

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT

Plan Sponsor: \_ ("THE GROUP")

Effective date: \_

Group No.<sup>1</sup>: \_

**This is an Administrative Services Agreement between \_ ("THE GROUP" or "THE PLAN") and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Inc. ("BCBSNE").**

This Agreement is made in and governed by the laws of the state of Nebraska, except as may be subject to federal law, including ERISA. Any contractual provision which does not conform with the laws of Nebraska or the United States is hereby amended to conform to their minimum requirements.

### RECITALS

- A. BCBSNE is a domestic insurance company, licensed to sell insurance in the State of Nebraska. BCBSNE is also engaged in the business of providing administrative services to entities which have self-insured, or partially self-insured, health benefit plans for eligible employees.
- B. The Benefit Plan Document includes this document and Attachments, the Client Profile, and the Summary Plan Description and Amendments thereto, all of which are incorporated herein by this reference. THE GROUP is funded by either Plan Assets or General Assets for THE GROUP's Covered Persons.<sup>2</sup> All coverage and benefit determinations are controlled by the Benefit Plan Document as defined in this Recital. The language of this Administrative Services Agreement shall supersede and take precedence over the language of the Summary Plan Description. **The Summary Plan Description number and the Plan or General Assets funding are indicated on Attachment 1.**
- C. BCBSNE is able and willing to provide claims administrative services for THE GROUP's health benefit plan, herein called the "Plan," for Covered Persons and THE GROUP desires to employ BCBSNE to provide such administrative services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

### DEFINITIONS

**Defined terms are capitalized throughout this Agreement. In addition to the definitions stated in the Summary Plan Description, the following definitions are used in this Agreement:**

**Accountable Care Organization (ACO):** A group of healthcare providers who agree to deliver coordinated care and meet performance benchmarks for quality and affordability in order to manage the total cost of care for their member populations.

**Care Coordination:** Organized, information-driven patient care activities intended to facilitate the appropriate responses to a Covered Person's healthcare needs across the continuum of care.

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<sup>1</sup> Group Numbers are subject to change during the term of this Agreement and shall have no effect on the responsibilities of the parties hereto.

<sup>2</sup> Plan Assets are amounts a participant pays to or has withheld by an employer for contribution to a Plan. Such assets become Plan Assets as of the earliest date they can reasonably be segregated from the employer's general assets, but in no event later than 90 days from receipt by the employer. Plan Assets are subject to ERISA requirements.

**Care Coordinator:** An individual within a provider organization who facilitates Care Coordination for patients.

**Care Coordinator Fee:** A fixed amount paid by a payer to providers periodically for Care Coordination under a Value-Based Program.

**Client Profile:** A document prepared by BCBSNE in collaboration with THE GROUP, which sets forth specific Plan terms and requirements, and Covered and Noncovered Services under the Plan.

**Covered Person(s):** All enrolled members of THE GROUP (Subscribers and their enrolled dependent spouses or children).

**Employee:** An individual employed by the Employer, pursuant to its employment definitions and criteria.

**Employer:** The employer identified in the Summary Plan Description and Client Profile, providing coverage to its eligible Employees and dependents under the terms of its group health plan.

**ERISA:** Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

**Global Payment/Total Cost of Care:** A payment methodology that is defined at the patient level and accounts for either all patient care or for a specific group of services delivered to the patient such as outpatient, physician, ancillary, hospital services and prescription drugs.

**[Negotiated Arrangement [a.k.a., Negotiated National Account Arrangement]:** An agreement negotiated between a Control/Home Licensee and one or more Par/Host Licensees for any National Account that is not delivered through the BlueCard Program.]

**Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH):** A model of care in which each patient has an ongoing relationship with a primary care physician who coordinates a team to take collective responsibility for patient care and, when appropriate, arranges for care with other qualified physicians.

**Provider Incentive:** An additional amount of compensation paid to a healthcare provider by a payer based on the provider's compliance with agreed-upon procedural and/or outcome measures for a particular population of covered persons.

**Shared Savings:** A payment mechanism in which the provider and payer share cost savings achieved against a target cost budget based upon agreed upon terms and may include downside risk.

**Subscribers:** All enrolled Employees, COBRA qualified beneficiaries, retirees (if applicable), or other non-dependent persons.

**Value-Based Program (VBP):** Also known as patient-focused care, a Value-Based Program is an outcomes-based payment arrangement and/or a coordinated care model facilitated with one or more local providers that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in provider payment. Value-Based Programs may include, but are not limited to, Accountable Care Organizations, Global Payment/Total Cost of Care arrangements, Patient Centered Medical Homes and Shared Savings arrangements.

## I.

### APPOINTMENT

BCBSNE is hereby retained and appointed to provide administrative services as herein described for THE GROUP's benefit plan for Covered Persons under BCBSNE's regular claim payment procedures and methods; provided, however, that BCBSNE shall not be, nor be considered as, the "Plan Administrator," but shall be considered a "named fiduciary" with respect to claims administration only, within the meaning of any applicable federal laws and regulations pertaining to employee benefit plans.

The Plan Sponsor shall remain solely responsible for establishing and maintaining the Plan. These responsibilities include ensuring that the Plan Document and Summary Plan Description are prepared and distributed to Participants of the Plan; preparing and filing necessary reports required under ERISA (The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974), and any other requirements set forth in ERISA. BCBSNE does not assume any responsibility for any act or omission or breach of duty by THE GROUP.

The Plan Sponsor acknowledges that BCBSNE is not providing tax or legal advice and that the Plan Sponsor shall be solely responsible for determining the legal and tax status of the Plan. The Plan Sponsor is responsible for the Plan's compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including amending Plan documents as necessary to comply with applicable law changes. The Plan Sponsor recognizes the possible legal implications of federal and state laws and takes full responsibility for any non-compliance consequences that result from any request or decision made by THE GROUP. Plan Sponsor will indemnify and hold BCBSNE harmless against any and all loss, damage, expenses, and penalties imposed by law with respect to THE GROUP's failure to provide coverage in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws that results from any request or decision made by THE GROUP.

Self-funded political subdivisions are subject to Neb. Rev. Stat.13:1601 et seq., governing provisions of the Public Health Service Act, and as otherwise determined by the governmental group. Such plans are not subject to Title 1 of ERISA.

## **II.**

### **BCBSNE'S SERVICES**

#### **In carrying out the terms of this Agreement, BCBSNE agrees to:**

- A. Prepare the Summary Plan Description for its approval by THE GROUP. If THE GROUP prepares its own Summary Plan Description, BCBSNE will provide an initial review of the Summary Plan Description for accuracy in accordance with the benefits and information outlined in the Client Profile as well as BCBSNE's internal administrative process and procedures. However, BCBSNE does not assume any responsibility for any non-compliance consequences, act or omission, or breach of duty by THE GROUP with respect to the information contained therein.
- B. Prepare enrollment forms, Identification Cards and Schedules of Benefits for distribution to Subscribers who are enrolled in this Plan.
- C. Prepare the Summary of Benefit Coverage (SBC) documents once annually for those benefits BCBSNE administers. BCBSNE will prepare any applicable notice of modifications of the SBC which results from legal or regulatory changes or benefit changes initiated by BCBSNE. BCBSNE will not provide translation services for any Summary of Benefit Coverage documents. Distribution of the SBC documents to THE GROUP's employees or dependents shall remain the responsibility of THE GROUP.
- D. Make payments on behalf of THE GROUP for Covered Services provided to Covered Persons pursuant to the Benefit Plan Document.

All payments for Covered Services by in-network providers will be made directly to such providers. In all other cases, payments will be made, at BCBSNE's option, to the Subscriber, to his or her estate, to the provider or as required under state or federal law, including qualified medical child support orders. No assignment, whether made before or after services are provided, of any amount payable according to this Agreement shall be recognized or accepted as binding upon BCBSNE or the Plan, unless otherwise required by state or federal law.

All benefit payments will be made as soon as possible after the claim has been filed. Payments made in error may be recovered as provided by law.

- E. Follow BCBSNE's regular claim processing procedures, including the determining of appropriate benefit amounts, with respect to the processing of claims pursuant to the Benefit Plan Document. This includes,

but is not limited to, the determination of benefits pursuant to the Coordination of Benefits provisions stated in the Summary Plan Description and the determination of whether to pay or deny claims in the event that a Covered Person fails to return a Coordination of Benefits questionnaire. BCBSNE relies on documentation provided in the Client Profile in providing claims administrative services for THE GROUP. A service for which a bill, statement or invoice is generated is considered paid on the date appearing in BCBSNE's claim system.

- F. BCBSNE shall use reasonable care and due diligence in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this Agreement, provided that a higher standard of care will be exercised where required by applicable law. With the full cooperation of THE GROUP, BCBSNE will make reasonable efforts under the circumstances, considering the chances of successful recovery and the costs thereof to recover payment made in excess of the amount provided for a Benefit under the Benefit Plan Document ("Overpayments"). THE GROUP assigns to BCBSNE the authority to pursue recovery of Overpayments and BCBSNE will pursue reasonable means of recovery of Overpayments under the circumstances but will not be obligated to commence litigation, unless otherwise specifically agreed to by the parties. BCBSNE will only pursue Overpayments for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the event that necessitates the Overpayment is identified. BCBSNE will not pursue Overpayments beyond this twelve (12) month period for any events that resulted solely from the actions or direction of THE GROUP. BCBSNE may, at its sole option, choose not to pursue de minimus Overpayment amounts. BCBSNE will not seek refunds from providers that relate to a retroactive termination of memberships of Covered Persons and/or their dependents for claims paid more than 60 days prior to the date on which BCBSNE is made aware of the termination.

Duplicate or erroneous payment not recovered will be considered as benefits paid under the Agreement and will remain applied to any total benefits applicable to the Covered Person. BCBSNE will not be financially responsible for such erroneous payment, unless BCBSNE would otherwise be financially responsible under another provision of this Agreement. Payment for a specific service or an erroneous payment made under this Agreement shall not make BCBSNE or the Plan liable for further payment for the same condition. Under certain circumstances, if BCBSNE pays a provider amounts that are the responsibility of the Covered Person, BCBSNE may collect such amounts from the Covered Person.

- G. Provide facilities, personnel, procedures, forms and instructions for the administration of claims under the Benefit Plan Document. The Benefit Plan Document may be modified (1) by mutual agreement of THE GROUP and BCBSNE; or (2) at renewal at BCBSNE's discretion.
- H. Accept full and exclusive discretion to determine for all parties all matters of fact or interpretation relating to any claim under the Benefit Plan Document, including interpretation of plan provisions to the extent that BCBSNE is a fiduciary for claims processing purposes. The decisions of BCBSNE regarding such claims shall be final and binding subject to appeal to BCBSNE under its review process. Benefits will be paid or denied consistent with the Benefit Plan Document based upon BCBSNE's determination. The claim appeal and review process is set forth in the Summary Plan Description. NO CLAIM EXCEPTIONS TO THE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT WILL BE MADE.
- I. Report to THE GROUP matters of general interest with respect to the Benefit Plan Document, including, but not limited to, problems of a recurring nature and suspected misuse of benefits.
- J. Submit to THE GROUP, with each monthly billing, a monthly Claims Analysis Report which sets forth the applicable identification number, patient's name, relationship to Subscriber, age, admission or performance date, discharge date, dollar charge, type of coverage, any refunds or other adjustments, and Net Paid Claims. (See Net Paid Claims in Part VI., A.)
- K. Maintain membership and claims records for a period of eight years. THE GROUP shall have access to such records during normal business hours for the purpose of determining compliance with this Agreement. Any audit initiated pursuant to this Part and authorized by THE GROUP shall be undertaken at THE GROUP's expense. THE GROUP specifically agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for any reasonable expense incurred by BCBSNE in accordance with such audit, including but not limited to reimbursement

for BCBSNE personnel providing support to such audit in excess of a total of ten hours and any copying expenses.

THE GROUP also specifically agrees that BCBSNE has the authority to disapprove of the vendor providing such audit, which authority shall not be unreasonably exercised, and to refuse access to membership and claims records by such vendor. THE GROUP, recognizing that patient specific information is confidential, agrees that it will take reasonable steps to restrict access to this information to those persons who need to know this information for determining compliance with this Agreement and for performing any necessary audit.

- L. Provide the following services in the development and design of any amendment, revision or modification of the Plan: Underwriting and actuarial advice, cost estimates and projections, and proposed language changes, subject to Part III., E.
- M. Use its discretion to seek recovery based on subrogation or other theories, from third parties (or their carriers) who have caused Injury or Illness to a Covered Person or damages to the Plan. BCBSNE may engage a contractor to perform specialized services for recovery of funds or discovery of overpayment or fraud. Such contractors may be reimbursed based on a percent of recovery or other reasonable basis, with the net amount to be returned to THE GROUP. BCBSNE may settle or release claim to such recoveries and use its discretion to determine amounts recovered, on behalf of THE GROUP. This includes participation in consolidated or class action lawsuits alleging such injuries. Any recovery from consolidated or class action suits will be apportioned among all insured and self-insured plans or pools. The proration may be based on number of covered persons, number of injured persons, claims volume, or any other basis determined by BCBSNE. Once BCBSNE has exhausted its subrogation recovery efforts, BCBSNE will not take any further action on the claim. THE GROUP will be solely responsible for the decision to pursue litigation and funding all litigation costs and expenses, including attorney's fees. This includes participation in lawsuits in which BCBSNE has been named as a defendant.

Recoveries made in any plan year will be applied first to the appropriate Stop Loss Amount, from the applicable contract year, and subsequently, to THE GROUP's claim liability. THE GROUP agrees to cooperate with all such recovery efforts. The Subrogation and Contractual Right to Reimbursement provisions applicable to the Plan are stated in the Summary Plan Description.

Notwithstanding any prior agreement between the parties to the contrary, BCBSNE will charge a fee equal to 25% of the subrogation amount recovered by BCBSNE ("Subrogation Recovery Fee"). The 25% Subrogation Recovery Fee is not included in the Administrative Service Fees or any other fee described in this Agreement and will be deducted from any recovery amount prior to releasing funds to THE GROUP.

In the event of termination of this Agreement, in whole or in part, BCBSNE may continue to work, as outlined above, all third party liability cases within its possession as well as any additional cases identified by BCBSNE with dates of services incurred prior to the date of termination. The fees charged for the subrogation services will be at the rate listed above and on Attachment 1 at the time of termination for such subrogation services.

If THE GROUP elects to use an outside vendor to perform subrogation recovery services, BCBSNE may charge a reasonable fee for implementation and reporting services.

- N. Provide its standard Case Management Programs and Utilization Management Program for Covered Services provided to Covered Persons and to perform Utilization Review in accordance with the Plan.
- O. Furnish THE GROUP copies of available records of BCBSNE which may be required to satisfy the requirements of ERISA.
- P. Indemnify THE GROUP and hold it harmless against any and all loss, damage, and expense with respect to the administration of the Plan resulting from, or arising out of, any act or omission which constitutes bad faith, fraudulent or criminal acts of employees of BCBSNE acting alone or in collusion with others.

- Q. BCBSNE does not underwrite or insure the liability of THE GROUP under this Agreement, except as specifically provided in any Stop Loss Contract between the parties. BCBSNE provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims except as set forth in this Agreement.
- R. Upon mutual agreement of BCBSNE and THE GROUP and/or Plan Sponsor, assist THE GROUP and/or Plan Sponsor with certain administrative tasks related to compliance obligations of THE GROUP and/or Plan Sponsor.
- S. Provide claims reporting which provides the level of detail necessary for THE GROUP's consultant to advise THE GROUP on benefit design and funding alternatives. Provided information will include, but not be limited to the following, net paid claims, enrollment data, and a high claims report which provides diagnosis and treatment detail. BCBSNE group reporting guideline / policies will apply.
- T. If applicable, provide administration for the following state assessment mandates by agreeing to:
1. Comply with New York State Health Care Reform Act, if applicable. If THE GROUP elects, BCBSNE shall make a filing with the New York State Department of Health ("DOH") on behalf of THE GROUP to elect for the Plan to make direct payments to the DOH of the Plan's obligations under sections 2807-j and 2807-s of the New York Public Health Law. For each month in which the Plan's direct payment election is in effect with the DOH, BCBSNE shall notify THE GROUP of the amount of the required surcharge and covered lives assessment for such month and shall file appropriate reports with the DOH and make the required payments to the DOH in accordance with the procedure under this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, such surcharges and covered lives assessments shall be considered authorized expenses of the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for any surcharge or covered lives assessment payable by the Plan under section 2807-j or 2807-s of the New York Public Health Law and shall not be liable for any interest or penalties assessed against the Plan or THE GROUP as a result of late or insufficient payment of such surcharges and assessments, unless the interest or penalty is a result of BCBSNE'S negligence or mistake. THE GROUP must notify BCBSNE in advance if they choose to pay the surcharge itself.
  2. Submit payment to the Maine Vaccine Board in accordance with 22 MRSA Sec. 1066. Payment is required in relation to the number of Covered Life Months. The assessment rate is set in advance of the beginning of each calendar year. Payment is required by all insurers, which included third-party administrators. A Covered Life Month is any month in which health benefits are provided to a child under age 19 who resides in the State of Maine. Such payments shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for any interest charge for failing to make a savings offset payment in a timely manner, unless the interest payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
  3. Submit payment to the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with Sec. 48. 32 V.S.A. Chapter 243. Payment is required in an amount equal to 0.999 of 1 percent of all health insurance claims paid by an insurer for Vermont residents in the previous fiscal year. The assessment applies to all health care and dental claims that are not financed through a federal program. The payment of such fee shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
  4. Submit payment to the Vermont Department of Health in accordance with 18 V.S.A. §1130(b)(1). Payment is required in relation to the number of Vermont covered lives. The payment of such fee shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.

5. Submit the required assessment to the Idaho Immunization Board in compliance with Idaho Code § 41-6005, if applicable. An assessment is required to be paid by all carriers for any child under the age of 19 residing in the State of Idaho. The payment of the assessment shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
7. Submit payment to the Massachusetts Health Safety Net Office in accordance with the Massachusetts Act Providing Access to Affordable Quality and Accountable Health Care Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006. Payment is required by all purchasers of healthcare services who make payments to acute hospitals and to ambulatory surgical centers. The surcharge amount equals the product of the payments subjected to the surcharge and the applicable surcharge percentage. The payment of such fee shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
8. Submit payment to the Massachusetts General Fund for the Pediatric Immunization Assessment in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Section 38 of Chapter 118G. Payment is required by all health care insurers that conduct business in Massachusetts to cover the costs of purchasing and distributing childhood vaccines. The surcharge amount equals a percentage of payments made to acute hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. The payment of such fee shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
9. Submit payment to the New Hampshire Vaccine Association in accordance with New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 126-Q. Payment is required by all insurers and third party administrators covering children residing in the New Hampshire. Payment is required in relation to the number of child covered lives. The monthly assessment rate is expected to be updated once each year. The payment of such fee shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
10. Submit payment to the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program ("AVAP") in compliance with AS 18.09.200 et. seq. An assessment is required to be paid by all insurers, self-insured employers, and third party administrators who insure or administer or provide benefits to children or adults residing in the state of Alaska. The payment of the assessment shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.
11. Submit payment to the general treasurer of Rhode Island in compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-7.4-11, Rhode Island's Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act. An assessment is required to be paid by all insurers, self-insured employers, and third party administrators who insure or administer benefits to individuals residing in the state of Rhode Island. The payment of the assessment shall be considered authorized expenses under the Plan and shall be billed to THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall not be liable for failure to pay the fee, unless the failure to make payment is a result of BCBSNE's negligence or mistake.

THE GROUP is responsible for any state assessment on GROUP claims regardless of whether the state assessment is included in this Section.

### III.

#### THE GROUP's SERVICES

**In carrying out the terms of this Agreement, THE GROUP agrees to:**

- A. The Employees eligible for coverage under the Plan, and specific requirements for eligibility, are determined by THE GROUP. Dependents of an eligible Employee may also be eligible for coverage under the Plan, if they meet the definition of Eligible Dependent, as defined in the Summary Plan Description.
- B. THE GROUP agrees to follow eligibility and effective date of coverage guidelines, as stated herein, and/or within the Summary Plan Description, and/or Client Profile. Enrollment for coverage under the Plan is completed through THE GROUP, pursuant to its enrollment procedures. Rules regarding eligibility, Special Enrollment, Late Enrollment and changes in benefit elections are described in the Summary Plan Description. Information regarding eligibility and termination of eligibility of Employees, Subscribers and Covered Persons must be furnished to BCBSNE within 60 days of the event.

THE GROUP's records relating to such coverage shall be open to BCBSNE for review at reasonable times. THE GROUP shall be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of its eligibility information. BCBSNE shall have no liability to THE GROUP or any Covered Person as a consequence of inaccurate eligibility information.

The coverage of any Employee or Eligible Dependent may be canceled for fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact, including misrepresentation about a claim or eligibility for coverage. When the fraud or misrepresentation occurs during enrollment and is discovered within two years of the enrollment, coverage will be rescinded back to the date of the initial enrollment, subject to BCBSNE's provision of a 30-day advance notice of such rescission. Claims incurred after the retroactive date of termination shall not be further processed and/or paid under the Plan. Claims incurred after the retroactive date of termination that were paid under the Plan will be treated as erroneously paid claims under the Plan. Neither the acceptance of employee contributions nor the processing of claims will constitute a waiver of BCBSNE's or the GROUP's rights under this paragraph. Written notice will be sent by certified mail to the Employee or Eligible Dependent at his or her last-known address as shown by the membership records and shall be effective the date notice is mailed.

- C. Cooperate with BCBSNE in an audit of Covered Persons, upon request, but not more frequently than annually. The cost of such audit shall be borne by BCBSNE and shall include, but not be limited to, reimbursing THE GROUP's personnel providing support to such audit in excess of ten hours and copying expenses.
- D. Notify BCBSNE immediately of any work-related accident suffered by a Covered Person for which recovery may be available under any Workers' Compensation Law or similar law. THE GROUP agrees to forward a copy of the First Injury Report to BCBSNE as soon as possible. Work-related injuries or illnesses are not Covered Services, therefore provider discounts which are available to THE GROUP under the health coverage, are not available for these services. THE GROUP also agrees to advise BCBSNE of any potential subrogation rights or other contractual rights of recovery known to THE GROUP.
- E. Review the Benefit Plan Document and any changes or modifications thereto, and notify BCBSNE of any necessary changes within 30 days of receipt. Any changes or modifications to the Benefit Plan Document must be approved by BCBSNE before it is effective. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

Any changes or modifications to benefits which are made by THE GROUP must be approved by BCBSNE, and may be subject to an increased charge, and any additional administrative expense involved in its implementation. This charge will be determined by BCBSNE, and shall be effective as of the effective date of the modification. Benefits cannot be decreased retroactively at any time.



Special projects, services, or benefits, including any associated fees, may be described in this Agreement, an amendment to this Agreement, or in a separate agreement (e.g., a Non-Standard Benefit or Services Agreement).

- F. Grant to BCBSNE discretionary authority to determine for all parties, all matters of fact or interpretation relating to any claim under the Benefit Plan, including interpretation of Plan provisions, to the extent that BCBSNE is a fiduciary for claims processing purposes. These decisions will be final and binding subject to appeal to BCBSNE under its review process.
- G. Indemnify BCBSNE and hold it harmless against any and all claim loss, damage, and expense with respect to the administration of the Plan, except that resulting from, or arising out of, any act or omission which constitutes bad faith, negligence, fraudulent or criminal acts of employees of BCBSNE, acting alone or in collusion with others, or expenses incurred by BCBSNE in the regular administration of the Plan.

THE GROUP agrees that should it fail to make payment due to insolvency or for any other reason, the provider shall have authority to collect directly for Covered Services from its Covered Persons.

- H. Indemnify BCBSNE and hold it harmless, as set forth herein, for any claim, loss, damage and expense arising from the release of claims specific information to THE GROUP.
- I. THE GROUP on behalf of itself and its participants, hereby expressly acknowledges its understanding that this Agreement constitutes a contract solely between THE GROUP and BCBSNE, that BCBSNE is an independent corporation operating under a license with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, (the "Association") permitting BCBSNE to use the BCBS Service Marks in Nebraska, and that BCBSNE is not contracting as the agent of the Association. THE GROUP further acknowledges and agrees that it has not entered into this Agreement based upon representations by any person other than BCBSNE, and that no person, entity or organization other than BCBSNE shall be held accountable or liable to THE GROUP for any of BCBSNE's obligations to THE GROUP created under this Agreement. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of BCBSNE other than those obligations created under other provisions of this Agreement.
- J. Execute and be responsible for all HIPAA related compliance, including but not limited to executing any necessary agreements or notifications.
- K. Keep all information received from BCBSNE confidential. THE GROUP will not use or disclose such information except as necessary for administration of claims pursuant to the Benefit Plan Document. In the event THE GROUP discloses any such information to a contractor assisting in the administration of the Benefit Plan Document, it shall first obtain written agreement from the contractor restricting further disclosure or use for any purpose other than providing such assistance. THE GROUP will ensure that, if necessary, a Business Associate Contract is in place with respect to applicable services provided by a subcontractor.

In consideration for the benefits available under the Plan, all Covered Persons agree that he or she consents to the release of his or her medical and other personal information to BCBSNE and to THE GROUP as necessary for the purpose of determining eligibility and/or administering claims.

#### **IV.**

##### **CONTINUATION OF COBRA COVERAGE**

**A. THE GROUP is responsible to provide all notices required by COBRA and Department of Labor Regulations, including but not limited to:**

1. An initial COBRA Notice to Employees and their spouses upon the date THE GROUP first becomes subject to COBRA.
2. An initial COBRA notice to new Employees and their spouses within 90 days after coverage commences (or earlier, if a Qualifying Event occurs within the first 90 days of coverage).
3. A notice to the Plan Administrator when a Qualifying event occurs due to an Employee's termination or reduction in hours of employment, death or entitlement to Medicare, or due to THE GROUP filing bankruptcy, within 30 days of the Qualifying Event. THE GROUP shall also notify the Plan Administrator within 30 days of receiving notice of a Covered Person's Qualifying Event due to divorce, legal separation, or cessation of dependent status.
4. A notice of unavailability of COBRA in the event an Employee or dependent requests COBRA coverage and is determined to be ineligible.
5. A notice of early termination of COBRA coverage in the event a Qualified Beneficiary's coverage is terminated prior to the end of the maximum COBRA coverage period.

THE GROUP agrees to establish reasonable COBRA notice procedures, in accordance with federal regulations. THE GROUP agrees to indemnify BCBSNE for any losses directly related to THE GROUP's failure to establish or follow reasonable COBRA notice procedures. The experience from the continuation coverage shall be charged to THE GROUP's Plan.

**The applicable Continuation of Coverage provisions are stated in the Summary Plan Description.**

**B. The amount of recommended monthly charges to be collected and retained by THE GROUP shall not be less than the amounts indicated on Attachment 3.**

#### **V.**

##### **FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS**

**The financing arrangements applicable under this Agreement are those set forth on Attachment 2.**

#### **VI.**

##### **COMPENSATION**

- A. Commencing with the effective date of this Agreement, and in consideration of the services and obligations herein required of BCBSNE, THE GROUP shall pay BCBSNE, monthly, the following amounts. If the number of Covered Persons increases or decreases by 10% or more, or the terms of this Agreement are changed by THE GROUP during the Term, BCBSNE reserves the right to revise the rates contained in this Section or applicable Attachment.**

1. **Administrative Service Fees:** The fees for BCBSNE's services, including certain optional services, as stated in this Agreement which includes fees for all persons who have elected to continue membership in THE GROUP pursuant to COBRA continuation coverage.

[The Administrative Service Fees includes fees BCBSNE charges to THE GROUP for administering THE GROUP's benefit plan and BlueCard Fees.]

**The Administrative Service Fees are indicated on Attachment 1, Section A.**

2. Reimbursement for the total "**Net Paid Claims**" for the preceding month, unless reimbursement is otherwise provided in Part V., above. Claims data which is, for any reason, omitted from a particular month's billing, shall be added to the billing for a subsequent month, and the Administrative Service Fee for the subsequent month shall reflect any appropriate adjustment.

**Net Paid Claims:** This is the amount determined after subtraction of any discount and other adjustments made to the Allowable Charge for Covered Services, pursuant to the contractual provisions between BCBSNE and the Contracting Providers, or in accordance with other Contract provisions. These payments are made by BCBSNE or a Blue Cross and/or a Blue Shield plan in another state, referred to as a "Host Blue." THE GROUP's payment is made on a Net Paid Claims basis.

Payment for Covered Services by a Contracting facility inside BCBSNE's service area is based on the Contracted Amount less the Covered Person's Deductible, Coinsurance and Copayment. Payment for Covered Services received from a Contracting facility outside of BCBSNE's service area is based on the lesser of the Contracted Amount or the billed charge less the Covered Person's Deductible, Coinsurance and Copayment. Payment for Covered Services received from a Contracting professional or noninstitutional provider is based on the lesser of the Contracted Amount or the billed charge less the Covered Person's Deductible, Coinsurance and Copayment, regardless of location. The Coinsurance is based on the lesser of the Allowable Charge or the billed charge for Covered Services.

3. **Value Based Arrangements with Contracting Providers.** BCBSNE has contracts with certain health care providers that vary from traditional fee for service arrangements. These arrangements may include case and/or per diem payments, bundled or episode of care payments, and payments to accountable care organizations ("ACOs") and patient-centered medical homes ("PCMHs") in the form of care coordination and care management payments, quality bonuses, and shared savings payments ("value based care payments" or "VBC Payments"). The VBC Payments to each ACO or PCMH will differ based on the specific contract in place with BCBSNE.

The VBC Payment amount is based upon an assessment of THE GROUP's members who are attributed to an ACO or PCMH and is billed to THE GROUP in the same manner as claims for payment by THE GROUP. VBC Payments may be billed to THE GROUP retrospectively on a quarterly basis (care coordination payments), after the completion of the program year (shared savings or quality bonus), or through the claims system in the same manner as other fee for service claims (care management).

The VBC Payments support practices in making fundamental changes to their care delivery. These changes are needed to provide high quality, patient-focused, whole-person care, which will result in lower total cost of care. The goal of the ACO and PCMH programs is the Triple Aim, an approach for optimizing health care delivery through the following: (a) improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); (b) improving the health of populations; and (c) reducing the per capita cost of health care.

In addition, Host Blue Plans may have contracts with certain health care providers that vary from traditional fee for service arrangements. Pursuant to these arrangements, Host Blues may pay providers for reaching agreed upon cost/quality goals. The Host Blue may pass these provider

payments to BCBSNE, which BCBSNE will pass directly on to THE GROUP. These arrangements and payments are described in more detail in Section VI.B.

4. **Financial Settlements with Providers.** THE GROUP acknowledges and agrees that BCBSNE may, from time to time, enter into financial settlements with Contracting Providers of BCBSNE for, among other reasons, routine claims adjustments, delayed rate adjustments, cost rate adjustments, non-claim specific compensation adjustments (such as incentive or bonus program adjustments). As such, the outcome of these settlements could result in an additional charge or credit being issued to THE GROUP during or after the applicable contract year. The parties understand and agree that any such charge or credit may not result in a corresponding adjustment to amounts paid or not paid to Covered Persons or their cost share in connection with claims relating to the settlement.

BCBSNE reviews and investigates potentially fraudulent or inappropriate billings submitted by providers and members. Whenever amounts from these investigations can be associated with a claim under the Plan and result in a claim adjustment, THE GROUP will receive a credit against future claims costs in the amount of the recovery, less a percentage fee that may be retained by BCBSNE. THE GROUP understands and agrees that not all recoveries can be reasonably tied to a particular claim resulting in its adjustment; for example, when a recovery arises from a general settlement that takes in account BCBSNE's entire book of business with insufficient information for individual claim adjustments. In such circumstances, BCBSNE may retain the recoveries and will make available details of the same on an annual basis upon written request.

5. **Subrogation Recovery Fee.** BCBSNE will charge a fee equal to 25% of the subrogation amount recovered by BCBSNE ("Subrogation Recovery Fee"). The 25% Subrogation Recovery Fee is not included in the Administrative Service Fees or any other fee described in this Agreement and will be deducted from any recovery amount prior to releasing funds to THE GROUP.
6. **The following fees are related to the BlueCard Program. Additional information about the BlueCard Program is found in Paragraph B of this Part.**
  - a. Access Fee: If Contracted Provider savings are available from a Host Blue, BCBSNE may be charged a fee for Covered Persons to access the Host Blue's Contracting Provider network. This Access Fee for services incurred by a Covered Person will be passed along to THE GROUP as a claims expense under Net Paid Claims, unless otherwise indicated in Attachment 1 and Section VI.A.1. The Access Fee is a percentage of the discount the Host Blue has made available to BCBSNE, but not to exceed \$2,000 for any claim. If an Access Fee credit is received, this amount will be credited to THE GROUP. The provider has agreed not to bill Covered Persons for amounts in excess of the Contracted Amount, but may bill them for Deductibles, Coinsurance and amounts for Noncovered Services.

The amount of this fee or any credits will be used in the computation of "Net Paid Claims" charged to THE GROUP. Instances may occur when none of a claim or only a small amount of the claim is paid due to the application of the Covered Person's Deductible, Coinsurance or Copayment. If the Host Blue's arrangement with the provider allows the Contracted Amount to apply when the amount is fully or mostly a Covered Person's obligation, the Access Fee will be paid and passed to THE GROUP as a claims expense under Net Paid Claims even though THE GROUP paid little or none of the claim. This process allows the benefit of the discounted amount to be passed through to the Covered Person.

**The Access Fee is indicated on Attachment 1, Section B. 1. a.**

- b. Administrative Expense Allowance (AEA): The AEA Fee is a fixed per-claim dollar amount charged by the Host Blue to BCBSNE for administrative services the Host Blue provides in processing claims for THE GROUP's Covered Persons. The dollar amount is normally based on the type of claim (e.g. institutional, professional, international, etc.) and can also be based on the size of THE GROUP's enrollment. An Administrative Expense Allowance (AEA) for each original claim processed through the BlueCard Program by the Host Blue, will be charged back to THE GROUP as an administrative expense, unless otherwise indicated in Attachment 1 and Section VI.A.1.

**An AEA Fee Report will be provided monthly with the Claims Analysis Report.**

**The AEA Fees are indicated on Attachment 1, Section B. 1.b.**

- [c. Negotiated Fee Arrangements: The above per claim Access Fees and AEA fees will apply unless alternative fees are negotiated with a Host Blue plan.

PCPM rates are in lieu of standard BlueCard Access and AEA fees for those claims which qualify under such an agreement as indicated above. The PCPM Fee is a financial arrangement negotiated between the Host Blue and BCBSNE and replaces all other fees, including the Access Fee and AEA. The PCPM dollar amount is charged on a per-contract-per-month basis by the Host Blue to BCBSNE for administrative services the Host Blue provides in processing claims for THE GROUP's Covered Persons. The dollar amount can also be based on the size of THE GROUP's enrollment. When charged, BCBSNE passes the PCPM Fee directly on to THE GROUP, unless otherwise indicated in Attachment 1 and Section VI.A.1.

A per contract (Subscriber) per month (PCPM) fee billed to THE GROUP, identified as "PCPM FEES" or "ITS FEES" on the monthly invoice, indicates that such a negotiation has occurred. The fees will be charged on non-Medicare eligible Subscribers residing in the Host Blue's service area.

In addition, a Non-Standard AEA fee is another type of alternative fee which is also in lieu of standard per claim BlueCard Access and AEA fees. The Non-Standard AEA Fee is a financial arrangement negotiated between the Host Blue and BCBSNE and replaces all other fees, including the Access Fee and AEA. The Non-Standard AEA is a fixed per-claim dollar amount charged by the Host Blue to BCBSNE for administrative services the Host Blue provides in processing claims for THE GROUP's Covered Persons. When charged, BCBSNE passes the Non-Standard AEA Fee directly on to THE GROUP, unless otherwise indicated in Attachment 1 and Section VI.A.1.

Non-Standard AEA fees will be billed to THE GROUP and will be shown as "AEA FEES" on the monthly invoice.

For claims incurred in Host Blue service areas where such an alternative agreement does not exist, the per-claim Access and AEA fees will apply as described above.]

## **7. [Negotiated National Account Arrangements**

As an alternative to the BlueCard Program, BCBSNE may enter into a Negotiated National Account Arrangement with a Host Blue. Under such arrangements, any fees charged will not be greater than the comparable fees that would have been charged under the BlueCard Program. BCBSNE will charge these fees as follows:

- Access Fees
- Administrative Expense Allowance (AEA) fees

- Per Contract Per Month (PCPM) fees
- Non-Standard AEA fees]

## 8. **Non-Contracted Providers**

For both physician/professional and institutional claims incurred in other plan service areas with non-contracted providers, no Access Fee applies. The AEA fee for non-contracted provider claims will be \$3.00 per claim [unless an alternative fee arrangement was negotiated with the Host Blue plan. If PCPM fees have been negotiated with Host Blue plans, there will be no additional AEA fee for processing claims from non-contracted providers outside of BCBSNE's service area. If Non-Standard AEA fees have been negotiated with Host Blue plans, such fees will also apply to claims processed from non-contracted healthcare providers outside of BCBSNE's service area.]

## 9. **Premium for an Individual Stop Loss.**

### **Premium for an Aggregate Stop Loss.**

The Stop Loss premium, however stated, includes fees for all persons who have elected to continue memberships in THE GROUP pursuant to COBRA.

**If applicable, the Stop Loss premiums are addressed in the Stop Loss Contract.**

10. **Commissions:** If a commission to an agent of record specified by THE GROUP is payable by BCBSNE, the actual amount paid will be charged to THE GROUP each month during the Term of this Agreement.

**The monthly commission is indicated on Attachment 1, Section C.**

- B. The following language is mandated by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association in order to explain the methods that are used to calculate claim liability in the various independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. The Out-of-Area Services fees and compensation costs are outlined on Attachment 1, Section B.**

**Out-of-Area Services:** BCBSNE has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees referred to generally as "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements operate under rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever Covered Persons access healthcare services outside the geographic area BCBSNE serves, the claim for those services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described generally below.

Typically, when accessing care outside the geographic area BCBSNE serves, Covered Persons obtain care from healthcare providers that have a contractual agreement ("participating providers") with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that other geographic area ("Host Blue"). In some instances, Covered Person obtain care from healthcare providers in the Host Blue geographic area that do not have a contractual agreement ("nonparticipating providers") with the Host Blue. BCBSNE remains responsible for fulfilling its contractual obligations to you. BCBSNE payment practices in both instances are described below.

This disclosure describes how claims are administered for Inter-Plan Arrangements and the fees that are charged in connection with Inter-Plan Arrangements. Dental Care Benefits (except when paid as medical claims/benefits) and those Prescription Drug Benefits or Vision Care Benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by BCBSNE to provide the specific service or services are not processed through the Inter-Plan Arrangements.

## 1. **BlueCard<sup>®</sup> Program**

The BlueCard® Program is an Inter-Plan Arrangement. Under this Arrangement, when Covered Persons access Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue (outside the geographic area BCBSNE serves), the Host Blue will be responsible for contracting and handling all interactions with its participating healthcare providers. The financial terms of the BlueCard Program are described generally below.

**a. Liability Calculation Method Per Claim – In General**

**i. Covered Person Liability Calculation**

Unless subject to a fixed dollar copayment, the calculation of the Covered Person's liability on claims for Covered Services will be based on the lower of the participating provider's billed charges for Covered Services or the negotiated price made available to BCBSNE by the Host Blue.

**ii. THE GROUP's Liability Calculation**

The calculation of THE GROUP'S liability on claims for Covered Services processed through the BlueCard Program will be based on the negotiated price made available to BCBSNE by the Host Blue under the contract between the Host Blue and the provider. Sometimes, this negotiated price may be greater for a given service or services than the billed charge in accordance with how the Host Blue has negotiated with its participating healthcare provider(s) for specific healthcare services. In cases where the negotiated price exceeds the billed charge, THE GROUP may be liable for the excess amount even when the Covered Person's deductible has not been satisfied. This excess amount reflects an amount that may be necessary to secure (a) the provider's participation in the network and/or (b) the overall discount negotiated by the Host Blue. In such a case, the entire contracted price is paid to the provider, even when the contracted price is greater than the billed charge.

**b. Claims Pricing**

Host Blues determine a negotiated price, which is reflected in the terms of each Host Blue's provider contracts. The negotiated price made available to BCBSNE by the Host Blue may be represented by one of the following:

- i.** An actual price. An actual price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed without any other increases or decreases; or
- ii.** An estimated price. An estimated price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed, reduced or increased by a percentage to take into account certain payments negotiated with the provider and other claim- and non-claim-related transactions. Such transactions may include, but are not limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, provider refunds not applied on a claim-specific basis, retrospective settlements and performance-related bonuses or incentives; or
- iii.** An average price. An average price is a percentage of billed charges for Covered Services in effect at the time a claim is processed representing the aggregate payments negotiated by the Host Blue with all of its healthcare providers or a similar classification of its providers and other claim- and non-claim-

related transactions. Such transactions may include the same ones as noted above for an estimated price.

The Host Blue determines whether it will use an actual, estimated or average price. The use of estimated or average pricing may result in a difference (positive or negative) between the price THE GROUP pays on a specific claim and the actual amount the Host Blue pays to the provider. However, the BlueCard Program requires that the amount paid by the Covered Person and THE GROUP is a final price; no future price adjustment will result in increases or decreases to the pricing of past claims.

Any positive or negative differences in estimated or average pricing are accounted for through variance accounts maintained by the Host Blue and are incorporated into future claim prices. As a result, the amounts charged to THE GROUP will be adjusted in a following year, as necessary, to account for over- or underestimation of the past years' prices. The Host Blue will not receive compensation from how the estimated price or average price methods, described above, are calculated. Because all amounts paid are final, neither positive variance account amounts (funds available to be paid in the following year), nor negative variance amounts (the funds needed to be received in the following year), are due to or from THE GROUP. If THE GROUP terminates, THE GROUP will not receive a refund or charge from the variance account.

Variance account balances are small amounts relative to the overall paid claims amounts and will be liquidated over time. The timeframe for their liquidation depends on variables, including, but not limited to, overall volume (number of claims processed) and variance account balance. Variance account balances may earn interest at the federal funds or similar rate. Host Blues may retain interest earned on funds held in variance accounts.

#### **c. BlueCard Program Fees and Compensation**

THE GROUP understands and agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for certain fees and compensation which BCBSNE is obligated under the BlueCard Program to pay to the Host Blues, to the Association and/or to vendors of BlueCard Program-related services. The specific BlueCard Program fees and compensation that are charged to THE GROUP are set forth in Attachment 1. BlueCard Program Fees and compensation may be revised from time to time as described in the "Modifications or Changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement Fees or Compensation" Section below.

### **[2. Negotiated National Account Arrangements**

With respect to one or more Host Plans, instead of using the BlueCard Program, BCBSNE may process THE GROUP's claims for Covered Services through Negotiated Arrangements.

In addition, if BCBSNE and THE GROUP have agreed that a Host Blue shall make available a custom healthcare provider network in connection with this Agreement, then the terms and conditions set forth in BCBSNE Negotiated Arrangements for National Accounts with such Host Blue shall apply. These include the provisions governing the processing and payment of claims when Covered Persons access such networks. In negotiating such arrangements, BCBSNE is not acting on behalf of or as an agent for THE GROUP, THE GROUP'S health benefit plan or THE GROUP's Covered Persons.

#### **a. Covered Person Liability Calculation**



If BCBSNE has entered into a Negotiated National Account arrangement with a Host Blue, the Covered Person liability calculation will be based on the lower of either: billed covered charges or the negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to BCBSNE and that allows THE GROUP's Covered Persons access to negotiated participation agreement networks of specified participating providers outside of BCBSNE's service area.

Under certain circumstances, if BCBSNE pays the healthcare provider amounts that are the responsibility of the Covered Person BCBSNE may collect such amounts from the Covered Person.

In situations where participating agreements allow for bulk settlement reconciliations for Episode- Based Payment (Bundled Payments), BCBSNE may include a factor for such settlement reconciliations as part of the fees BCBSNE charges to THE GROUP.

Where THE GROUP agrees to use reference-based benefits, which are service-specific benefit dollar limits for specific procedures, based on a Host Blue's local market rates, Covered Persons will be responsible for the amount that the healthcare provider bills for a specified procedure above the reference benefit limit for that procedure. For a participating provider, that amount will be the difference between the negotiated price and the reference benefit limit. For a nonparticipating provider, that amount will be the difference between the provider's billed charge and the reference benefit limit. Where a reference benefit limit exceeds either a negotiated price or a provider's billed charge, the Covered Person will incur no liability, other than any applicable Covered Person cost sharing under this Agreement.

#### **b. Fees and Compensation**

THE GROUP understands and agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for certain fees and compensation which we are obligated under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangement requirements to pay to the Host Blues, to the Association and/or to vendors of Inter-Plan Arrangement-related services. Fees and compensation under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangements may be revised from time to time as described in the "Modifications or Changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement Fees or Compensation" Section below. In addition, the participation agreement with the Host Blue may provide that BCBSNE must pay an administrative and/or a network access fee to the Host Blue, and THE GROUP further agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for any such applicable administrative and/or network access fees. The specific fees and compensation that are charged to THE GROUP under Negotiated Arrangements are set forth in Attachment 1.]

### **3. Special Cases: Value-Based Programs**

#### **Value-Based Programs Overview**

THE GROUP's Covered Persons may access Covered Services from providers that participate in a Host Blue's Value-Based Program. Value-Based Programs may be delivered either through the BlueCard Program or a Negotiated Arrangement. These Value-Based Programs may include, but are not limited to, Accountable Care Organizations, Global Payment/Total Cost of Care arrangements, Patient Centered Medical Homes and Shared Savings arrangements.

#### **a. Value-Based Programs under the BlueCard Program**

##### **Value-Based Programs Administration**

Under Value-Based Programs, a Host Blue may pay providers for reaching agreed-upon cost/quality goals in the following ways: retrospective settlements, Provider Incentives, a share of target savings, Care Coordinator Fees and/or other allowed amounts.

The Host Blue may pass these provider payments to BCBSNE which BCBSNE will pass directly on to THE GROUP as either an amount included in the price of the claim or an amount charged separately in addition to the claim.

When such amounts are included in the price of the claim, the claim may be billed using one of the following pricing methods, as determined by the Host Blue:

- (i) Actual Pricing: The charge to accounts for Value-Based Programs incentives/Shared Savings settlements is part of the claim. These charges are passed to THE GROUP via an enhanced provider fee schedule.
- (ii) Supplemental Factor: The charge to accounts for Value-Based Programs incentives/Shared Savings settlements is a supplemental amount that is included in the claim as an amount based on a specified supplemental factor (e.g., a small percentage increase in the claim amount). The supplemental factor may be adjusted from time to time. This pricing method may be used only for non-attributed Value-Based Programs.

When such amounts are billed separately from the price of the claim, they may be billed as follows:

- Per Attributed Member Per Month (PMPM) Billings: Per Attributed Member Per Month billings for Value-Based Programs incentives/Shared Savings settlements to accounts are outside of the claim system. BCBSNE will pass these Host Blue charges directly through to THE GROUP as a separately identified amount on the group billings.

The amounts used to calculate either the supplemental factors for estimated pricing or PMPM billings are fixed amounts that are estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of a particular Value-Based Program. Because amounts are estimates, there may be positive or negative differences based on actual experience, and such differences will be accounted for in a variance account maintained by the Host Blue (in the same manner as described in the BlueCard claim pricing section above) until the end of the applicable Value-Based Program payment and/or reconciliation measurement period. The amounts needed to fund a Value-Based Program may be changed before the end of the measurement period if it is determined that amounts being collected are projected to exceed the amount necessary to fund the program or if they are projected to be insufficient to fund the program.

At the end of the Value-Based Program payment and/or reconciliation measurement period for these arrangements, Host Blues will take one of the following actions:

- Use any surplus in funds in the variance account to fund Value-Based Program payments or reconciliation amounts in the next measurement period.
- Address any deficit in funds in the variance account through an adjustment to the PMPM billing amount or the reconciliation billing amount for the next measurement period.

The Host Blue will not receive compensation resulting from how estimated, average or PMPM price methods, described above, are calculated. If THE GROUP terminates, you will not receive a refund or charge from the variance account. This is because any resulting surpluses or deficits would be eventually exhausted through prospective adjustment to the settlement billings in the case of Value-Based Programs. The measurement period for determining these surpluses or deficits may differ from the term of this Agreement.

Variance account balances are small amounts relative to the overall paid claims amounts and will be liquidated over time. The timeframe for their liquidation depends on variables, including, but not limited to, overall volume/number of claims processed and variance account balance. Variance account balances may earn interest, and interest is earned at the federal funds or similar rate. Host Blues may retain interest earned on funds held in variance accounts.

Note: Covered Persons will not bear any portion of the cost of Value-Based Programs except when a Host Blue uses either average pricing or actual pricing to pay providers under Value-Based Programs.

#### **b. Care Coordinator Fees**

Host Blues may also bill BCBSNE for Care Coordinator Fees for provider services which we will pass on to THE GROUP as follows:

1. PMPM billings; or
2. Individual claim billings through applicable care coordination codes from the most current editions of either Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) published by the American Medical Association (AMA) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) published by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

As part of this Agreement, BCBSNE and THE GROUP will not impose Covered Person cost sharing for Care Coordinator Fees.

#### **c. Value-Based Programs under Negotiated Arrangements**

If BCBSNE has entered into a Negotiated Arrangement/Negotiated National Account Arrangement with a Host Blue to provide Value-Based Programs to THE GROUP's Covered Persons, BCBSNE will follow the same procedures for Value-Based Programs administration and Care Coordination Fees as noted in the BlueCard Program section.

As part of this Agreement, BCBSNE and THE GROUP may agree to waive Covered Person cost sharing for care coordinator fees.

### **4. Return of Overpayments**

Recoveries of overpayments/from a Host Blue or its participating and nonparticipating providers can arise in several ways, including, but not limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, audits (e.g., healthcare provider and hospital bill audits), credit balance audits, utilization review refunds and unsolicited refunds. Recoveries will be applied so that corrections will be made, in general, on either a claim-by-claim or prospective basis. If recovery amounts are passed on a claim-by-claim basis from a Host Blue to BCBSNE they will be credited to THE GROUP's account. In some cases, the Host Blue will engage a third party to assist in identification or collection of overpayments. The fees of such a third party may be charged to THE GROUP as a percentage of the recovery.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Host Blue, for retroactive cancellations of membership, BCBSNE will request the Host Blue to provide full refunds from participating healthcare providers for a period of only one year after the date of the Inter-Plan financial settlement process for the original claim. For Care Coordinator Fees associated with Value-Based Programs, BCBSNE will request such refunds for a period of only up to ninety (90) days from the termination notice transaction on the payment innovations delivery platform. In some cases, recovery of claim payments associated with a retroactive cancellation may not be possible if, as an example, the recovery (a) conflicts with the Host Blue's state law or healthcare provider contracts, (b) would result from Shared Savings and/or Provider Incentive

arrangements or (c) would jeopardize the Host Blue's relationship with its participating healthcare providers, notwithstanding to the contrary any other provision of this Agreement.

**5. Inter-Plan Programs: Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees**

In some instances federal or state laws or regulations may impose a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to self-funded accounts. If applicable, BCBSNE will disclose any such surcharge, tax or other fee to THE GROUP, which will be THE GROUP's liability.

**6. Non-Participating Healthcare Providers Outside BCBSNE's Service Area**

**a. Covered Person Liability Calculation**

**i. In General**

When Covered Services are provided outside of BCBSNE service area by nonparticipating providers, the amount a Covered Person pays for such services will be based on either the Host Blue's nonparticipating healthcare provider local payment or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state law. In these situations, the Covered Person may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment BCBSNE will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Payments for out-of-network emergency services will be governed by applicable federal and state law.

**ii. Exceptions**

In some exception cases, at THE GROUP's direction BCBSNE may pay claims from nonparticipating healthcare providers outside of BCBSNE's service area based on the provider's billed charge. This may occur in situations where a Covered Person did not have reasonable access to a participating provider, as determined by BCBSNE in BCBSNE's sole and absolute discretion or by applicable law. In other exception cases, at THE GROUP's direction BCBSNE may pay such claims based on the payment BCBSNE would make if BCBSNE were paying a nonparticipating provider inside of BCBSNE service area, as described elsewhere in this Agreement. This may occur where the Host Blue's corresponding payment would be more than BCBSNE in-service area nonparticipating provider payment. BCBSNE may choose to negotiate a payment with such a provider on an exception basis.

Unless otherwise stated, in any of these exception situations, the Covered Person may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating healthcare provider bills and the payment BCBSNE will make for the covered services as set forth in this paragraph.

**b. Fees and Compensation**

THE GROUP understands and agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for certain fees and compensation which we are obligated under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangement requirements to pay to the Host Blues, to the Association and/or to vendors of Inter-Plan Arrangement-related services. The specific fees and compensation that are charged to THE GROUP are set forth in Attachment 1. Fees and compensation under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangements may be revised from time to time as provided for in the "Modifications or Changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement Fees or Compensation" Section below.

**7. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program**

#### **a. General Information**

If Covered Persons are outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (hereinafter: "BlueCard service area"), they may be able to take advantage of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core when accessing Covered Services. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core assists Covered Persons with accessing a network of inpatient, outpatient and professional providers, the network is not served by a Host Blue. As such, when Covered Persons receive care from providers outside the BlueCard service area, the Covered Persons will typically have to pay the providers and submit the claims themselves to obtain reimbursement for these services.

##### **•Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if Covered Persons contact the service center for assistance, hospitals will not require Covered Persons to pay for covered inpatient services, except for their cost-share amounts/deductibles, coinsurance, etc. In such cases, the hospital will submit Covered Person claims to the service center to initiate claims processing. However, if the Covered Person paid in full at the time of service, the Covered Person must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services. Covered Persons **must contact BCBSNE to obtain precertification for non-emergency inpatient services.**

##### **•Outpatient Services**

Physicians, urgent care centers and other outpatient providers located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require Covered Persons to pay in full at the time of service. Covered Persons must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

##### **•Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim**

When Covered Persons pay for Covered Services outside the BlueCard service area, they must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, Covered Persons should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core claim form and send the claim form with the provider's itemized bill to the service center address on the form to initiate claims processing. The claim form is available from BCBSNE, the service center, or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If Covered Persons need assistance with their claim submissions, they should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### **b. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program Program-Related Fees**

THE GROUP understands and agrees to reimburse BCBSNE for certain fees and compensation which we are obligated under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangement requirements to pay to the Host Blues, to the Association and/or to vendors of Inter-Plan Arrangement-related services. The specific fees and compensation that are charged to THE GROUP under Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core are set forth in Attachment 1. Fees and compensation under applicable Inter-Plan Arrangements may be revised from time to time as provided for in the "Modifications or Changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement Fees or Compensation" Section below.

### **8. Modifications or Changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement Fees or Compensation**

Modifications or changes to Inter-Plan Arrangement fees (Access and AEA) are generally made effective Jan. 1 of the calendar year, but they may occur at any time during the year. In the case of any such modifications or changes, BCBSNE shall provide THE GROUP with at least thirty (30) days' advance written notice of any modification or change to such Inter-Plan Arrangement fees or compensation describing the change and the effective date thereof and THE GROUP's right to terminate this Agreement without penalty by giving written notice of termination before

the effective date of the change. If THE GROUP fails to respond to the notice and does not terminate this Agreement during the notice period, THE GROUP will be deemed to have approved the proposed changes, and BCBSNE will then allow such modifications to become part of this Agreement.

- C. **[Rx Nebraska Program Fees:** Prime Therapeutics, LLC, (Prime) is the Pharmacy Benefit Manager which processes pharmacy claims for the Rx Nebraska Program. For pharmacy claims, BCBSNE utilizes Prime to provide network access to network participants and to provide mail service. The Rx Nebraska Program terms and fees are described in Attachment 5.]

[Rebates received from manufacturers of drugs and supplies on claims that are processed through THE GROUP's medical benefits will be retained by BCBSNE.]

[Rebates received from manufacturers of drugs and supplies on claims that are processed through THE GROUP's medical benefits will be passed back to THE GROUP.]

[THE GROUP's Net Paid Claims will not be reduced by the amount of THE GROUP's rebates (regardless of whether or not THE GROUP has retained the rebates) for purposes of calculating whether THE GROUP has exceeded its Aggregate Stop Loss Amount.

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) all Food and Drug Administration approved contraceptive methods for women with reproductive capacity are required to be provided with no cost sharing. BCBSNE does not provide prescription drug benefits for THE GROUP. Accordingly, because BCBSNE does not provide prescription drug benefits for THE GROUP, BCBSNE will not provide any prescription drug benefits, including benefits for contraceptives typically covered under a prescription drug program (e.g. birth control pills, patches, rings, etc.). BCBSNE will provide benefits under the medical portion of the health benefit plan for medical services when billed with a contraceptive diagnosis.

By accepting coverage with BCBSNE, THE GROUP agrees that:

- (1) BCBSNE has no obligation to provide prescription drug benefits, including prescription drug benefits for contraceptives;
- (2) It has another insurance carrier or administrator that provides prescription drug benefits, and that insurance carrier or administrator provides prescription drug benefits for contraceptives in accordance with PPACA; and
- (3) It will indemnify and hold BCBSNE harmless against any and all loss, damage, expenses, and penalties imposed by law with respect to THE GROUP's failure to provide prescription drug benefits for contraceptive methods as required by PPACA.

Rebates received from manufacturers of drugs and supplies on claims that are processed through THE GROUP's medical benefits will be retained by BCBSNE.]

- D. BCBSNE shall provide THE GROUP with a monthly billing reflecting the amount due BCBSNE from THE GROUP, less any credits. This billing will be provided on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> business day of the following month and shall be payable within 15 days of its mailing by BCBSNE.

Interest will be charged for Net Paid Claims, Administrative Service fees, Stop Loss charges and amounts previously unreimbursed by THE GROUP, which are received more than 15 calendar days after the date notification is mailed.

Interest will be based on a rate of 12% per annum for the actual number of days which have elapsed beyond the 15-day grace period. The interest charge will be added to the next subsequent billing for claims reimbursement and will not be included in the Aggregate Stop Loss Limit. Interest charges will also be applicable on any past due interest charge.

- E. In connection with the administration of this Agreement, if at any time BCBSNE shall be or become subject to the imposition of, or any increase in, a premium tax or other tax whatsoever, the amount of compensation shall be increased by a like amount. (The present premium taxes on the Stop Loss premiums are included in the costs shown above, if applicable.) Assessments by a state arising from the operation of the Plan, including but not limited to a surcharge on claims and/or an assessment on residents of that state, shall be considered a tax for purpose of this paragraph.

If a change in a law or regulation occurs during the term of this Agreement which results in additional administrative costs such increases in cost will be communicated to and incurred by THE GROUP.

- F. BCBSNE may employ the services of an outside company to seek recovery of credit balances from providers and facilities. The outside company may: a) retain a percentage of the monies recovered as compensation for its services. The remaining balance will be refunded to THE GROUP; or b) charge BCBSNE a fee as compensation for its services. In that instance, the Claims Analysis Report will reflect the full amount of the recovery as a credit. Any fee associated with the collection of these recoveries will be reflected as a charge on the summary invoice provided to THE GROUP.
- G. This Agreement is effective only as to expenses incurred after the effective date of this Agreement, and prior to its termination, subject to Part IX.

## **VII.**

### **LITIGATION**

Should suit be filed against BCBSNE or THE GROUP, or both, for damages or equitable relief, arising out of a determination of benefits, the parties agree to cooperate fully and assist one another in the defense of such claims. Should BCBSNE be named as a defendant in such a suit, BCBSNE shall maintain primary control of such litigation, including the selection of counsel; however, notice will be provided to THE GROUP. Reimbursement will be made to BCBSNE by THE GROUP for the amount of any benefits determined to be payable pursuant to the Benefit Plan Document, by way of settlement or award pursuant to judgment, and THE GROUP shall be responsible for the fees of any separate counsel retained to represent its interests independently. If Plaintiff's attorney fees or taxable court costs are a part of the settlement or award, the parties agree they will split such fees and costs evenly.

This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska (without regard to any conflict of laws provisions) to the extent such law shall not have been preempted by ERISA or other applicable federal law. The venue for any actions shall be a court with appropriate jurisdiction in Douglas County, Nebraska.

## **VIII.**

### **TERM**

This Agreement shall become effective on the date indicated herein (the "Effective Date") and shall remain in effect for a period of one year commencing on the Effective Date. It may be extended by written consent of both parties, with such modifications as shall be agreed to by the parties.

This Agreement may be non-renewed, discontinued, or terminated immediately upon written notice by BCBSNE to THE GROUP, if:

1. THE GROUP fails to meet its financial obligations;
2. there is no longer any Subscriber who lives, resides or works in a Service Area where BCBSNE is licensed;

3. THE GROUP has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in connection with the coverage, or with respect to coverage of individual insureds, or their representatives; or
4. the headquarters of the Employer are no longer located in the State of Nebraska.

This Agreement may be terminated by either party, without cause, but any such termination shall only be effective commencing with the first day of the month at least 60 days following written notice to the other party. BCBSNE will not notify individuals in THE GROUP of THE GROUP's termination, nor will any conversion coverage be provided to such individuals. THE GROUP understands and agrees that BCBSNE may deny any claims that are processed while any amount is past due under this Agreement.

## **IX.**

### **PROCESSING OF CLAIMS IN THE EVENT OF TERMINATION**

In the event of termination of this Agreement, liability for unreported and pending claims as of the date of termination rests with THE GROUP. The following administrative alternatives are available and the selected option is indicated in Attachment 1, section D:

A. THE GROUP will arrange with another claims administrator for processing, handling and payment of such claims as are incurred during the Term of this Agreement, but not submitted for payment until after the termination date. BCBSNE will have no responsibility for such claims except to notify the Covered Person/Provider of the termination date. Covered Person/Provider must resubmit the claims to either the new claims administrator or THE GROUP, as instructed by THE GROUP.

or

B. THE GROUP will arrange with BCBSNE for payment of such claims. Unless the parties agree otherwise, BCBSNE will continue to process claims for services provided during the Term of this Agreement for a period of 12 months after termination of this Agreement. The advance deposit will be returned as set forth on Attachment 2, Section A., 2.

THE GROUP agrees to compensate BCBSNE as provided herein. BCBSNE will send a monthly invoice reporting the amount of claims reimbursement and Administrative Expense for Net Paid Claims during the preceding month. The Administrative Expense applicable to the processing of such claims shall be determined by BCBSNE after notification of termination is received. BCBSNE will have no financial risk or obligation for claims incurred after the current or prior Terms of the Agreement, i.e., there is no limit to the extent of THE GROUP's liability under this paragraph B. as benefits paid pursuant to this Part IX. shall not apply to any Stop Loss coverage. BCBSNE may request THE GROUP to provide a letter of credit guaranteeing payment up to an amount determined by BCBSNE to be the estimated liability for these payments.

**The alternative selected is indicated on Attachment 1, D.**

**The Reserve for Unreported and Pending Claims at the end of the Term of this Agreement is indicated on Attachment 4.**

## **X.**

### **DATA**

Data contained in membership files submitted to BCBSNE by THE GROUP are the property of THE GROUP. Once files which are submitted to BCBSNE are entered into BCBSNE proprietary systems, the data produced, extracted or reported from the BCBSNE systems is the property of BCBSNE ("BCBSNE Proprietary Data").



Any requests for disclosures to third parties or uses of BCBSNE Proprietary Data by THE GROUP shall require mutual consent of the parties hereto.

When BCBSNE releases BCBSNE Proprietary Data to THE GROUP for an approved data use, THE GROUP agrees to: (1) limit the use of BCBSNE Proprietary Data strictly for the purpose for which it was disclosed; (2) only use the minimum necessary BCBSNE Proprietary Data to fulfill the purpose for which it was disclosed; (3) not commingle BCBSNE Proprietary Data with third party information; (4) not convert aggregated BCBSNE Proprietary Data into disaggregated information so as to identify the disclosing party or a licensee of BCBSA; (5) fully protect and preserve the confidential nature of BCBSNE Proprietary Data; (6) not use, distribute or exploit (e.g., resell) BCBSNE Proprietary Data; and (7) immediately notify BCBSNE of any ownership changes. THE GROUP must obtain written consent from BCBSNE prior to sharing BCBSNE Proprietary Data with third parties. BCBSNE may request that the receiving entity execute BCBSNE's non-disclosure agreement. Additionally, when BCBSNE releases BCBSNE Proprietary Data to a third party for an approved data use, BCBSNE will require the receiving entity to execute a non-disclosure agreement that addresses these requirements.

BCBSNE may request a limited audit of THE GROUP solely for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the limitations set forth in this Section X. Such audit shall be undertaken not more than annually.

Subject to the requirements of law, this Agreement, and the Parties' business associate terms, THE GROUP agrees to destroy or return BCBSNE Proprietary Data to BCBSNE upon conclusion of the purposes for which BCBSNE Proprietary Data was disclosed. BCBSNE Proprietary Data that cannot be reasonably returned or destroyed must be maintained by the receiving Party in accordance with the confidentiality terms and conditions of this Agreement.

## **XI.**

### **NONASSIGNMENT**

BCBSNE may not assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the written consent of THE GROUP, provided, however, that any reinsurance obtained by BCBSNE shall not constitute an assignment hereunder.

## **XII.**

### **STOP LOSS PROVISION**

- A. [The applicable Stop Loss contract will be delivered as a separate document. BCBSNE will have the right to inspect and audit all eligibility records and procedures of THE GROUP, and require, upon request, proof of a Covered Person's eligibility. BCBSNE shall have no liability to THE GROUP or any Covered Person as a consequence of inaccurate eligibility information.]
- B. [THE GROUP will make payments to BCBSNE required under this Agreement regardless of any stop loss insurance coverage that may cover such claims and regardless of the existence of any pending stop loss insurance reimbursement that has not been paid to THE GROUP. BCBSNE is not responsible for compliance with any terms and conditions contained within THE GROUP's stop loss insurance contract. THE GROUP releases and holds BCBSNE harmless for denials of claims submitted to THE GROUP's stop loss insurance carrier.]
- C. [If THE GROUP has obtained stop loss insurance through one of BCBSNE's preferred stop loss vendors and BCBSNE has identified that a member has exceeded the specific stop loss deductible, BCBSNE will not request reimbursement from THE GROUP for that member's claims above the specific stop loss deductible, provided that THE GROUP has executed a valid assignment of benefits with BCBSNE and the stop loss vendor, and the Member's claims are covered under THE GROUP's stop loss policy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, BCBSNE is not responsible for the payment of claims

that are denied or disputed by THE GROUP's stop loss carrier and THE GROUP agrees to hold BCBSNE harmless for denials of claims submitted to THE GROUP's stop loss insurance carrier.]

### **XIII.**

#### **MODIFICATION**

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. No representations were made or relied upon by either party other than those that are expressly set forth herein. No agent may change this Agreement in any way. No change in this Agreement shall be valid until approved in writing by an officer of each of the parties. Any such change, however, shall be effective at the time, and with respect to the eligible Employees, therein provided.

### **XIV.**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- A. If any term of this Agreement is declared invalid by a court, the same will not affect the validity of any other provision, provided that the basic purposes of this Agreement are achieved through the remaining valid provisions. The headings of sections and subsections contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.
- B. Failure by THE GROUP or BCBSNE to insist upon strict performance of any provision of this Agreement will not modify such provision, render it unenforceable, or waive any subsequent breach. No waiver or modification of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement shall be valid unless in each instance the waiver or modification is accomplished pursuant to the amendment provisions of Section XIII.
- C. This Agreement (including Attachments) is the full Agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and representations between the parties, other than the separate applicable Business Associate Contract and, if applicable, the separate stop loss contract. This Agreement shall be construed, enforced, and governed by the laws of the State of Nebraska.
- D. Notwithstanding any provision contained herein to the contrary, THE GROUP shall have sixty (60) days from the earlier of the date of THE GROUP's receipt of this Agreement or the date of THE GROUP's consultant's receipt of this Agreement, to review, and accept or reject, the terms of this Agreement. In the event that THE GROUP does not execute this Agreement within sixty (60) days of receipt, THE GROUP agrees that the continuation of administration payments, including administrative service fees, will be considered as acceptance of the terms of this Agreement, as determined by BCBSNE.

- E. THE GROUP must provide BCBSNE with all information which BCBSNE may reasonably request with regard to any matters pertaining to the Plan, including, but not limited to, information necessary to comply with state or federal laws or regulations. BCBSNE has the right to request information at any time. THE GROUP agrees to indemnify and hold BCBSNE harmless against any and all loss, damage, expenses, and penalties imposed by law with respect to THE GROUP's failure to provide BCBSNE with requested information, THE GROUP's failure to provide accurate information, and/or THE GROUP'S failure to reasonably cooperate with BCBSNE as may be required with regard to any matters pertaining to this Agreement, including compliance with state or federal laws and regulations.
- F. THE GROUP agrees that BCBSNE, along with its affiliates and/or vendors, may call or text any phone numbers THE GROUP or its Covered Persons give to BCBSNE, including a wireless number, using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or a prerecorded message. Without limit, these calls may pertain to plan administration, treatment options, special investigations pertaining to fraud, waste or abuse, health-related benefits and services, enrollment, payment, or billing.
- G. BCBSNE does not engage in the practice of medicine and all Contracting Providers provide Covered Services under the terms of the Plan as independent practitioners of the healing arts. Such providers are not employees or agents of BCBSNE or the On-site plan, and BCBSNE will not be liable for any act, error or neglect of any Hospital, Physician or other provider or their agent, employee, successor or assignee.
- H. BCBSNE's entire liability shall not exceed the amount of benefits provided under the Plan, regardless of the form of the action. In no event shall BCBSNE be liable for consequential, incidental, special or indirect damages regardless of whether it has been advised of the possibility of such damages.
- I. All statements, in the absence of fraud, made by THE GROUP or the Covered Person will be deemed representations and not warranties. No such statements will void coverage or reduce the Plan benefits unless contained in the attached Summary Plan Description, the Client Profile, or the Subscriber's enrollment information. Neither acceptance of premium nor payment of Claims will constitute a waiver of available defenses.
- J. The rights and obligations of the parties as set forth in this Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement to the extent necessary to effectuate the intent of the parties as expressed herein. This section shall not obligate BCBSNE to pay any claims (regardless of the dates incurred), or perform claims administrative functions, after the termination of this Agreement, for any reason whatsoever, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties.
- K. Notice shall be mailed to the following addresses:

Attn: General Counsel  
BCBSNE  
P.O. Box 3248  
Omaha, Nebraska, 68180-0001.

The Subscriber's address is the most recent address appearing on BCBSNE records.

THE GROUP's address is shown on the Summary Plan Description and the Client Profile.

- L. [As indicated on Attachment 6, THE GROUP certifies that it is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii), and therefore is exempt from the requirement under PPACA to cover contraceptive methods with no cost sharing.]

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(PLAN SPONSOR / THE GROUP)**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

City State Zip Code

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF  
NEBRASKA (BCBSNE)**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3248  
Omaha, NE 68180-0001

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT SUMMARY

Group: \_

Effective Date:

Group No.: \_

Summary Plan Description Number and revision date: \_

\_ Plan Assets. General Assets.

### A. Administrative Service Fee:

1. % of Net Paid Claims for health coverage.
2. % of Net Paid Claims for dental coverage.
3. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage.
4. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under dental coverage.
5. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage for utilization management.
6. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage for telehealth services through American Well.
7. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage for external reinsurer reporting services.
8. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage for external pharmacy benefit management (PBM) reporting services.
9. \$\_\_\_\_\_ for external PBM implementation.
10. \$ per enrolled Subscriber per month under health coverage for external subrogation reporting services.
11. \$\_\_\_\_\_ for external subrogation implementation.

### B. Out-of-Area Service Fees

#### 1. [BlueCard Fees:

The BlueCard Fees below will be adjusted for claims if the effective membership of THE GROUP on, the [initial inception][renewal] date verifies that THE GROUP has [more][less] than [1,000][10,000] Subscribers. The [renewal date] effective membership determines the Access Fee percentage and the AEA fees until [the next renewal date] of the following year.]

- a. Access Fee: The standard Access Fee will be the percentage listed below of the Discount not to exceed \$2,000 for any claim in another plan area. (Included in Net Paid Claims)

(1) x.xx% for period [ ] through December 31, 2020; and  
(2) x.xx% for period January 1, 2021, through [ ].

- b. Administrative Expense Allowance (AEA): The standard AEA Fee is [\$4][\$5] for physician/professional claims and [\$9.75][\$11] for institutional claims incurred in other plan areas with a Contracted Provider.
- c. [Per Contract Per month (PCPM) fees
- d. Non-Standard AEA fees]

## **2. [Negotiated National Account Arrangement Fees:**

Under such arrangements, any fees charged will not be greater than the comparable fees that would have been charged under the BlueCard Program. BCBSNE will charge these fees as follows:

- Access Fees
- Administrative Expense Allowance (AEA) fees
- Per Contract Per Month (PCPM) fees
- Non-Standard AEA fees]

## **3. Other Out-of-Area Services Fees:**

- a. For both physician/professional and institutional claims incurred in other plan areas with non-contracted providers, the AEA will be \$3.00 per claim [unless an alternative fee was negotiated with the Host Blue (See NOTE below)].
- b. For international claims, the standard AEA Fee will be \$4.75 for professional claims \$17 for institutional claims, and \$3.75 for Covered Person-submitted claims.

[NOTE: An AEA fee Report will be provided monthly with the Claims Analysis Report. The above per claim Access Fees and AEA fees will apply unless alternative fees are negotiated with a Host Blue plan. A per contract (Subscriber) per month (PCPM) fee billed to THE GROUP, identified as "PCPM FEES" or "ITS FEES" on the monthly invoice, indicates that such a negotiation has occurred. The fees will be charged on non-Medicare eligible Subscribers residing in the Host Blue's service area. PCPM rates are in lieu of standard BlueCard Access and AEA fees for those claims which qualify under such an agreement as indicated above. In addition, a Non-Standard AEA fee is another type of alternative fee which is also in lieu of standard per claim BlueCard Access and AEA fees. Non-Standard AEA fees will be billed to THE GROUP and will be shown as "AEA FEES" on the monthly invoice. For claims incurred in Host Blue service areas where such an alternative agreement does not exist, the per-claim Access and AEA fees will apply as described above.]

## **C. Commissions:**

1. No commission is payable to an agent of record.
2. The commission payable to the agent of record is \$ each month.
  - a. This amount is not included in the Administrative Service Fee in A. above and will be billed additionally.
  - b. This amount is included in the Administrative Service Fee in A. above.
3. \_\_\_\_ The commission payable to the agent of record is \_\_\_\_% of the total applicable Specific and Aggregate Stop loss monthly premiums charged to THE GROUP as indicated in Attachment 3, Part III. The commission amount is included in the Stop loss premium and will not be billed separately to THE GROUP.

**D. Termination Provisions:** In event of termination of this Agreement, the alternative selected by THE GROUP is:

1. THE GROUP will arrange with another claims administrator for processing, handling and payment of such claims as are incurred during the Term of this Agreement, but not submitted for payment until after the termination date.
2. THE GROUP will arrange with BCBSNE for payment of such claims.

**E. Stop loss Guarantees:** Stop loss premiums for the Contract Period, if applicable, are addressed in the Stop loss Contract. Stop loss premium guarantees for future contract year(s) have been offered and accepted by THE GROUP, subject to size variance limitations, benefit changes and/or contract changes made by THE GROUP.

1. \_\_\_\_ The Specific Stop loss premium for the period \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_ is guaranteed not to increase more than \_\_\_\_% for the contract year \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_ The Aggregate Stop loss premium for the period \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_ is guaranteed not to increase more than \_\_\_\_% for the contract year \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_.

**F. Subrogation Recovery Fee:** 25% of all recoveries.

**G. [Rx Nebraska Program:** Rx Nebraska Program Fees are set forth in Attachment 5.]

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 "THE GROUP"

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 Effective Date

### SPECIAL FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

- A.        **No Special Financing Arrangement:** There are no special financing arrangements under this Agreement. BCBSNE shall make payments for claims out of its own funds, subject to reimbursement from THE GROUP.

1. THE GROUP shall remit to BCBSNE an advance deposit of \$.
2. THE GROUP shall remit to BCBSNE an additional advance deposit of \$. The current advance deposit held by BCBSNE is \$ and the total amount upon receipt of the amount specified above will be \$.

BCBSNE will credit such advance deposit in the name of THE GROUP. Six months following termination of this Agreement, BCBSNE shall return 50% of THE GROUP's advance deposit. As stated at Part IX., BCBSNE will continue to pay claims for a period of 12 months (or a previously agreed-upon runout period). Within 30 days following this period, BCBSNE shall refund the balance of the advance deposit less any deficits from previous billings.

3. BCBSNE has agreed to waive the advance deposit, if daily or weekly wire transfer is made.

- B.        **Special Financial Arrangements:** Pursuant to the following, BCBSNE has agreed to waive the advance deposit:

1. BCBSNE shall make payments for claims out of its own funds, subject to reimbursement from THE GROUP. BCBSNE shall ( daily, weekly, etc.) notify THE GROUP of the amount of payments which have been made since the last previous notification. THE GROUP shall reimburse BCBSNE within 24 hours of each notification, and be responsible for all service charges made for maintenance and use of any wire transfer arrangement between its bank account and BCBSNE's account.

At the end of each month, a summary report will be provided to THE GROUP, showing individual Net Paid Claims, refunds or other adjustments, correction entries, Stop loss adjustments, the Administrative Service Fee, AEA Fee, Stop loss premiums and Total Net Paid Claims. Any additional amount due will be payable within 15 days of the mailing of the summary invoice by BCBSNE.

2. BCBSNE employees authorized to notify THE GROUP of the amounts required are:

Dave Sederburg  
Mike Fye  
Mark Schadde

Lindsay Dotson  
Michelle McKibbon  
Chaundra Bluvast-Bodfield

Suzanne Hansen

3. THE GROUP's employees who are authorized to communicate with BCBSNE's authorized employees are listed in the Client Profile.



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 "THE GROUP"

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 Effective Date
**FUNDING RATES**

The amount of recommended monthly charges to be collected and retained by THE GROUP shall be not less than the following. THE GROUP agrees to hold BCBSNE harmless in the event of insufficient funding by THE GROUP.

	<u>Employee Only</u>	<u>Employee and Family</u>	<u>Employee and Spouse</u>	<u>Employee and Child(ren)</u>
Health Coverage:	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dental Coverage:	\$	\$	\$	\$

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"THE GROUP"

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Effective Date

**RESERVE FOR UNREPORTED AND PENDING CLAIMS  
AT THE END OF THE TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT**

The current estimate by BCBSNE of the potential liability, excluding Administrative Expense, of THE GROUP in the event of termination of this Agreement during, or at the end of the Term of this Agreement is:

Health Coverage: \$

Dental Coverage: \$

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"THE GROUP"

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Effective Date

**Religious Employer Certification**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides that group health plans sponsored by certain religious employers, and group health insurance coverage in connection with such plans, are exempt from the requirement to cover contraceptive methods with no cost sharing. A religious employer is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii).

By signing below, THE GROUP certifies that THE GROUP is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii).

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Authorized Representative Signature

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Date