



NATIONAL GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(called "We", "Our", and "Us")

2 East Gilman Street Madison, Wisconsin 53701

GROUP VISION CARE INSURANCE CERTIFICATE

Administrator: Superior Vision Services, Inc.
11101 White Rock Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

This Certificate explains the vision insurance coverage under the Group Policy (the Policy) issued to the Policyholder.

The Policyholder and the Group Policy Number are shown in the Certificate Schedule page.

This, together with the Schedule of Benefits, forms Your Certificate of Insurance while an Insured is covered under the Policy. It replaces any previous Certificates of Insurance issued under the Policy to You.

This Certificate provides a description of Your vision care benefits. All benefits are governed by the terms and conditions of the Policy. The Policy alone constitutes the entire contract between the Policyholder and Us. You may examine the Policy during regular business hours by contacting the Policyholder.

Kimberly A. Shaul, Secretary

Mark Solverud, President

NEED ASSISTANCE? If you have a question or wish to obtain information about Your coverage, or You require assistance in resolving a complaint, please contact us at 1-888-729-5433.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION: SHOULD A DISPUTE ARISE CONCERNING THIS POLICY OR THE PAYMENT OF A CLAIM HEREUNDER, CONTACT US IN WRITING AT SUPERIOR VISION SERVICES, INC. AT 11101 WHITE ROCK ROAD, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670 OR BY PHONE AT 1-800-507-3800. IF A DISPUTE IS NOT RESOLVED TO YOUR SATISFACTION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AT 300 S. SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013 OR BY PHONE AT 1-800-927-HELP (1-800-927-4357).

NON-PARTICIPATING

**BENEFIT LEVELS MAY DIFFER BETWEEN PROVIDERS
THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT PROVIDE ESSENTIAL PEDIATRIC VISION HEALTH
BENEFITS
THIS IS A LEGAL CONTRACT – PLEASE READ YOUR CERTIFICATE
CAREFULLY**

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PART I. CERTIFICATE SCHEDULE

Policyholder: City of Carson

Group Policy Number: 36448

Effective Date: November 1, 2017

Initial Term: 48 Months

Eligible Classes: All full-time employees working at least 40 hours per week

Waiting Period: 1st of the month following 30 days

Mode of Premium Payment: MONTHLY

Method of Premium Payment: Remitted by Policyholder

Premium Due Date: 1st of every month

PART II. SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	
Your Certificate is on a Rolling Benefit Plan Basis	
Vision Exam:	Once every 12 Months
Eyeglass Lenses:	Once every 12 Months
Frames:	Once every 12 Months
Contact Lenses:	Once every 12 Months
Contact Lens Fit:	Once every 12 Months

CO-PAY (PER INSURED)		
	In-Network Providers:	Out-of-Network Provider:
Vision Exam:	\$10	\$10
Eyeglass Lenses/Frames:	\$0	\$0
Contact Lens Fit:	\$30	Not Covered

BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES ¹		
	In-Network Providers: ⁶	Out-of-Network Provider:
Vision Exam:		
Ophthalmologist (M.D.)	Covered in Full	\$40 Allowance
Optometrist (O.D.)	Covered in Full	\$30 Allowance
Materials- Eyeglass Lenses:³		
Single Vision	Covered in Full	\$32 Allowance
Progressive	Covered up to the providers retail trifocal amount	\$58 Allowance
Bifocals	Covered in Full	\$42 Allowance
Trifocals	Covered in Full	\$58 Allowance
Lenticular	Covered in Full	\$95 Allowance
Polycarbonate – for dependent children only	Covered in Full	Not Covered
Materials – Frames:³	\$100 Allowance	\$48 Allowance
Materials – Contact Lenses:⁴		
Non-Elective ⁵	Covered in Full	\$210 Allowance
Elective	\$100 Allowance	\$80 Allowance
Contact Lens Fit:²		
Standard	Covered in Full	Not Covered
Specialty	\$50 Allowance	Not Covered

¹ Where an “Allowance” is shown, You are responsible for paying any charges in excess of the Allowance.

² Standard Contact Lens Fitting is for an existing contact lens user who wears disposable, daily wear, or extended wear contact lenses. It includes 2 follow-up visits within 3 months.

Specialty Contact Lens Fitting is for an Insured who has never worn contact lenses or who requires a more complex fit for toric, gas permeable, or multi-focal contact lenses. It includes 2 follow-up visits within 3 months.

³ Eyeglass Lenses and Frames are paid in lieu of the Contact Lenses benefit.

⁴ The Contact Lenses benefit is paid in lieu of Eyeglass Lenses and Frames.

⁵ Prior Authorization required

⁶ You may choose to use the insured benefit or take advantage of a sale or coupon, but not both.

PART III. DEFINITIONS

Administrator - The entity which provides complete service and facilities for the writing and servicing of the Policy as agreed to in a contract with Us.

Claim - A request for payment of benefits under this Certificate.

Co-Pay – An Insured's share of the costs that are incurred by an In-Network Provider. The Co-Pay is paid directly to the Provider at the time services are rendered. If an Out-of-Network Provider is used, the Co-Pay will be deducted from the Out-of-Network Allowance at the time We pay benefits. Co-Pay amounts are listed in the Schedule of Benefits.

Contact Lenses, Elective – Elective contact lenses refer to contact lenses an Insured chooses to wear instead of eyeglasses for reasons of comfort or appearance.

Contact Lenses, Non-Elective – Non-elective Contact Lenses refer to contact lenses that are prescribed solely for the purpose of correcting one of the following medical conditions. These conditions prevent the Insured from achieving a specified level of visual acuity (performance) through the wearing of conventional eyeglasses.

1. Aphakia (after cataract surgery). A pair of prescription single vision or multifocal eyeglass lenses and an eyeframe can be provided in addition to Non-Elective Contact Lenses for this condition.
2. When visual acuity cannot be corrected to 20/70 in the better eye except through the use of Contact Lenses (must be 20/60 or better).
3. Anisometropia of 4.0 diopters or more, provided visual acuity improves to 20/60 or better in the weak eye.
4. Keratoconus.

Reimbursement of Non-Elective Contact Lenses will be considered as payment in-full if utilizing the services of an In-Network Provider. This benefit provides coverage for the Materials only. It does not include the Contact Lens Fitting fee.

Covered Dependent – Means an Eligible Dependent who is insured under this Certificate.

Covered Vision Exam or Materials – Means the Vision Exam or Materials that qualify for benefits under the Group Policy. Covered Vision Exams or Materials are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

Domestic Partner - Two adults who: (1) have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring; and (2) have on file a valid Declaration of Domestic Partnership with the California Secretary of State or an equivalent document issued by a local agency of California, another state, or a local agency of another state under which the partnership was created.

Eligible Class – Means the group of people who are eligible for coverage under the Group Policy. The Members of the Eligible Classes are shown in the Certificate Schedule. Each Member of the Eligible Class will qualify for insurance on the date He completes the required Waiting Period, if any.

Eligible Dependent - Means a person listed below:

1. Your Spouse;
2. Your dependent child under age 26, who is your natural or adopted child, step-child, foster child, or child for whom you are a legal guardian.
3. Your unmarried child who has reached age 26 and who is:
 - a. primarily dependent upon You for support and maintenance; and
 - b. incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental retardation, mental illness or disorder or physical handicap. Proof of the child's incapacity or dependency must be furnished to Us for an already enrolled child who reaches the age limitation, or when You enroll a new disabled child under the plan.

Eyeglass Lenses – A standard plastic (CR39) lens, which is optically clear, that will fit an eye glass frame with a lens size less than 61mm in length. Standard multifocal lenses include segments through flat top 35 for plastic bifocal and lenticular lenses, through flat top 28 for glass trifocals, and through flat top 35 for plastic trifocals.

He, Him and His – Refers to the male or female gender.

Immediate Family Member – An Insured's parent, step-parent, Spouse, child, step-child, brother or sister.

Initial Term - The period following the group's initial effective date and shown in the Certificate Schedule. Rates are guaranteed not to change during this period, subject to the Premium Adjustments provision.

In-Network Provider - An Ophthalmologist, Optometrist or Optician who has entered into an agreement with the Administrator to provide the Covered Vision Exam or Materials at an agreed to cost. When an In-Network Provider is used, the Insured will generally incur less out-of-pocket cost for the services rendered.

In-Network Provider Directory - A list of In-Network Providers and the services they are contracted for in Your area. The list will be updated periodically.

Insured– Means a person for whom insurance under the Policy has become effective.

Materials – Means corrective Eyeglass Lenses, Frames and Contact Lenses.

Member – Means a person who belongs to an Eligible Class of the Policyholder.

Ophthalmologist- A person who is licensed by the state in which he or she practices as a Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy and is qualified to practice within the medical specialty of ophthalmology. The Ophthalmologist cannot be 1) the Insured; 2) an Immediate Family Member; or 3) retained by the Policyholder.

Optician – A person or business that grinds and/or dispenses Eyeglass Lenses and Contact Lenses prescribed by either an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist. The Optician cannot be: 1) the Insured; 2) an Immediate Family Member; or 3) retained by the Policyholder. The Optician must be licensed by the state in which services are rendered, if such state requires licensing.

Optometrist – A person licensed to practice optometry as defined by the laws of the state in which services are rendered. The Optometrist cannot be 1) the Insured; 2) an Immediate Family Member; or 3) retained by the Policyholder.

Out-of-Network Provider – An Ophthalmologist, Optometrist or Optician who is not an In-Network Provider. These providers have not entered into an agreement with Us to limit their charges. They are not listed in the In-Network Provider Directory.

Plano Lens - A lens that has no refractive power.

Policyholder - The entity stated on the front page of the Policy.

Re-enrollee - Any Insured who terminated his coverage, and then subsequently re-enrolled for coverage at a later date. Benefits may be limited for Re-enrollees.

Rolling Benefit Plan – Benefits begin anew 12 months from the date of service.

Spouse – Your legally recognized spouse or lawful Domestic Partner in the state where You reside.

Vision Exam – An examination of principal vision functions. A Vision Exam includes, but is not limited to, case history, examination for pathology or anomalies, job visual analysis, refraction, visual field testing and tonometry, if indicated. The exam must be consistent with the community standards, rules and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the provider’s practice is located.

You or Your – The Member.

Waiting Period - The period of time a Member must wait before any Insured is eligible for coverage. The Waiting Period, if any, is specified in the Policyholder’s Group Application and shown in the Certificate Schedule.

PART IV. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

A. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for coverage under the Policy, an individual must:

1. be a Member of an Eligible Class of the Policyholder, as defined in the Certificate Schedule; and
2. satisfy the Waiting Period, if any.

The Member’s Eligible Dependents are also eligible for coverage, provided that Dependent coverage is provided under the Policy.

Dual Eligibility Status: If both a Member and his Spouse are in an Eligible Class of the Policyholder, enrollment will default to the Policyholder’s rules.

B. ENROLLMENT

The term “Enrollment” means written or electronic application for coverage on an enrollment form furnished or approved by Us. Coverage will not become effective until the Member has enrolled for coverage, and paid the required premium, if any.

Initial Enrollment: Members should enroll for coverage within 31 days of the Waiting Period.

Open Enrollment: Members may enroll during an open enrollment period. Open enrollment is a period of time specified by the Policyholder. It usually occurs once each Calendar Year but may, at the Policyholder’s discretion, occur more frequently. Other changes may also be restricted to Open Enrollment periods.

Change in Family Status: Members may enroll or change their coverage if a change in family status occurs, provided written application to enroll is made within 31 days of the event. A change in family status means any of the following events:

1. Marriage or entering into a Domestic Partnership;
2. Divorce or legal separation;
3. Birth or adoption of a child;
4. Death of a Spouse or child;
5. Other changes as permitted by the Policyholder.

PART V. INDIVIDUAL EFFECTIVE DATES

Your coverage will be effective on the later of the following dates, provided that any required premium is paid to Us:

1. the Policyholder's Effective Date, shown on the Certificate Schedule; or
2. the date You meet all the Eligibility and Enrollment requirements.

For Eligible Dependents acquired after Your effective date of coverage, by reason of marriage, or entering into a Domestic Partnership, birth or adoption, coverage is effective on the date specified by the Policyholder. This is subject to our receipt of the required Enrollment and payment of the premium, if any.

Newborn Coverage: Any child born to You or Your Covered Dependent Spouse is covered from the moment of birth to 31 days or until released from the hospital. A notice of birth, together with any additional premium, must be submitted to Us within 31 days of the birth in order to continue the coverage beyond the initial 31-day period.

Adopted Children: A child adopted by You is covered from the date of placement. Coverage will continue unless the child's placement is disrupted prior to legal adoption. A notice of placement for adoption, together with any additional premium, must be submitted to Us within 31 days of the placement in order to continue the coverage beyond the initial 31-day period.

PART VI. INDIVIDUAL TERMINATION DATES

Coverage for all Insureds stops on the earliest of the following dates:

1. the date the Policy terminates;
2. the date the Policyholder's coverage terminates under the Policy;
3. the last day of the month in which You are no longer an eligible Member;
4. the date You die;
5. on any premium due date, if full payment for Your insurance is not made within 31 days following the premium due date.

In addition, coverage for each Covered Dependent stops on the earliest of:

1. the date He is no longer an Eligible Dependent;
2. the date We receive your request to terminate Covered Dependent coverage. This is subject to any limitation imposed by the Policyholder as to when a change is permitted; e.g. under an Open Enrollment period.

PART VII. INDIVIDUAL PREMIUMS

Members may be required to contribute, either in whole or in part, to the cost of their insurance. This is subject to the terms established by the Policyholder. Your premium contributions, if required, are remitted to Us in one of two ways:

1. You contribute to the cost of the insurance through the Policyholder, who then submits payment to Us; or
2. You pay Your premiums directly to Us.

The Certificate Schedule shows the method of premium payment.

The first premium is due on the Effective Date. Premiums after the first are due on the Premium Due Date or within the grace period.

Grace Period: A grace period of 31 days is granted for the payment of each premium due after the first. The coverage stays in force if the premium is paid during this grace period, unless We are given written notice that the insurance is to be ended before the Grace Period. We may require payment of any pro-rata premium for the time the insurance was in effect during the Grace Period.

RIGHT TO CHANGE PREMIUM RATES: We have the right to change the premium rates on any premium due date after the Initial Term. After the Initial Term, We will not increase the premium rates more than once in any twelve (12) month period. We will notify the Policyholder in writing at least sixty (60) days before any increase in premium rates. This is subject to the Premium Adjustments provision, as stated below.

PREMIUM ADJUSTMENTS: The Company may adjust the premium rate on the Policy Anniversary Date, including during any applicable premium rate guarantee period, if any one of the following occurs:

1. The terms of this Policy change;
2. The number of Insureds increase or decrease by more than 15% since the later of the Policy Effective Date and the date of the last renewal of the Policy;
3. Coverage is reinstated following failure to pay premium during the Grace Period;
4. An acquisition, merger, consolidation, divestiture, corporate reorganization or purchase or sale of assets affecting, increasing or decreasing by 15% or more the number of Insureds.
5. Any federal, state, or other law or regulation is enacted, adopted, amended, or requiring implementation that affects: (a) Our benefit obligations under this Policy; or (b) any monetary assessments, or changes in those assessments, We are required to pay.

If nonemployee certificate holders or employees of more than one employer are covered under the policy, written notice shall also be delivered by mail to the last known address of each nonemployee certificate holder or affected employer or, if the action does not affect all employees and dependents of one or more employers, to the last known address of each affected employee certificate holder, at least 60 days prior to the effective date of the action.

PART VIII. DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGE

We pay a benefit if an Insured receives a Covered Vision Exam or Materials from an In-Network Provider at the allowable Frequency while his coverage under this Certificate is in force. An Insured may choose to receive vision care services from either an In-Network Provider or an Out-of-Network Provider. If an In-Network Provider is chosen, the Insured will generally incur less out-of-pocket cost (unless the Policyholder has selected an In-Network Provider Plan only.)

A. IN-NETWORK BENEFITS

When You enroll for coverage, an In-Network Provider Directory will be made available to You with the names, phone numbers and addresses of In-Network Providers. A provider's status may occasionally change. We recommend that You call the Administrator to verify the provider's participation status in the network. You may change providers at any time without notice to the Administrator.

When benefits are payable for a Covered Vision Exam or Materials received from an In-Network Provider, We will pay the In-Network Provider directly, based on the In-Network benefits shown in the Schedule of Benefits. The Insured pays any required Co-Pay and any charges above the covered benefits to the In-Network Provider. The In-Network Provider takes care of claims submission and administrative services.

Note Exception: If you use the services of an In-Network Provider but take advantage of a sale, coupon, or other in-store special, the Provider may require that you pay in full and submit Your receipt for reimbursement at the Out-of-Network reimbursement.

Both the Co-Pay and the Frequency for a Covered Vision Exam or Materials are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

B. OUT-OF-NETWORK BENEFITS

If an Insured chooses to use an Out-of-Network Provider, You pay the provider in full. When benefits are payable, We will reimburse You up to the amount of Out-of-Network benefits shown in the Schedule of Benefits, less any Co-Pay. It is your responsibility to send us a Claim by submitting the itemized invoice or receipt to us (See the "Notice of Claim" provision.). Any Co-Pay that applies should not be paid to the Out-of-Network Providers, as it will be deducted from Us at the time the claim is processed.

C. COVERED VISION EXAM OR MATERIALS

Covered Vision Exams or Materials are shown in the Schedule of Benefits. In order to be a Covered Vision Exam or Material, the Vision Exam or Materials must be furnished to an Insured:

1. To check or improve their vision condition;
2. Within the allowable Frequency shown in the Schedule of Benefits;
3. By an Ophthalmologist, Optometrist or Optician.

In no event will coverage exceed the lesser of:

1. the actual cost incurred of the Covered Vision Exam or Materials; or
2. the limits of coverage shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

PART IX. LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

The Contact Lenses benefit is paid in lieu of Eyeglass Lenses and Frames. An Insured is eligible to receive benefits under the Eyeglass Lenses Benefit and the Frame benefit only after the Contact Lenses benefit Frequency has ended.

The Eyeglass Lenses benefit and the Eyeglass Frame benefit is paid in lieu of the Contact Lenses benefit. An Insured is eligible to receive benefits under the Contact Lenses and the Eyeglass Frame benefit only after the Eyeglass Lenses benefit Frequency has ended.

A Re-Enrollee who terminates coverage voluntarily or involuntarily and then subsequently re-enrolls for coverage under this plan within a 12 month period may be subject to limited benefits corresponding with the Plan frequency.

This Plan is designed to cover “standard” or “basic” eyeglass lenses and frames. Add-on charges for specialty lenses and lens applications are not covered. These extra charges are paid directly to the provider by the member. Some items requiring additional charges are listed below under Exclusions.

EXCLUSIONS

No benefits are payable for the any of the following conditions, procedures and/or materials:

1. Replacement frames and/or lenses, (Including Low Vision Devices) except at normal intervals when covered services are otherwise available;
2. Plano or non-prescription lenses or sunglasses;
3. Orthoptics, vision training and any associated supplemental testing;
4. Frame cases;
5. Low (subnormal) vision aids or aniseikonic lenses;
6. Medical and surgical treatment of the eyes;
7. Charges incurred after (a) the Policy ends; or (b) the Insured’s coverage under the Policy ends, except as stated in the Policy;
8. Experimental or non-conventional treatment or device;
9. Any eye examination or corrective eyewear required by an Employer as a condition of employment;
10. Services and materials provided by another vision plan except in the case of Coordination of Benefits;
11. Services for which benefits are paid by Worker’s Compensation;
12. Benefits provided under the employee’s medical insurance except in the case of Coordination of Benefits;
13. Blended bifocal lenses;
14. Groove, Drill or Notch, and Roll and Polish;
15. Two pairs of glasses, in lieu of bifocals, trifocals or progressives;
16. Coating on lenses (Factory scratch coat, anti-reflective, sunglass colors, etc.);
17. Cosmetic items;
18. Faceted lenses;
19. High-Index Lenses;
20. Laminated Lenses;
21. Oversize Lenses – any lens with an eye size of 61mm or greater;
22. Photochromic (Transition) lenses;
23. Polaroid lenses;
24. Polished bevel lenses;
25. Polycarbonate lenses;
26. Prism lenses;

27. Slab-off lenses;
28. Tints (except Pink tint #1 and #2);
29. Ultra-violet tint or coating;
30. Additional cost for contact lenses over the allowance;
31. Additional cost for a frame over the allowance;
32. Progressive Power Lenses*

*Progressive Power Lens Benefit. If this type of lens is not a covered benefit under your Certificate, the Provider will apply the retail charge for standard trifocal lenses against the charge for the style of progressive lens You have selected. You pay the Provider the difference, if any, between the two.

PART X. CLAIM PROVISIONS

A. IN-NETWORK CLAIMS

When an Insured receives services from an In-Network Provider, the provider will handle all claims and administrative services for You. In-Network Providers submit charges directly to the Administrator. (Note the exception under Part VIII.A, "In-Network Benefits".)

B. OUT-OF-NETWORK CLAIMS

In order to pay benefits for covered services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, You must furnish written proof of loss. Your Claim must be sufficient to identify the Insured, the name of the Policyholder and Your Group Policy Number. Claim forms are available through the Administrator, or You may submit itemized receipts for services.

C. NOTICE OF CLAIM

Written notice of claim must be given to our Administrator within 20 days after the occurrence or commencement of any loss covered by the policy, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. Notice given to any authorized agent of the insurer, with information sufficient to identify the insured, shall be deemed notice to the insurer.

Claims should be sent to:

National Guardian Life Insurance Company
c/o Superior Vision Services, Inc.
PO Box 967
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

D. CLAIM FORMS

Our Administrator, upon receipt of a notice of claim, will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this policy as to proof of loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in the policy for filing proofs of loss, written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made.

E. PROOF OF LOSS

Written proof of loss must be furnished to Our Administrator in case of claim for loss for which this policy 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 legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

F. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Benefits will be paid to You unless an Assignment of Benefits has been requested by the Insured. Benefits due and unpaid at Your death will be paid to Your estate. Any payment made by Us in good faith pursuant to this provision will fully release Us to the extent of such payment.

G. TIME PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Benefits will be payable immediately upon receipt of acceptable Proof of Loss.

H. OVERPAYMENTS

If we pay a benefit and it is later shown that a lesser amount should have been paid, We will be entitled to a refund of the excess. This applies to payments made to You, to a Covered Dependent, or to the provider of the Covered Vision Exam or Materials.

PART XI. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB)

This provision applies when an Insured has vision coverage under more than one Plan, as defined below. The benefits payable between the Plans will be coordinated.

A. DEFINITIONS RELATED TO COB

1. **Allowable Expense:** An expense that is considered a covered charge, at least in part, by one or more of the Plans. When a Plan provides benefits by services, reasonable cash value of each service will be treated as both an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid.
2. **Coordination of Benefits:** Taking other Plans into account when We pay benefits.
3. **Plan:** Any plan, including this one that provides benefits or services for vision services on either a group or individual basis. "Plan" includes group and blanket insurance and self-insured and prepaid plans. It includes government plans, plans required or provided by statute (except Medicaid), and no fault insurance (when allowed by law). "Plan" shall be treated separately for that part of a plan that reserves the right to coordinate with benefits or services of other plans and that part which does not.
4. **Primary Plan:** The Plan that, according to the rules for the Order of Benefit Determination, pays benefits before all other Plans.

B. BENEFIT COORDINATION

Benefits will be adjusted so that the total payment under all Plans is no more than 100 percent of the Insured's Allowable Expense. In no event will total benefits paid exceed the total payable in the absence of COB.

If an Insured's benefits paid under this Plan are reduced due to COB, each benefit will be reduced proportionately.

Only the amount of any benefit actually paid will be charged against any applicable benefit maximum.

C. THE ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION

1. When this is the Primary Plan, We will pay benefits as if there were no other Plans.
2. When a person is covered by a Plan without a COB provision, the Plan without the provision will be the Primary Plan.

3. When a person is covered by more than one Plan with a COB provision, the order of benefit payment is as follows:
 - a. **Non-dependent/Dependent.** A Plan that covers a person other than as a dependent will pay before a Plan that covers that person as a dependent.
 - b. **Dependent Child/Parents Not Separated or Divorced.** For a dependent child, the Plan of the parent whose birthday occurs first in the Calendar Year will pay benefits first. If both parents have the same birthday, the Plan that has covered the dependent child for the longer period will pay first. If the other Plan uses gender to determine which Plan pays first, We will also use that basis.
 - c. **Dependent Child/Separated or Divorced Parents.** If two or more Plans cover a person as a Dependent of separated or divorced parents, benefits for the child are determined in the following order:
 - i. The Plan of the parent who has responsibility for providing insurance as determined by a court order;
 - ii. The Plan of the parent with custody of the child;
 - iii. The Plan of the Spouse of the parent with custody; and
 - iv. The Plan of the parent without custody of the child.
 - d. **Dependent Child/Joint Custody:** If the joint custody court decree does not specifically state which parent is responsible for the child's medical expenses, the rules as shown for Dependent Child/Parents Not Separated or Divorced shall apply.
 - e. **Active/Inactive Employee.** The Plan which covers the person as an employee who is neither laid off nor retired (or as that employee's dependent) is Primary over the Plan which covers that person as a laid off or retired employee. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.
 - f. **Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage.** When an order of payment is not established by the above, the Plan that has covered the person for the longer period of time will pay first.

D. RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION

For the purpose of determining the applicability of and implementing the terms of this provision of this Plan or any provision of similar purpose of any other Plan, We may release to or obtain from any other insurance company or other organization or person any information, with respect to any person, which We deem to be necessary for such purposes. However, We will never disclose information relating to HIV or AIDS/ARC. Any person claiming benefits under this Plan shall furnish to Us such information as may be necessary to implement this provision.

E. RIGHT TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO ANOTHER PLAN

COB may result in payments made by another Plan that should have been made by Us. We have the right to pay such other Plan all amounts it paid which would otherwise have been paid by Us. Amounts so paid will be treated as benefits paid under this Plan. We will be discharged from liability to the extent of such payments.

F. RIGHT TO RECOVERY

COB may result in overpayments by Us. We have the right to recover any excess amounts paid from any person, insurance company or other organization to whom, or for whom, payments were made.

PART XII. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

If a claim for benefits is wholly or partially denied, the Insured will be notified in writing of such denial and of his right to file a grievance and the procedure to follow. The notice of denial will state the specific reason for the denial of benefits. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of such written notice an Insured may file a grievance and make a written request for review to:

**National Guardian Life Insurance Company
c/o Superior Vision Services, Inc.
PO Box 967
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741**

We will resolve the grievance within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving it. If We are unable to resolve the grievance within that period, the time period may be extended another thirty (30) calendar days if We notify in writing the person who filed the grievance. The notice will include advice as to when resolution of the grievance can be expected and the reason why additional time is needed.

The Insured or someone on his/her behalf also has the right to appear in person before Our grievance committee to present written or oral information and to question those people responsible for making the determination that resulted in the grievance. The Insured will be informed in writing of the time and place of the meeting at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting.

For purposes of this Grievance Procedure, a grievance is a written complaint submitted in accordance with the above Grievance Procedure by or on behalf of an Insured regarding dissatisfaction with the administration of claims practices or provision of services of this panel provider plan relative to the Insured.

In situations requiring urgent care, grievances will be resolved within four (4) business days of receiving the grievance.

PART XIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

CANCELLATION: We may cancel the Policy at any time by providing at least 60 days advance written notice to the Policyholder. The Policyholder may cancel the Policy at any time by providing written notice to Us, effective upon Our receipt on the notice or the date specified in the notice, if later. In the event of such cancellation by either Us or the Policyholder, We shall promptly return on a pro rata basis any unearned premium paid as required by the law of the state in which the Policy is issued. The Policyholder shall promptly pay on a pro rata basis the earned premium which has not been paid, if any. Such cancellation shall be without prejudice to any claim originating prior to the effective date of such cancellation.

LEGAL ACTIONS: No legal action may be brought to recover on the Policy before sixty (60) days after written proof of loss has been furnished as required by the Policy. No such action may be brought after three (3) years from the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.