. Such a waiver of coverage is shown in Our and/or the Employer's records.

**Employer:** WHATNOT INC.

**Group Policy Number:** 00572118

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2023



Michael Prestileo,  
Senior Vice President



Harris Oliner, Senior Vice President  
and Corporate Secretary

B435.0959



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**NOTICE: WE WILL PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION BY MAIL TO THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF ALL AFFECTED NONEMPLOYEE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE FOLLOWING: TERMINATION OF THE PLAN, INCREASE IN PREMIUM, REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF BENEFITS OR RESTRICTION OF ELIGIBILITY NOT REQUESTED BY THE PLANHOLDER.**

**SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS INSURANCE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA AS SHOWN BELOW.**

### **COMPLAINT NOTICE**

**This notice is to advise You that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance you may contact the Guardian at the following address or phone number:**

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company Of America  
10 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 598-8000**

**If you feel Your complaints have not been resolved after contacting the Guardian You may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:**

**Department Of Insurance  
300 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Consumer Hotline: 1 (800) 927-HELP (4357)  
TDD: 1 (800) 482-4TDD (4833)  
Website: [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/)**

B435.1293

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### Applicable Benefits

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This Certificate may include multiple benefit options and types of benefits. You will only be covered for benefits if:

- They were previously selected in an acceptable manner and mode, such as an enrollment form or other required form; and
- We have received any required premium, subject to a grace period of 31 days.

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### Limitation of Authority

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Only the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of Guardian, has the authority to act for Us in a written and signed statement to:

- Determine whether any contract, Policy or Certificate is to be issued;
- Waive or alter any contract or Policy provisions, or any of Our requirements;
- Bind Us by any statement or promise relating to any contract issued or to be issued; or
- Accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

Agents and brokers do not have the authority to change the contract or Policy or waive any of its provisions.

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### Incontestability

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This Certificate is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums.

In the event Your insurance is rescinded during the 2 years from its date of issue, We will refund premiums paid for the periods such insurance is void.

B435.1294



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## CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GROUP VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE

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B435.0005

### All Options

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#### **Employee Eligibility**

You are eligible for vision coverage if You are:

- In an eligible class of Employees;
- An active Full-Time Employee; and
- Working at least the minimum required number of hours in Your eligible class at:
  - The Employer's place of business;
  - Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
  - Any other place You and the Employer have agreed upon for the performance of the major duties of Your job.

You are **not** eligible for vision coverage if You are:

- A temporary or seasonal Employee; or
- The Employee for whom, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, the Employer makes any payments to any kind of health and welfare benefit plan other than under this Certificate.

**Enrollment:** If You must pay all or part of the cost of Employee coverage, You must enroll and agree to make required payments within 31 days of Your eligibility date. If You fail to do this, You cannot enroll until the plan's next vision open Enrollment Period. "Open Enrollment period" means an annual open enrollment period set up by the Employer and agreed to by Us.

This plan's vision open Enrollment Period occurs from December 1st to December 31st of each year.

Once You enroll in this plan, You cannot drop Your or Your dependent's vision coverage until this plan's next vision open Enrollment Period. Once You drop Your or Your dependent's vision coverage, You will not be permitted to enroll again until the next vision open Enrollment Period which starts after the date coverage is dropped.

If You initially waived vision coverage under this plan because You were covered under another group vision care plan, and You wish to enroll in this plan because Your coverage under the other plan ended, You may do so without waiting until the next vision open Enrollment Period. But, Your coverage under the other plan must have ended due to one of the events listed below:

- Termination of Your Spouse's employment.
- Loss of eligibility under Your Spouse's vision plan.
- Divorce.
- Death of Your Spouse.
- Termination of the other vision plan.

In that case, You must enroll in the vision coverage under this plan within 30 days of the date that any of the events listed above occurs.

B435.0970

## All Options

### Dependent Eligibility

Your eligible dependents are Your:

- Spouse; and
- Dependent child, including:
  - A newborn child, natural child, stepchild or a child placed with You for adoption or foster care who is under age 26; and
  - A child who is incapable of self-support because of a physical or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition. A dependent child may remain eligible for dependent benefits past the age limit, subject to the conditions below:
    - The condition started before he or she reached the age limit; and
    - The child remained continuously covered until he or she reached the age limit; and
    - We will send notice to You to send Us written proof that the child is dependent upon You for support and maintenance and is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of a disabling physical or mental injury, illness, or condition. You have 60 days from the date the child reaches the age limit to do this. We can ask for periodic proof that the child's condition continues, but We cannot ask for this proof more than once a year.

Eligible dependent does not include anyone who is insured under the Policy as the Employee.

B435.1295

## All Options

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### Eligibility Waiting Period

You and Your dependents are eligible under this Certificate after You complete the eligibility waiting period, if any, established by the Employer.

B400.0087

## All Options

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### When Coverage Starts

Your Employer will inform You of Your Effective Date under the Group Vision Policy. Your coverage begins on the date:

- You and Your eligible dependents are eligible for the Group Vision Policy as stated in the Conditions Of Eligibility for Group Vision Insurance section; and
- You and Your eligible dependents have enrolled in the Group Vision Policy; and
- Required premiums have been paid.

B435.0036

## All Options

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### Exception to When Coverage Starts

Sometimes a scheduled Eligibility Date is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled Eligibility Date falls on:

- A holiday;
- A vacation day;
- A non-scheduled work day;

and if:

- You were fully capable of performing Active Work for the Employer for the minimum number of hours of the Employee in Your eligible class at 12:01 AM Standard Time for Your place of residence on the scheduled Eligibility Date; and

- You were Actively at Work and working the minimum number of hours of the Employee in Your eligible class on Your last regularly scheduled work day.

Your coverage will start on the scheduled Eligibility Date. However, any coverage or part of coverage for which You must elect and pay all or part of the cost, will not start if You are on an approved leave and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for You under a prior plan which this Certificate replaced.

B400.0094

## All Options

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### Family Status Change

You may request the addition of Vision Insurance Coverage if You have experienced a Family Status Change.

A Family Status Change includes one or more of the following:

- Marriage or divorce;
- Death of a Spouse or child;
- Birth or adoption of a child;
- Your Spouse's termination of employment or a change in Your Spouse's employment that results in the loss of group coverage.

The term "marriage" may also refer to civil unions and domestic partnerships, as recognized by the jurisdiction in which You reside.

If a change in Family Status occurs, You may request the addition of Vision Insurance Coverage for which You were not previously insured. You must provide proof of the Family Status Change and request the addition of Vision Insurance Coverage in writing within 31 days after the date of the Family Status Change as described above.

Refer to the When Coverage Starts section for information regarding when this coverage is effective.

B435.0981

## All Options

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### When Your Coverage Ends

Your coverage will end on the first of the following events:

- The last day of the month in which Your Active Full-Time Work ends for any reason, except as shown below under Continuation of Coverage.
- The last day of the month in which You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.

- The date the group Certificate ends, or is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for or by You.
- The date You die.

B435.1015

## All Options

### **When Your Dependent Coverage Ends**

Your dependent coverage will end on the first of the following events:

- When Your coverage ends.
- When You stop being an eligible Employee under this Certificate.
- The date the group Certificate ends, or dependent coverage is discontinued for a class of Employees to which You belong.
- The last day of the period for which required payments are made for Your dependent.
- On the last day of the month in which Your child attains the age limit, except as described in the Dependent Eligibility section.
- For your Spouse, on the last day of the month in which Your marriage ends in legal divorce or annulment.

B400.0115

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## CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

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You may have the right to continue certain group benefits for a limited time after Your coverage would otherwise end. Read this Certificate carefully for details and discuss with Your Employer or administrator.

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### Continuation Rights

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You may be eligible to continue Your group vision coverage under more than one Continuation Rights section at the same time. If You choose to continue Your group vision coverage under more than one section, the continuations: (1) start at the same time; (2) run concurrently; and (3) end independently, on their own terms.

If continuing coverage under more than one continuation section: (1) You will not be entitled to duplicate benefits; and (2) You will not be subject to the premium requirements of more than one section at the same time.

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### Uniformed Services Continuation Rights

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USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) is a federal law that provides reemployment rights for veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserve following military service. It also prohibits employer discrimination against any person on the basis of that person's past military service, current military obligations or intent to join one of the uniformed services.

If Your group vision coverage under the Policy would otherwise end because You enter into active military service, You may elect to continue such coverage for Yourself and Your eligible dependents in accordance with the provisions of USERRA.

You may contact Your Employer for additional information.

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### COBRA Continuation Rights

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If vision insurance for You or Your dependents ends, You or Your dependents may qualify for continuation of such insurance under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended (COBRA). For more information, You may contact Your Employer or visit Our website at [www.guardianlife.com](http://www.guardianlife.com).

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## **Family Medical Leave Of Absence (FMLA)**

There are certain leaves of absence that may qualify for continuation of insurance under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), or other similar laws. Please contact Your Employer for information regarding such legally mandated leave of absence laws.

B435.0038

### **All Options**

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## **Dependent Survivorship Benefit**

If You die while covered, We will continue dependent coverage for those of Your dependents who were covered when You died. We will do this for six months at no cost, provided: 1) this Employer's vision coverage remains in force; 2) the dependents remain eligible dependents; and 3) in the case of a Spouse, the Spouse does not remarry.

If a surviving dependent elects to continue his or her dependent benefits under another continuation provision, if any, this free continuation period will be provided as the first six months of such continuation.

B435.0040

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## VISION CLAIM PROVISIONS

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You may visit any provider. After VSP pays its portion of the covered charges, You are responsible for the rest. This includes any Deductible, Copayment, and amounts above any coverage maximum, as well as, any remaining charges up to the provider's total charge for services received.

Your reimbursement will be based on VSP's fee schedule for Your specific Policy. Please refer to Your Schedule of Benefits.

B435.0520

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## Filing A Claim

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If You have services performed by a Preferred Provider, Your claim will be submitted for You and the payment will be sent directly to Your Preferred Provider.

If You have services performed by a Non-Preferred Provider, You will need to submit Your own claim.

**Administration:** We have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine a Covered Person's eligibility for benefits under this Certificate. We will:

- Obtain only such information that is necessary to evaluate a claim for benefits. This information will be obtained as set forth herein with respect to Notice and Proof of Loss.
- Consider and interpret the terms of this Certificate and all information obtained by Us and submitted that relates to a claim for benefits and make a determination based on that information and in accordance with the terms of this Certificate and applicable state law.
- If a claim is approved, review the determination as often as is reasonably necessary to determine continued eligibility for benefits.
- If a claim is denied, provide the claimant, within a reasonable period of time, a written notification of an adverse determination. Such notification will include the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.

**Notice:** You must send Us written notice for which a claim is being made within 20 days of the service. We will not void or reduce Your claim if You cannot send Us notice of claim within the required time. In that case, You must send Us notice of claim as soon as reasonably possible. This notice should include his or her name and the Policy number. If the claim is being made for any other Covered Person, his or her name should also be shown.



**Claim Forms:** We will furnish You with forms for filing proof of loss within 15 days of receipt of notice. If We do not furnish the forms on time, You will be considered to have complied with the requirements of the Certificate as to proof of loss and We will accept a written description and adequate proof of the service that is the basis of the claim as proof of loss. You must detail the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made.

**Proof Of Loss:** You must send written proof of loss to Our designated office within 90 days of the loss. We will not void or reduce Your claim if You cannot send Us proof of loss within the required time. In that case, You must send Us proof as soon as reasonably possible. However, under no circumstances will We pay benefits if written proof of loss is delayed for more than one year, unless You are unable to provide proof of loss because You are not legally competent or You lack legal capacity.

**Payment Of Benefits:** We will pay Vision benefits immediately after We receive written proof of loss, subject to all the terms and conditions of this Policy.

Unless otherwise required by law or regulation, We pay all Vision benefits to You if You are living. If You are not living, Vision benefits shall be paid to Your estate, except that We may pay all Vision benefits, up to an amount not exceeding \$1000, to one of the following:

Your:

- Spouse;
- Parents;
- Children; or
- Brothers and sisters.

Any payment We make in good faith pursuant to this provision shall fully discharge Us to the extent of such payment.

All claims must be sent to VSP within one year of the date services are completed or supplies are received. To obtain a claim form visit Our website at [www.guardianlife.com](http://www.guardianlife.com).

Proof of Loss and other claim data should be submitted to:

**The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America**

Vision Service Plan  
P.O. Box 385018  
Birmingham, AL 35238-5018

**Legal Actions:** No legal action against Guardian related to this Certificate may be brought until 60 days from the date Proof of Loss has been given as shown above. No legal action may be brought against Guardian related to claims for benefits under this Certificate after 3 years from the date of the final benefit determination.

**Workers' Compensation:** The Vision benefits provided by this Certificate are not in place of and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

B435.1301

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### Adverse Benefit Determination

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If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the adverse determination.
- Reference to the specific plan provision(s) on which the determination is based.
- A description of any additional material or information necessary to make the claim valid and an explanation of why such material or information is needed.
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement indicating that You have the right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination.
- Identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an adverse benefit determination, or a statement that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request.
- In the case of an adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request; and
- In the case of an urgent care adverse determination, a description of the expedited review process.

B400.3339

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### Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations

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If a claim is wholly or partially denied, You will have up to 180 days to make an appeal.

A request for an appeal of an adverse benefit determination involving an urgent care claim may be submitted orally or in writing. Necessary information and communication regarding an urgent care claim may be sent to Guardian by telephone, facsimile or similar expeditious manner.

Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relating to the claim; and

- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by You relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- In deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision regarding review of an appeal as follows:

**Urgent Care Claims.** Guardian will notify You of its decision as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

**Pre-Service Claims.** Guardian will notify You of its decision not later than 30 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

**Post-Service Claims.** Guardian will notify You of its decision not later than 60 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination.

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## **External Reviews And Independent Medical Reviews**

In the event that You believe a claim was improperly denied, modified or delayed by Guardian or one of Our providers due to the proposed health care services being not medically necessary, You have the right to request an Independent Medical Review (IMR) by the California Department of Insurance (CDI). You must request an external review within 60 days receipt of the adverse benefit determination notice.

With regard to experimental or investigative therapies, We will notify You of the right to request an IMR within 5 business days of the adverse benefit determination notice. If Your physician determines that the proposed therapy would be significantly less effective if not promptly initiated, You can request an expedited review and the analyses and recommendations of the panel of experts will be rendered within seven days of the request for expedited review. At the request of the expert(s), the deadline can be extended by up to three days. The IMR for experimental and investigative therapies will follow the standard procedures except that the reviewer will base his or her determination on relevant medical and scientific evidence.

You can request an IMR by following the steps outlined below.

1. Notify the CDI to request an IMR by filling out an application.
2. Agree and provide written consent to participate in an IMR.
3. The CDI will determine if the request is eligible for an IMR.
4. The IMR Organization will have 30 days to review once all information is gathered unless the request involves an imminent and serious threat to health, which can be expedited and a decision rendered in 3 days.
5. The IMR organization will send the decision to You, Guardian and the Insurance Commissioner.
6. The Commissioner will adopt the recommendation of the IMR organization and promptly notify You and Guardian. The decision is binding to Guardian.

B400.3340

## All Options

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### VISION EXPENSE BENEFITS

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This coverage will pay many of a Covered Person's vision care expenses. We pay benefits for Covered Charges incurred by a Covered Person. What We pay and the terms for payment are explained below.

This Certificate includes the Schedule(s) of Benefits. Your class and benefit options are shown in the Schedule of Benefits that applies to You.

B435.0043

## All Options

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### **Vision Service Plan (VSP) - This Plan's Vision Care Preferred Provider Organization**

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The Policy is designed to provide high quality vision care while controlling the cost of such care. To do this, the Policy encourages a Covered Person to seek vision care from vision care practitioners and vision care facilities that belong to VSP, a vision care Preferred Provider Organization (PPO).

The vision care PPO is made up of Preferred Providers in a Covered Person's geographic area. When a Covered Person is enrolled in the Policy, he or she will get an enrollment packet. The packet will: (1) explain how to obtain benefits; and (2) contain information about current vision care Preferred Providers. He or she will also receive information on how to obtain a list of VSP Preferred Providers in his or her area.

A Covered Person may receive vision services from any VSP Preferred Provider. If a Preferred Provider ends his or her relationship with VSP for any reason, VSP will be responsible for furnishing vision services to Covered Persons either through that provider or another VSP Preferred Provider.

Use of the vision care PPO is voluntary. A Covered Person may receive vision care from any vision care provider he or she chooses. And he or she is free to change providers at any time. But, the Policy usually pays more in benefits for covered services furnished by a Preferred Provider. Conversely, it usually pays less for covered services not furnished by a vision care Preferred Provider.

What We pay is based on all of the terms of the Policy. Please read this Certificate carefully for specific benefit levels, Copayments, Deductibles, Payment Rates and Payment Limits.

A Covered Person may call VSP should he or she have any questions about the vision coverage.

VSP Customer Care

877-814-8970

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## Obtaining Services from a Preferred Provider

When a Covered Person wishes to receive services from a Preferred Provider, he or she must contact the Preferred Provider before receiving the services. The Preferred Provider will contact VSP to verify the Covered Person's coverage.

What We pay for charges for covered services is subject to all of the terms of this Certificate.

B435.0989

### All Options

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## Continuity Of Care

At Your request, We can arrange for the completion of covered services by a terminated Preferred Provider for the duration of an Acute Condition. A terminated Preferred Provider means a vision care practitioner whose contract to provide services to Covered Persons is terminated or not renewed by Us or one of Our contracting vision groups. A terminated Preferred Provider is not a vision care practitioner who voluntarily leaves Us or Our contracting vision group. You must be undergoing a course of treatment for an Acute Condition and Your coverage under the Policy must continue during the completion of covered services.

B435.0511

### All Options

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## How This Plan Works

We pay benefits for the covered charges a Covered Person incurs as shown below. The services and supplies covered under this Certificate are explained in Covered Services and Supplies. What We pay is subject to all of the terms of this Certificate. Read the entire Certificate to find out what We limit or exclude.

Covered charges are the charges for the services and supplies described below. We pay benefits only for covered charges Incurred by a Covered Person while he or she is covered by this Certificate. Charges in excess of any Payment Limits shown in this Certificate are not covered.

If a Covered Person plans to use the services of a Preferred Provider, the Preferred Provider must receive authorization from VSP. See Obtaining Services from a Preferred Provider. If authorization is not received, benefits will be paid as if services and supplies were received from a Non-Preferred Provider.

If a Covered Person receives services or supplies from a Non-Preferred Provider, he or she must submit the itemized bill to VSP for claims payment. Please refer to Vision Claim Provisions in this Certificate.

**Copayments:** A Covered Person must pay a Copayment each time he or she receives a vision examination. And, he or she must pay a Copayment each time he or she receives lenses or a frame or a complete pair of eyeglasses covered by this Certificate. We pay benefits for the covered charges a Covered Person incurs in excess of the Copayment. This Certificate's Copayments are shown in the Schedule Of Benefits.

**Cash Deductibles:** There are separate cash Deductibles for each covered service furnished by a Non-Preferred Provider. These cash Deductibles are shown in the Schedule of Benefits. The Covered Person must have covered charges in excess of the cash Deductible before We pay benefits for the service or supply. The cash Deductible will be subtracted from the reimbursement to the member.

**Payment Limits:** Payment limits, durational or monetary, are shown in the Covered Services and Supplies. When a monetary Payment Limit is set for a pair of materials, the limit is halved if only one item is purchased.

**Payment Rates:** Once a Covered Person has paid any applicable Copayment or Deductible, We pay benefits for covered charges under this Certificate at the Payment Rate shown in the Schedule Of Benefits. What We pay is subject to all of the terms of this Certificate.

B435.1311

## All Options

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### Covered Services And Supplies

This section lists the types of charges We cover. But, what We pay is subject to all of the terms of this Certificate. Read the entire Certificate to find out what We limit or exclude.

B435.0048

## All Options

**Vision Examinations:** We cover charges for comprehensive vision care examinations of visual functions and prescription of corrective eyewear. We only cover charges for one vision examination for each Covered Person in any one calendar year Benefit Period. The comprehensive vision care examination does not include a contact lens exam (evaluation and fitting).

If a Covered Person receives a vision examination from a Preferred Provider, We pay benefits in full for the covered charges for that examination.

If a Covered Person receives a vision examination from a Non-Preferred Provider, We pay benefits for the covered charges for that examination, up to \$39.00.

B435.0049

## **All Options**

**Vision Materials** We cover charges for either glass or plastic prescription single vision, bifocal, trifocal or Lenticular Lenses. We cover charges for frames. And, We cover charges for prescription contact lenses. Benefit allowances provide no remaining balance for future use within the same Benefit Period, except for Contact Lens benefit.

In any one calendar year Benefit Period We cover charges for either glasses or contact lenses, but not both.

B435.0060

## **All Options**

**Standard Lenses:** We cover charges for single vision, bifocal, trifocal or Lenticular Lenses. They must be glass or plastic lenses or for dependent children to age 19, Polycarbonate Lenses.

B435.0578

## **All Options**

We only cover charges for one pair of Standard Lenses in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

B435.0583

## **All Options**

If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay to: (1) \$23.00 for each pair of single vision lenses; (2) \$37.00 for each pair of bifocal lenses; (3) \$49.00 for each pair of trifocal lenses; and (4) \$64.00 for each pair of Lenticular Lenses.

B435.0590

## **All Options**

If the Covered Person chooses elective contact lenses, We do not cover Standard Lenses for one calendar year from the date the elective contact lenses are purchased.

B435.0597

## **Option B**

**Standard Frames:** We cover charges for Standard Frames.

If a Covered Person uses a Preferred Provider, We cover charges up to a retail frame allowance of \$150.00.



## Covered Services And Supplies (Cont.)

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If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what we pay for each set of Standard Frames to \$46.00.

We only cover charges for one set of Standard Frames in any two calendar year Benefit Period.

If the Covered Person chooses elective contact lenses, We do not cover Standard Frames for two calendar years from the date the elective contact lenses are purchased.

B435.0713

### Option D

**Standard Frames:** We cover charges for Standard Frames.

If a Covered Person uses a Preferred Provider, We cover charges up to a retail frame allowance of \$250.00.

If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what we pay for each set of Standard Frames to \$46.00.

We only cover charges for one set of Standard Frames in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

If the Covered Person chooses elective contact lenses, We do not cover Standard Frames for one calendar year from the date the elective contact lenses are purchased.

B435.0714

### All Options

**Necessary Contact Lenses:** We cover charges for necessary contact lenses but only in place of all other lens and frame benefits available herein. This means that utilization of contact lens benefits exhausts all of the Covered Person's lens and frame benefits for the current Benefit Period, and future eligibility for lenses and frames will be determined as if spectacle lenses and frames were obtained in the current Benefit Period. We cover necessary contact lenses and charges for related professional services but only if the lenses are needed: (1) following cataract surgery; (2) to correct extreme visual acuity problems that cannot be corrected with spectacle lenses; (3) for certain conditions of: Anisometropia or Keratoconus.

And, We only cover charges for one pair of necessary contact lenses in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

If a Covered Person receives necessary contact lenses from a Preferred Provider, We pay 100% of the covered charges.

If a Covered Person receives necessary contact lenses from a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay for covered charges for such lenses to \$210.00 in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

B435.0616

## Option D

**Elective Contact Lenses:** We cover charges for elective contact lenses, but only in place of all other lens and frame benefits available herein. This means that utilization of contact lens benefits exhausts all of the Covered Person's lens and frame benefits for the current Benefit Period, and future eligibility for lenses and frames will be determined as if spectacle lenses and frames were obtained in the current Benefit Period. We cover charges for hard, rigid gas permeable, soft, disposable, 30-day extended wear, daily-wear and planned replacement elective contact lenses.

If the Covered Person chooses elective contact lenses, We do not cover charges for Standard Lenses for one calendar year and Standard Frames for one calendar year from the date the elective contact lenses are purchased.

If a Covered Person uses a Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay for elective contact lenses to \$250.00

If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay for elective contact lenses to \$100.00.

We cover charges for one set of elective contact lenses in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

B435.0627

## Option B

**Elective Contact Lenses:** We cover charges for elective contact lenses, but only in place of all other lens and frame benefits available herein. This means that utilization of contact lens benefits exhausts all of the Covered Person's lens and frame benefits for the current Benefit Period, and future eligibility for lenses and frames will be determined as if spectacle lenses and frames were obtained in the current Benefit Period. We cover charges for hard, rigid gas permeable, soft, disposable, 30-day extended wear, daily-wear and planned replacement elective contact lenses.

If the Covered Person chooses elective contact lenses, We do not cover charges for Standard Lenses for one calendar year and Standard Frames for two calendar years from the date the elective contact lenses are purchased.

If a Covered Person uses a Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay for elective contact lenses to \$150.00

If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider, We limit what We pay for elective contact lenses to \$100.00.

We cover charges for one set of elective contact lenses in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

Charges are covered up to the contact lens allowance. The allowance may be applied towards an elective contact lens Fitting and Evaluation at some provider locations.

B435.1114

## Option D

**Elective Contact Lens Fitting and Evaluation:** The Covered Person must pay a Copayment each time he or she receives an elective contact lens Fitting and Evaluation for the covered elective contact lenses. We pay benefits for the covered charges a Covered Person incurs in excess of the Copayment. This Certificate's Copayments are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

If a Covered Person uses a Non-Preferred Provider the contact lens allowance is applied towards the cost of the contact lenses and the Fitting and Evaluation.

B435.0635

## All Options

**Low Vision Benefits:** We pay benefits for the covered charges at the Payment Rates shown in the Schedule of Benefits provided to a Covered Person who has severe visual problems which cannot be corrected with Standard Lenses.

Low Vision services are Low Vision Supplementary Testing and Low Vision Supplemental Care.

If a Covered Person receives Low Vision Supplementary Testing, We pay benefits for the covered charges for the testing up to \$125.00 per test.

We cover no more than two Low Vision Supplementary Test(s) per Covered Person in any 24 month Benefit Period.

We limit what We pay for all covered Low Vision services, including any amount paid for Low Vision Supplementary Testing, to \$1,000.00 per Covered Person in any 24 month Benefit Period.

B435.1126

## All Options

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## Exclusions

No benefits will be paid for services or materials connected with, or charges arising from:

- Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing.
- Aniseikonic lenses.
- Medical and/or surgical treatment of the eyes or supporting structures.
- Any vision examination or corrective eyewear or safety eyewear required by an employer as a condition of employment unless specifically covered under this Certificate.
- Services or materials provided by any other group benefit plan providing vision care.

- Plano Lenses (non-prescription lenses with less than a +/- .50 diopter power).
- Plano contact lenses to change eye color cosmetically or artistically painted contact lenses.
- Non-prescription sunglasses.
- Two sets of glasses in lieu of bifocals.
- Replacement of lenses, frames, glasses or contact lenses furnished under this Certificate which are lost or broken, except at normal intervals when services are otherwise available.
- Refitting of contact lenses after the initial 90 day fitting period.
- Routine maintenance of contact lenses, such as polishing or cleaning or modifications to contact lenses.
- Corneal refractive therapy (CRT) or orthokeratology (using contact lenses to change the shape of the cornea to reduce myopia).
- A frame that costs more than this Certificate allowance.
- Unused allowance amounts cannot be banked for future use. The allowance must be used during the same office visit.
- Benefits cannot be split. Frames and lenses must be purchased during the same office visit.

B435.1337

#### **All Options**

- Progressive Multi-Focal Lenses.

B435.0089

#### **All Options**

- Anti-Reflective Coating of the lens or lenses.

B435.0090

#### **All Options**

- Photochromic Lenses.

B435.0092

#### **All Options**

- Ultraviolet Coating of lenses.

B435.0093

#### **All Options**

- Scratch Resistant Coating.

B435.0095

**All Options**

- High Index Lenses.

B435.0096

**All Options**

- Polycarbonate Lenses for adults.

B435.0097

**All Options**

- Polarized/Laminated Lenses.

B435.0098

**All Options**

- Oversize Lenses.

B435.0636

**All Options**

- Mirror and Ski Coating.

B435.0099

**All Options**

- Edge Treatment.

B435.0100

**All Options**

- Tinted Lenses.

B435.0637

**All Options**

- Blended Lenses.

B435.0101

**All Options**

Charges not covered due to these exclusions are not considered charges for covered vision services and cannot be used to satisfy this Certificate's Copayments or Deductibles, if any.

B435.0147

## All Options

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### DEFINITIONS

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This section defines certain terms appearing in Your Certificate.

B040.0004

## All Options

**Active Work or  
Actively At Work or  
Actively Working:** These terms mean You are able to perform, and are performing the regular duties of Your work for the Employer, at:

- One of the Employer's usual places of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and the Employer have agreed on for Your work.

B435.0518

## All Options

**Acute Condition:** This term means a vision condition that involves a sudden onset of symptoms due to a vision problem that requires prompt vision attention and that has a limited duration.

B435.0516

## All Options

**Anisometropia:** This term means a condition in which two eyes have unequal refractive power. Each eye can be nearsighted (myopia), farsighted (hyperopia), or a combination of both, which is called antimetropia. Generally a difference in power of two diopters or more is the accepted threshold to label the condition anisometropia.

B435.1044

## All Options

**Anti-Reflective  
Coating:** This term means a clear lens coating that limits light reflection by allowing the maximum amount of light to pass through the lens.

B435.0105

## All Options

**Benefit Period:** This term means the time period beginning when a covered service is received and extending for the period shown in this Certificate, during which benefits for the covered service are available to a Covered Person.

B040.0846

**Blended Lenses:** This term means bifocals which do not have a visible dividing line.

B040.0847

**Certificate:** This term means this Certificate of Coverage, including the Schedule of Benefits and any riders and enrollment forms that may be attached to this Certificate.

B435.0108

**Copayment:** This term means a charge, expressed as a fixed dollar amount, required to be paid by or on behalf of a Covered Person to a Preferred Provider at the time covered services are received.

B435.0109

## All Options

**Corneal Disorders:** This term means any condition (other than Keratoconus) of congenital, pathological or surgical etiology causing compromised integrity of the corneal curvature or media resulting in best correctable acuity of 20/70 or less with spectacles in one or both eyes.

B435.0110

## All Options

**Covered Person:** This term means You, if You are covered by the Policy, and any of Your covered dependents.

B435.0185

## All Options

**Deductible:** This term means a fixed dollar amount the Covered Person is responsible for paying before Guardian will begin paying the cost of covered benefits.

B435.0111

## All Options

**Edge Treatment:** This term means a cosmetic service to make the sides of a cut lens look clear rather than a milky white.

B435.0112

## All Options

**Effective Date:** The date the Policy goes into force and effect as stated on the cover page of the Certificate of Coverage, or any change to the Policy as requested by the Employer and approved by Us and in force and effect as stated on cover page of the Certificate of Coverage.

B435.0113

## All Options

**Eligibility Date:** This term means the earliest date You are eligible for coverage under this Certificate as directed by the Employer, and you have satisfied all requirements for coverage to begin, as required by this Certificate.

B435.0114

## All Options

**Employee:** This term means the member of the group determined to be eligible by the Employer.

B435.0115

## All Options

**Employer:** This term means the entity that purchased the Policy.

B435.0116

## All Options

**Enrollment Period:** This term means the 31 day period which starts on the date You first become eligible for dependent coverage.

B040.0856

## All Options

**Fitting and Evaluation:** This term means an examination for the proper fit of contacts and evaluating vision with the contacts. Includes prescription, fitting, evaluation, modification and/or dispensing of contact lenses.

B435.0117

## All Options

**Full-time:** This term means:

You are not a Part-Time Employee as defined by Your Employer and You work at least the minimum required number of hours for the Employer in Your Eligible class (but not less than 30 hours per week), at:



- Your Employer's place of business;
- Some place where the Employer's business requires You to travel; or
- Any other place You and Your Employer have agreed upon for the performance of Your job.

B435.0145

#### All Options

**High Index Lenses:** This term means material that is used to create thinner lenses than normal plastic. The material does not contain the impact-resistant qualities of polycarbonate.

B435.0120

#### All Options

**High Myopia:** Refractive error greater than plus or minus 10.00 diopters of correction; best correctable visual acuity with spectacles of 20/40 or less in either eye; at least two lines improvement in best correctable visual acuity (as measured with standard Snellen chart) with contact lenses.

B435.0121

#### All Options

**Incurred, or Incurred Date:** These terms mean: (1) the placing of an order for lenses, frames or contact lenses; or (2) the date on which such an order was placed.

B040.0860

#### All Options

**Irregular Astigmatism:** This term means greater than or equal to 2.00 diopters of astigmatism in either eye where the principal meridians are separated by less than 90 degrees, resulting in best correctable acuity of 20/70 or less in the affected eye with spectacles.

B435.0123

#### All Options

**Keratoconus:** This term means a development or dystrophic deformity of the cornea in which it becomes cone shaped due to a thinning and stretching of the tissue in its central area. Diagnosis confirmed by keratometric readings, or corneal topography best correctable visual acuity with spectacles of 20/40 or less in either eye; at least two lines improvement in best correctable visual acuity (as measured with standard Snellen chart) with rigid contact lenses.

B435.0124

### All Options

**Lenticular Lenses:** This term means mean high-powered lenses with the desired prescription power found only in the central portion. The outer portion has a front surface with a changing radius of curvature.

B040.0862

### All Options

**Low Vision:** This term means a partial loss of vision; a loss of acuity or sharpness or a loss of side/peripheral vision; and that the Covered Person's most favorable corrected visual acuity is 20/70 or worse in one or both eyes.

B435.1046

### All Options

**Low Vision Supplemental Care:** This term means subsequent Low Vision therapy, when visually necessary or appropriate.

B435.1047

### All Options

**Low Vision Supplementary Testing:** This term means a Low Vision analysis and diagnosis. The analysis and diagnosis includes: (a) a comprehensive examination of visual functions; and (b) the prescription of corrective eyewear or vision aids, when required.

B435.1048

### All Options

**Mirror and Ski Coating:** This term means a thin deposit of appropriate material to the front surface of a lens, causing a portion of the light striking the lens to reflect directly from the front surface.

B435.0125

### All Options

**Non-Preferred Provider:** This term means any optometrist, optician, ophthalmologist, or other licensed and qualified vision care provider that is not under contract, directly or indirectly, with VSP as a Preferred Provider.

B435.0692

### All Options

**Orthoptics:** This term means the teaching and training process for the improvement of visual perception and coordination of two eyes for efficient and comfortable binocular vision.

B040.0865

### All Options

**Oversize Lenses:** This term means larger than a standard lens blank, to accommodate prescriptions.

B040.0866

### All Options

**Payment Limit:** This term means the maximum amount this Certificate pays for covered services and supplies during a specified Benefit Period.

B435.0128

### All Options

**Payment Rate:** This term means the percentage rate that this Certificate pays for covered services and supplies.

B435.0129

### All Options

**Photochromic Lenses:** This term means lenses which change color with the intensity of sunlight.

B040.0870

### All Options

**Plano Lenses:** This term means lenses which have no refractive power (lenses with less than a greater than or equal to .38 diopter power).

B435.0130

### All Options

**Polarized/Laminated Lenses:** This term means lenses that block light reflected from horizontal surfaces such as water, in order to reduce glare.

B435.0131

### All Options

**Policy:** This term means the group Vision Insurance Coverage described in the Policy and this Certificate.

B435.0132

### All Options

**Polycarbonate Lenses:** This term means the highest impact-resistant lens material available. Its high-index properties result in lenses 20-25% thinner than regular plastic. This material is often used for safety and children's eyewear as well as for sports and cosmetic purposes.

B435.0133

## All Options

**Preferred Provider:** This term means an optometrist, optician, ophthalmologist or other licensed and qualified vision care provider who has entered into a contract, directly or indirectly with VSP to provide vision care services and or Vision Materials to Covered Persons.

B435.0638

## All Options

**Progressive Multi-Focal Lenses:** This term means lenses that have no line, but progresses from distance, to intermediate, to near vision.

B435.0135

## All Options

**Registered Reciprocal Beneficiaries:** This term means an employee and his or her reciprocal beneficiary: (a) who have filed a Declaration of Reciprocal Beneficiary Relationship with the Director of Health of the State of Hawaii as provided in section 572C-5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes; (b) the declaration has been registered by the Director; and (c) a certificate of reciprocal beneficiary relationship has been provided to each party named on the declaration.

B435.1984

## All Options

**Reciprocal Beneficiary:** This term means an adult who is a party to a valid reciprocal beneficiary relationship and who meets the following requirements for such a relationship:

- Each of the parties must be at least eighteen years old.
- Neither of the parties can be married nor a party to another reciprocal beneficiary relationship.
- The parties must be legally prohibited from marrying one another under chapter 572 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- Consent of either party to the reciprocal beneficiary relationship has not been obtained by force, duress, or fraud.
- Each of the parties must sign a Declaration of Reciprocal Beneficiary Relationship.

B435.1985

## All Options

**Scratch Resistant Coating:** This term means a coating applied to spectacle lenses to increase the scratch resistance of the lens surface.

B435.0136

## **All Options**

**Spouse:** This term means the person to whom You are legally married, or Your registered domestic partner, civil union partner or equivalent as recognized and allowed by federal law, or state law in Your state of residence or the state in which the marriage or Your registered domestic partner, civil union partner or equivalent was recorded.

B435.0517

## **All Options**

**Standard Frames:** This term means frames valued up to the limit published by VSP which is given to Preferred Providers.

B435.0639

## **All Options**

**Standard Lenses:** This term means regular glass or plastic lenses.

B435.0139

## **All Options**

**Tinted Lenses:** This term means lenses which have an additional substance added to produce constant tint.

B040.0878

## **All Options**

**Ultraviolet Coating (UV):** This term means a coating that blocks ultraviolet rays.

B435.0141

## **All Options**

**Vision Materials:** This term means (1) Elective Contact Lenses; or (2) Standard Lenses, Standard Frames or a complete pair of eyeglasses (lenses and frames).

B435.0142

## **All Options**

**We, Us, Our and Guardian:** These terms mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

B435.0143

## **All Options**

**You, Your or Your:** These terms mean the covered Employee.

B435.0144

## STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

### The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

10 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 598-8000

Your group Vision benefits may be covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). If so, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under ERISA.

ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

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

- (a) 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.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, 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.
- (c) 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.

#### **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 employee benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your 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.

#### **Enforcement of Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare 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 (see Claims Procedures below).

## Statement of Erisa Rights (Cont.)

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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 state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

### **Assistance with Questions**

If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if 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 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.

### **Qualified Medical Child Support Order and Qualified Domestic Relations Order**

Federal law required that group health plans provide medical coverage for a dependent child pursuant to a qualified medical child support order (QMCSO). A dependent child also includes a child for whom You must provide Vision Insurance due to a QMCSO as defined in the ERISA Section 609(a) United States Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

You and your beneficiaries can obtain, without charge, from the plan administrator, a copy of any procedures governing Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDRO) and QMCSO. You may also obtain this information on the U.S. Department of Labor's website or You may contact them in your telephone directory.

A dependent enrolled due to a QMCSO will not be considered a late enrollee in the plan.

If you have questions about this section, see your plan administrator.

## Statement of Erisa Rights (Cont.)

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**Vision Benefits Claims Procedure** Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (hereinafter referenced as Guardian).

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with discretionary authority to interpret and construe the terms of the Policy, the Certificate, the Schedule of Benefits, and any riders, or other documents or forms that may be attached to the Certificate or the Policy, and any other plan documents. Guardian has discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and coverage under those documents. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of ERISA.

B435.0148

### All Options

**Definitions** "Adverse Benefit Determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

**Timing for Initial Benefit Determination** The Benefit Determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a Benefit Determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any Adverse Benefit Determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a Benefit Determination not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a Benefit Determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a Benefit Determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.



If Guardian extends the time period for making a Benefit Determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**Adverse Benefit Determination**

If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the Adverse Benefit Determination;
- References to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan or other documents, on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information necessary to reconsider the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- A description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures;
- Identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an Adverse Benefit Determination, or a statement that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request;
- A description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an Adverse Benefit Determination on appeal, and;
- In the case of an Adverse Benefit Determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

**Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations**

If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal. Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimant(s) the following:

- The opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- The opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim; and
- A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will:

- Provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial Adverse Benefit Determination nor that person's subordinate;

- In deciding an appeal based upon a vision or medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- Identify vision or medical experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an Adverse Benefit Determination;
- Ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a professional judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the Adverse Benefit Determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the Adverse Benefit Determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

In the event Guardian denies the appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination, it will:

- Provide the specific reason or reasons why the appeal was denied;
- Refer to the specific provisions in the Policy, Certificate, plan, or other documents on which the benefit determination is based;
- Provide a statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
- If applicable, provide the internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination, either the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion; or a statement that such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination and that a copy of the rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.

**Alternative Dispute Options** The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

B435.0149

## All Options

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### VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

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This Schedule of Benefits is attached to the Certificate and is effective the later of: 1) the Policy Effective Date; or 2) the Effective Date of any amendment. This Schedule of Benefits replaces any previously issued Schedule of Benefits.

B435.1131

## All Options

**Initial Election** You may choose to be covered under one of the plans of vision expense coverage offered by Your Employer. You may only be covered under one plan at a time. You must notify the Employer of Your election and pay the required premium.

B435.0151

## All Options

**Group Enrollment Period** A group enrollment period is held each year from December 1st to December 31st. During this period, You may choose to enroll for vision insurance coverage under the Policy. In that case, coverage is scheduled to start on the date determined by Your Employer that next follows the date You enroll.

B435.0155

## Option D

<b>PPO Copayments</b>	Examinations . . . . .	\$10.00
	Standard Frames and/or Standard Lenses . . . . .	\$10.00
	Necessary Contact Lenses . . . . .	\$10.00
	Fitting and Evaluation - Up to . . . . .	\$60.00
	Low Vision Examinations and Services . . . . .	None
	Low Vision Materials . . . . .	None
<b>Non-PPO Cash Deductibles</b>	Examinations . . . . .	\$10.00
	Standard Frames and/or Standard Lenses . . . . .	\$10.00
	Necessary Contact Lenses . . . . .	\$10.00
	Low Vision Examinations and Services . . . . .	None
	Low Vision Materials . . . . .	None
<b>Payment Rates</b>	For Covered Charges . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Testing furnished by a Preferred Provider . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Testing furnished by a Non-Preferred Provider . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Care furnished by a Preferred Provider . . . . .	75%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Care furnished by a Non-Preferred Provider . . . . .	75%

B435.1133

## Option B

<b>PPO Copayments</b>	Examinations . . . . .	\$10.00
	Standard Frames and/or Standard Lenses . . . . .	\$25.00
	Necessary Contact Lenses . . . . .	\$25.00
	Low Vision Examinations and Services . . . . .	None
	Low Vision Materials . . . . .	None
<b>Non-PPO Cash Deductibles</b>	Examinations . . . . .	\$10.00
	Standard Frames and/or Standard Lenses . . . . .	\$25.00
	Necessary Contact Lenses . . . . .	\$25.00
	Low Vision Examinations and Services . . . . .	None
	Low Vision Materials . . . . .	None
<b>Payment Rates</b>	For Covered Charges . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Testing furnished by a Preferred Provider . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Testing furnished by a Non-Preferred Provider . . . . .	100%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Care furnished by a Preferred Provider . . . . .	75%
	For Low Vision Supplementary Care furnished by a Non-Preferred Provider . . . . .	75%

B435.1134

## All Options

**Changes in Coverage Amounts** If You are not Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis, any change in Your amount of coverage or the amount of coverage on a covered dependent will not become effective until the date You return to Active Work on a Full-Time basis.

**Changes In Insurance Classification** If Your classification changes, coverage will not be changed to the new amount until the first day on which You are: (1) Actively At Work on a Full-Time basis; and (2) make a contribution, if required, for the new classification.

If a contribution is required for the new classification for which a larger amount of coverage is provided, You must make the required contribution for the amount within 31 days of the change.

B435.1139

## Option D

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### CERTIFICATE RIDER

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

#### **Vision Care Plan Election Procedures**

Your Employer offers a Davis Vision vision care plan as an alternative to VSP's vision coverage under this plan. You can enroll for either Davis Vision's vision coverage or for VSP's vision coverage, but not both at the same time.

If You are enrolled for VSP's vision coverage under this plan, You may change Your election and enroll in Davis Vision's vision care plan during any open enrollment period.

If You change your election, Your covered dependents will automatically be switched to Davis Vision's vision care plan at the same time as You.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B435.1166

## Option B

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### CERTIFICATE RIDER

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

#### **Vision Care Plan Election Procedures**

Your Employer offers a Davis Vision vision care plan as an alternative to VSP's vision coverage under this plan. You can enroll for either Davis Vision's vision coverage or for VSP's vision coverage, but not both at the same time.

If You are enrolled for VSP's vision coverage under this plan, You may change Your election and enroll in Davis Vision's vision care plan during any open enrollment period except You may not change Your election until the end of any 2 calendar year frequency benefit period.

If You change your election, Your covered dependents will automatically be switched to Davis Vision's vision care plan at the same time as You.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this rider, nothing contained in this rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B435.1167

## All Options

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### CERTIFICATE RIDER

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This Rider is effective as of the effective date of the Employee's Certificate. If this Rider is added to an inforce Certificate, the Rider becomes effective on its issue date. This Rider amends the Certificate by the addition of the following:

#### Services and Supplies Received from Participating Retail Chain Providers

Vision care services and supplies that are covered by the Certificate when received from a Preferred Provider or a Non-Preferred Provider may also be covered by the Certificate when such services and supplies are received from a Participating Retail Chain Provider, subject to the limitations and exclusions below.

If services and supplies are received from a Participating Retail Chain Provider, We pay benefits for covered charges, after the Copayment, as shown below:

SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDER - COSTCO, WALMART and SAM'S CLUB	OTHER PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDERS
<b>Eye Exam</b> - one in any one calendar year Benefit Period.	Covered In Full.	Covered In Full.

B435.1387

## All Options

**Standard Lenses** - one pair in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

● Single Vision	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)
● Bifocal	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)
● Trifocal	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)
● Lenticular	Not Available.	Covered In Full. (Not all lens types may be available at all locations.)
<b>Lens Options</b> - once in any one calendar year Benefit Period.	Covered In Full. (Not all lens options may be available at all locations.)	Covered In Full. (Not all lens options may be available at all locations.)

B435.0668



## Option B

### SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

**Standard Frames** - one set in any 2 calendar year Benefit Period.

### PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDER - COSTCO, WALMART and SAM'S CLUB

Covered In Full up to \$80.00.  
No discount available on charges in excess of the benefit amount.

### OTHER PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDERS

Covered In Full up to \$150.00.

B435.1388

## Option D

### SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

**Standard Frames** - one set in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

### PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDER - COSTCO, WALMART and SAM'S CLUB

Covered In Full up to \$135.00.  
No discount available on charges in excess of the benefit amount.

### OTHER PARTICIPATING RETAIL CHAIN PROVIDERS

Covered In Full up to \$250.00.

B435.1388

## Option B

**Elective Contact Lenses** - one pair in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

- Contact Lens (Materials Only)

Covered In Full up to \$150.00.

Covered In Full up to \$150.00.

B435.0672

## Option D

**Elective Contact Lenses** - one pair in any one calendar year Benefit Period.

- Contact Lens (Materials Only)

Covered In Full up to \$250.00.

Covered In Full up to \$250.00.

B435.0672

## All Options

### LIMITATIONS

- Limitations and exclusions of benefits described in the Certificate for VSP Preferred Providers shall also apply to services and supplies received from Participating Retail Chain Provider Providers.
- If a service or supply is not covered by the Certificate when received from a Preferred Provider or a Non-Preferred Provider, such service or supply is not covered by the Certificate when received from a Participating Retail Chain Provider.

- Services and supplies received from a Participating Retail Chain Provider are in lieu of services and supplies received from a VSP Preferred Provider or a Non-Preferred Provider. Membership may be required in order to access benefits through a Participating Retail Chain Provider. Membership fees are not covered under the Certificate.

B435.1160

## All Options

### EXCLUSIONS

- We do not cover charges for:
  - Medically Necessary Contact Lenses.
  - Safety Glasses.
  - Interim Benefits.
  - Primary Eye Care.
  - Diabetic Eye Care Plus Program.

B435.1161

## All Options

### DEFINITIONS

This section defines certain terms appearing in this Rider. Additional terms, not listed here, are defined in the Certificate.

**Participating Retail Chain Provider:** This term means vision care providers who are not contracted as VSP Preferred Providers but who have agreed to bill VSP directly for covered vision services and supplies provided as set forth in this rider. Not all Participating Retail Chain Providers may be able to provide all such covered vision services and supplies. Covered Persons should discuss requested services with their provider or contact VSP Customer Care at (877) 814-8970 for details.

The following definition replaces the definition of the term "Copayment" as it is shown in the Certificate.

**Copayment:** This term means a charge, expressed as a fixed dollar amount, required to be paid by, or on behalf of, a Covered Person to a Preferred Provider or a Participating Retail Chain Provider at the time covered vision services or supplies are received.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President

B435.0691

## All Options

### Have a complaint or need help?

If You have a problem with a claim or Your premium, call Your insurance company first. If You can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if You file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, You should also file a complaint or appeal through Your insurance company. If You don't, You may lose Your right to appeal.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and/or Managed DentalGuard (for DHMO coverage only)

To get information or to file a complaint with your insurance company or HMO:

Call: (toll-free) 1-888-GUARDIAN (1-888-482-7342)

Online: [www.guardiananytime.com/contact-us](http://www.guardiananytime.com/contact-us)

Email: [corporate\\_inquiries@glic.com](mailto:corporate_inquiries@glic.com)

Mail: Corporate Complaints, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call: 1-800-252-3439

Online: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

E-mail: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Mail: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714

### Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamacion o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compania de seguros. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en ingles) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, tambien debe presentar una queja a traves del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compania de seguros. Si no lo hace, podria perder su derecho para apelar.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and/or Managed DentalGuard (for DHMO coverage only)

Para obtener informacion o para presentar una queja ante su compania de seguros:

Llame: (telefono gratuito) 1-888-GUARDIAN (1-888-482-7342)

En linea: [www.guardiananytime.com/contact-us](http://www.guardiananytime.com/contact-us)

Correo electronico: [corporate\\_inquiries@glic.com](mailto:corporate_inquiries@glic.com)

Direccion postal: Corporate Complaints, 10 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:  
Llame: 1-800-252-3439  
En línea: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)  
Correo electrónico: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)  
Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714

B435.1974

## All Options

### CERTIFICATE RIDER

This Rider is effective immediately. The provisions in this Rider are based on Texas laws and regulations and supersede similar language that appears in the Certificate. Furthermore, any provision in the Certificate that is not consistent with this Rider and/or is contrary to Texas laws and regulations is void.

This Rider amends this Certificate's insurance provisions for Covered Persons residing in the state of Texas as follows:

B435.1958

## All Options

- The following is added to the cover page:

**"THIS INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM."**

B435.1965

## All Options

- The **Incontestability** provision in **General Provisions** is replaced in its entirety to read:

### **Incontestability**

This Certificate is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums. No statement in any application, except a fraudulent statement, made by a Covered Person will be used to contest the validity of his or her insurance or to deny a claim for a loss incurred after his or her insurance has been in force for two years during his or her lifetime. In the absence of fraud, a statement may not be used to contest the validity of his or her insurance or to deny a claim for a loss incurred unless the statement is contained in a written instrument signed by the Covered Person.

In the event Your insurance is rescinded, We will refund premiums paid for the periods such insurance is void.

B435.1959

## All Options

- The following provisions in **Conditions of Eligibility For Group Vision Insurance Coverage** are replaced in their entirety to read:

### **Dependent Eligibility**

Your eligible dependents are Your:

- Spouse; and

- Dependent child, including:
  - A newborn child from the moment of birth, natural child, an adopted child or any child to whom You or Your Spouse are a party to a suit to adopt the child, stepchild, a natural or adopted child of Your Spouse, a grandchild who is dependent on You for federal income tax purposes at the time of application, a child for whom You are required by court to provide vision support or a child placed with You for foster care who is under age 26; and
  - A child who is incapable of self-support because of a physical or mental incapacity. A dependent child may remain eligible for dependent benefits past the age limit, subject to the conditions below:
    - The condition started before he or she reached the age limit; and
    - The child remained continuously covered until he or she reached the age limit; and
    - You send Us written proof, and We approve such proof, of the child's disability and dependence within 31 days from the date he or she reaches the age limit. After the two year period following the child's attainment of the age limit, We can ask for periodic proof that the child's condition continues, but We cannot ask for this proof more than once a year.

Eligible dependent does not include anyone who is insured under the Policy as the Employee.

#### **When Coverage Starts**

Your Employer will inform You of Your Effective Date under the Group Vision Policy. Your coverage begins on the date:

- You and Your eligible dependents are eligible for the Group Vision Policy as stated in the Conditions Of Eligibility for Group Vision Insurance section; and
- You and Your eligible dependents have enrolled in the Group Vision Policy; and
- Required premiums have been paid.

**Newborn Children:** Your newborn child is covered automatically from the moment of birth until the child is 31 days old. Coverage will be the same as for all other covered dependent children. You must notify Us within 31 days of such birth and pay any required premium to have coverage continue beyond the 31 day period.

**Adopted Children:** Your adopted child is covered automatically for the first 31 days from the date that You or Your Spouse become a party to a suit in which You or Your Spouse seek to adopt the child. Coverage will be the same as for all other covered dependent children. You must notify Us within 31 days of the date of the adoption and pay any required premium to have coverage continue beyond the 31 day period.

**Children who are the Subjects of a Medical Support Order:** A child who is the subject of a medical support order to provide vision coverage is covered automatically for the first 31 days from the date of such an order. Coverage will be the same as for all other covered dependent children. You must notify Us within 31 days of the date of the court or administrative order and pay any required premium to have coverage continue beyond the 31 day period.

B435.0786

## All Options

- The following is added to **How This Plan Works**:

If a Covered Person requires Emergency Care, as defined below, the Covered Persons Payment Rate will be the same for those emergency services provided by a Preferred Provider as those provided by a Non-Preferred Provider. What We pay is based on all of the other terms of this Certificate.

Emergency Care means services or supplies that are provided by a provider that are needed immediately because of an injury or sudden illness and the time required to reach a Preferred Provider can reasonably be expected to result in serious deterioration of, or risk of permanent damage to, the Covered Persons health. These services are considered to be Emergency Care as long as transfer of the Covered Person to a Preferred Provider is precluded because of risk to the Covered Persons health or because transfer would be unreasonable, given the distance involved in the transfer or the nature of the vision condition.

B435.1960

## All Options

- The **Discounts** provision in **How This Plan Works** is revised in its entirety to read:

### THE FOLLOWING IS NOT INSURANCE

**The following describes Discounts Available on Materials Purchased from a Preferred Provider.**

**Discounts:** If a Covered Person receives a vision examination and lenses or frames from a Preferred Provider, he or she will receive a discount on the cost to purchase an unlimited number of prescription glasses from the same Preferred Provider. He or she may also receive a discount on the costs to evaluate and fit contact lenses. No discount applies to contact lenses or materials. The discount is available for 12 months after the initial examination from the same Preferred Provider.

The discounts are:

For prescription glasses . . . . . 20% off of the Preferred Provider's Usual and Customary fee

For non-prescription sunglasses . . . . 20% off of the Preferred Provider's Usual and Customary fee

For contact lens exam (evaluation and fitting) . . . . . 15% off of the Preferred Provider's Usual and Customary fee

B435.0793

## All Options

- The following definitions in the **DEFINTIONS** section are replaced in their entirety to read:

**Non-Preferred Provider:** This term means any optometrist, therapeutic optometrist, optician, ophthalmologist, or other licensed and qualified vision care provider that is not under contract, directly or indirectly, with VSP as a Preferred Provider.

**Preferred Provider:** This term means an optometrist, therapeutic optometrist, optician, ophthalmologist, or other licensed and qualified vision care provider who has entered into a contract, directly or indirectly, with VSP to provide vision care services and or Vision materials to Covered Persons.

B435.1971

## All Options

- The following **Appeal Process** is added:

### APPEAL PROCESS

#### Definitions

As used in this section, the terms listed below have the meanings shown below.

**Adverse Determination:** This term means a determination by a utilization review agent (URA) that the vision care services provided or proposed to be provided to the Covered Person are not medically necessary or are experimental or investigational.

**Certification:** This term means a determination that the vision care services being provided or proposed to be provided to a Covered Person meet the criteria for medical necessity and appropriateness.



**Clinical Peer:** This term means a provider or vision care professional in the same or similar specialty, who typically manages the vision condition, procedure or treatment under review.

**Concurrent Review:** This term means a utilization review conducted for a currently in process course of treatment.

**Department:** This term means the Texas Department of Insurance.

**Emergency Care:** This term means vision care services provided in a hospital emergency facility or comparable facility to evaluate and stabilize medical conditions of a recent onset and severity, including but not limited to severe pain, that would lead a prudent layperson who has an average knowledge of medicine and health to believe that his or her condition, sickness, or injury is of such a nature that failure to get immediate medical care could result in: (a) placing a Covered Person's health in serious jeopardy; (b) serious impairment to bodily functions; (c) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; (d) serious disfigurement; or (e) in the case of a pregnant woman, serious jeopardy to the health of the fetus.

**External Review:** This term means the review of an adverse determination by an independent review organization (IRO).

**Life-Threatening:** This term means a disease or condition for which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted. A life-threatening condition exists if a prudent layperson who has an average knowledge of medicine and health would believe that his or her disease or condition is a life-threatening condition.

**Prospective Review:** This term means a utilization review conducted prior to a course of treatment.

**Retrospective Review:** This term means the utilization review process of reviewing the medical necessity and reasonableness of health care that has been provided to a Covered Person.

**Utilization Review:** This term includes a system for prospective, concurrent, or retrospective review of the medical necessity and appropriateness of vision care services and a system for prospective, concurrent, or retrospective review to determine the experimental or investigational nature of vision care services. The term does not include a review in response to an elective request for clarification of coverage.

**Working Day:** This term means a weekday. It excludes: (a) New Years Day; (b) Memorial Day; (c) Fourth of July; (d) Labor Day; (e) Thanksgiving Day; and (f) Christmas Day.

### **Utilization Review Determinations**

When the initial determination is certification, written notification will be sent to a Covered Person and the Covered Person's provider within two working days of making the determination.

The URA will make an initial determination in a prospective review within three working days of receipt of all information needed to complete the review.

The URA will make an initial determination in a concurrent review within three working days of receipt of all information needed to complete the review.

The URA will make an initial determination in a retrospective review within 30 days of receipt of all information needed to complete the review. This period may be extended once by the URA for a period not to exceed 15 days, if the URA:

- determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the URA's control; and
- notifies the provider of record and the Covered Person before the expiration of the initial 30-day period of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which the URA expects to make a determination.

If the extension is required because of the failure of the provider of record or the Covered Person to submit information necessary to reach a determination on the request, the notice of extension must:

- specifically describe the required information necessary to complete the request; and
- give the provider of record and the Covered Person at least 45 days from the date of receipt of the notice of extension to provide the specified information.

If the period for making the determination under this section is extended because of the failure of the provider of record or the Covered Person to submit the information necessary to make the determination, the period for making the determination is tolled from the date on which the URA sends the notification of the extension to the provider of record or the Covered Person until the earlier of:

- the date on which the provider of record or the Covered Person responds to the request for additional information; or
- the date by which the specified information was to have been submitted.

Notice of adverse determination will include:

- the principal reasons for the adverse determination;
- the clinical basis for the adverse determination;
- a description of the source of the screening criteria that were used in making the determination;

- a description of the complaint and appeal process; and
- the independent review notification procedures, and the independent review request form.

For life-threatening conditions, notice of adverse determination will be given within the time frames shown above. In circumstances involving a life-threatening condition, the Covered Person, person acting on the Covered Person's behalf, or the Covered Person's provider of record is entitled to immediate external appeal by independent review and is not required to comply with procedures for reconsideration or internal appeals.

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B435.1967

## All Options

### Internal Appeals

A Covered Person, a person acting on the Covered Person's behalf, or the Covered Person's provider may appeal an adverse determination orally or in writing.

**Standard Appeal:** The request for standard appeal should be made or sent to the URA or to:

#### Vision Appeals

PO Box 2350  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

Within five working days from receipt of a written appeal, a letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the appealing party. The letter will include the date the request for appeal was received, and a list of any documentation the appealing party is required to submit to support his or her request.

A licensed provider will review the appeal and render a decision.

Within five working days of receipt of an oral request for standard appeal, an appeal form will be mailed to the appealing party.

A licensed provider will review the appeal and render a decision.

Notification of that decision will be mailed to the Covered Person or a person acting on behalf of the Covered Person and to the Covered Person's provider within 30 days of receipt of the request for standard appeal.

If the appeal is denied, the notice will include:

- a statement of the specific reasons for the resolution;
- the clinical basis for such decision;
- the specialization of any provider consulted; and
- in the case of a denial, notice of the appealing party's right to seek independent review of the denial and the procedure for obtaining that review, including the necessary forms.

If the appeal is denied, the Covered Person's provider may request, in writing, a review of the denial by a provider in the same or similar specialty as typically manages the condition, procedure, or treatment under review. This request must : (a) be made within 10 working days of the denial of the appeal; and (b) requests a particular type of specialty provider review the case. The specialty review will be completed within 15 working days of receipt of the request.

**Expedited Appeal:** If the adverse determination involves emergency care, denial of care for a life-threatening condition, or denial of continued stay for a hospitalized Covered Person, the appealing party may call, write, or fax a request for an expedited appeal to the URA or to:

**Vision Appeals**

PO Box 2350  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

A licensed provider or licensed vision care professional who typically manages the vision condition under review and who did not previously review the case will review the appeal.

A decision will be made within a timeframe appropriate to the vision immediacy of the condition, treatment or procedure under review but in no event later than one working day after receipt of all information required to make the decision.

The Covered Person and the Covered Person's provider will be notified by telephone or electronic transmission within one working day of making the decision. Written confirmation will also be sent to the Covered Person or a person acting on behalf of the Covered Person.

If the appeal is denied, the written notification will include:

- a statement of the specific reasons for the resolution;
- the clinical basis for such decision;
- the specialization of any provider consulted; and
- in the case of a denial, notice of the appealing party's right to seek independent review of the denial and the procedure for obtaining that review, including the necessary forms.

**External Appeals**

A Covered Person, a person acting on the Covered Person's behalf, or the Covered Person's provider may request an external review of an adverse determination: (a) after the denial of a standard or expedited appeal; or (b) immediately in the case of a life-threatening condition. The request is made by completing the request form and executing the authorization to release medical information and sending them to the URA or to:

**Vision Appeals**

PO Box 2350  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

Upon receipt of the request for external review, the Department will be notified of the request. The Department will assign an independent review organization (IRO) within one working day and will notify Guardian and the IRO of the assignment. The Department will notify the Covered Person or a person acting on behalf of the Covered Person and the Covered Person's provider within one working day of making the assignment.

Within three working days of receipt of the request for external review, the following information must be sent to the assigned IRO:

- any relevant medical records;
- any relevant portions of the utilization review plan used in making the decision;
- a copy of the written notice of the appeal's denial;
- any documentation and written information submitted by the appealing party in support of the appeal; and
- a list of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of each provider who has provided care to the Covered Person and who may have vision records relevant to the appeal.

The IRO should review the case and render a decision within the time frames shown below.

- If a life-threatening condition exists, the earlier of: (a) five working days of receipt of all information needed to complete the review; and (b) eight working days of receipt of the request for review.
- If a life-threatening condition does not exist, the earlier of: (a) 15 working days of receipt of all information needed to complete the review; and (b) 20 working days of receipt of the request for review.

The IRO should notify the Covered Person or person acting on behalf of the Covered Person and the Covered Person's provider of the decision.

This Policy must cover charges for any Covered Services determined to be medically necessary or appropriate by the IRO. And, this Policy will pay the cost of the external review.

This Rider is a part of the Certificate. Except as stated in this Rider, nothing contained in this Rider changes or affects any other terms of the Certificate. In the event there is disagreement of terms between the group Policy and the Certificate, the Certificate and this Rider will prevail.

**The Guardian** Life Insurance Company of America



Michael Prestileo, Senior Vice President



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## **YOUR BENEFITS INFORMATION - ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

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**[www.guardianlife.com](http://www.guardianlife.com)**

You can access helpful, secure information about your Guardian benefits online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Anytime, anywhere you have internet access, you'll be able to:

- Review your benefits
- Look up coverage amounts
- Check the status of your claim
- Print forms and plan materials
- And so much more!

To register, go to **[www.guardianlife.com](http://www.guardianlife.com)**

B101.0002



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New York, New York 10001