



A STOCK COMPANY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

**CERTIFICATE  
GROUP EYE CARE INSURANCE**

**The Policyholder**      **NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

**Policy Number**      **10-29541**      **Insured Person**      **PAT Q. SPECIMEN**

**Plan Effective Date**      **August 1, 2006**      **Certificate Effective Date**  
**Refer to Exceptions on 9070.**

**Class Number 2**

Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. certifies that you will be insured for the benefits described on the following pages, according to all the terms of the group policy numbered above which has been issued to the Policyholder.

Possession of this certificate does not necessarily mean you are insured. You are insured only if you meet the requirements set out in this certificate.

The group policy may be amended or cancelled without the consent of the insured person.

The group policy and this certificate are governed by the laws of the state in which the group policy was delivered.

*JoAnn M Martin*

President

**Specimen**

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## Notice of Grievance Procedures

### In accordance with Chapter 44, Article 73 - Health Carrier Grievance Procedure Act of the Nebraska Insurance Code

Quality Control  
P.O. Box 82657  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2657  
800-366-5933

Please read this notice carefully. This notice contains important information about how to file grievances with your insurer. Also, you always have the right to contact the Nebraska Department of Insurance if you have a question or concern regarding your coverage under this contract. The Nebraska Department may be contacted:

In Writing:	Nebraska Department of Insurance Terminal Building, Suite 400 941 "O" Street Lincoln, NE 68508
By phone:	402-471-2201

You also have the right to ask your insurer to assist you in filing a grievance, review its decisions involving your requests for service, or your requests to have your claims paid.

#### I. Definitions

"Adverse Determination" means a determination by a health carrier that an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or other health care service has been reviewed and, based upon the information provided, does not meet the health carrier's requirements for medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness, and the requested health care service is therefore denied, reduced or terminated.

"Covered Person" means the policyholder, enrollee, claimant or their representatives, provider, agent or other entity which expresses a grievance or complaint involving the activities of the company or any persons involved in the solicitation, sale, service, execution of any transaction, or disposition of any funds of the policyholder.

"Grievance" means a written complaint on behalf of an insured person submitted by an insured person or a person, including, but not limited to, a provider, authorized in writing to act on behalf of the insured person regarding:

- (a) the availability, delivery, or quality of health care services, including a complaint regarding an adverse determination;
- (b) claims payment, handling, or reimbursement for health care services;
- (c) Matters pertaining to the contractual relationship between a covered person and the insurer.

#### II. Levels of Review

You may ask your insurer to review its decisions involving your requests for service or your requests to have your claims paid. In general, the following levels of review will be available to you:

First Level Grievance Review - for written grievances, including those resulting from adverse determinations

Second Level Grievance Review - following first-level reviews if not resolved

### **A. First Level Grievance Review**

A written grievance concerning any matter, including an adverse determination may be submitted by a covered person. A written decision to the covered person will be provided within 15 working days after receiving a grievance and all information necessary for the insurer's review of the grievance. The person or persons reviewing the grievance will not be the same person or persons who made the initial determination denying a claim or handling the matter that is the subject of the grievance. If a decision cannot be made within 15 working days due to circumstances beyond the insurer's control, the insurer may take up to an additional 15 working days to issue a written decision.

The time requirements for responding to a request for a standard review of an adverse determination is only 15 working days.

### **B. Second Level Grievance Review**

In any case where the first level grievance review process does not resolve a difference of opinion between the insurer and the covered person, a written grievance may be submitted and the insurer will review it as a second level grievance.

A second level grievance review panel shall be established to give those covered persons who are dissatisfied with the first level grievance review decision the option to request a second level review. A majority of the panel shall be comprised of persons who were not previously involved in the grievance. A health carrier shall provide that the majority of the persons reviewing a grievance involving an adverse determination are health care professionals who have appropriate expertise.

The review panel shall schedule and hold a review meeting within forty-five working days after receiving a request from a covered person for a second-level review. In those situations where the covered person cannot appear in person, the insurer shall offer the covered person the opportunity to communicate with the review panel by conference call or other available technology.

Upon the request of a covered person, an insurer shall provide to the covered person all relevant information that is not confidential or privileged. A covered person has the right to attend the second level review, present his or her case to the review panel, submit supporting material both before and at the review meeting, ask questions of any representative and be assisted or represented by a person of his or her choice.

The review panel shall issue a written decision to the covered person within 5 business days of completing the review meeting. Upon concurrence of the covered person, a copy of the decision shall be forwarded to the insurance department.

### **C. Written Decision**

When a decision is issued from any level of review, the following information will be included in the written decision:

1. the names, titles and qualifying credentials of the persons participating in the first level grievance review process;
2. a statement of the reviewer's understanding of the grievance;
3. the decision stated in clear terms and the contract basis or medical rationale supporting the decision, a reference to the evidence or documentation used as a basis for the decision; and
4. for first level reviews, a description of the process to obtain a second level grievance review and the time frame for review.
5. notice of the covered person's right to contact the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Name of Provision</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Schedule of Benefits	Begins on 9040
Benefit Information, including Deductibles, Coinsurance, & Maximums	
Definitions	
Late Entrant, Dependent	9060
Conditions for Insurance	9070
Eligibility	
Eligibility Period	
Elimination Period	
Contribution Requirement	
Effective Date	
Termination Date	
Eye Care Expense Benefits	9280
General Provisions	9310
Claim Forms	
Proof of Loss	
Payment of Benefits	
ERISA Information and Notice of Your Rights	ERISA Notice

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**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS  
OUTLINE OF COVERAGE**

The Insurance for each Insured and each Insured Dependent will be based on the Insured's class shown in this Schedule of Benefits.

<u>Benefit Class</u>	<u>Class Description</u>
Class 2	Those Electing The Vision Exam And Material Plan

**EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS**

Deductible Amount:

Exam	\$0
Lenses - Other than Contact Lenses	\$0
Frames and Contact Lenses - Once per Lifetime	\$65

Maximum Amount – Each Benefit Period	Not Applicable
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*Please refer to the EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS page for details regarding frequency, limitations, and exclusions.*

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## DEFINITIONS

**COMPANY** refers to Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to Company. Our Home Office address is 5900 "O" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510.

**POLICYHOLDER** refers to the Policyholder stated on the face page of the policy.

**INSURED** refers to a person:

- a. who is a Member of the eligible class; and
- b. who has qualified for insurance by completing the eligibility period, if any; and
- c. for whom the insurance has become effective.

**CHILD.** Child refers to the child of the Insured or a child of the Insured's spouse, if they otherwise meet the definition of Dependent.

**DEPENDENT** refers to:

- a. an Insured's spouse.
- b. each unmarried child less than 19 years of age, for whom the Insured or the insured's spouse, is legally responsible, including:
  - i. natural born children;
  - ii. adopted children, eligible from the date of placement for adoption;
  - iii. children covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by applicable Federal and State laws.
- c. each unmarried child age 19 but less than 24 who is:
  - i. a full time student at an accredited school or college, which includes a vocational, technical, vocational-technical, trade school or institute; and
  - ii. primarily dependent on the Insured, the Insured's spouse for support and maintenance.
- d. each unmarried child age 19 or older who:
  - i. is Totally Disabled as defined below; and
  - ii. becomes Totally Disabled while insured as a dependent under b. or c. above.

Coverage of such child will not cease if proof of dependency and disability is given within 31 days of attaining the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by us but not more frequently than annually after the initial two-year period following the child's attaining the limiting age. Any costs for providing continuing proof will be at our expense.

**TOTAL DISABILITY** describes the Insured's Dependent as:

1. Continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or physical handicap; and
2. Chiefly dependent upon the Insured for support and maintenance.

**DEPENDENT UNIT** refers to all of the people who are insured as the dependents of any one Insured.

**PROVIDER** refers to any person who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of the license.

**LATE ENTRANT** refers to any person:

- a. whose Effective Date of insurance is more than 31 days from the date the person becomes eligible for insurance; or
- b. who has elected to become insured again after canceling a premium contribution agreement.

**PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE** refers to the date coverage under the policy becomes effective. The Plan Effective Date for the Policyholder is shown on the policy cover. The effective date of coverage for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder's records.

All insurance will begin at 12:01 A.M. on the Effective Date. It will end after 11:59 P.M. on the Termination Date. All times are stated as Standard Time of the residence of the Insured.

**PLAN CHANGE EFFECTIVE DATE** refers to the date that the policy provisions originally issued to the Policyholder change as requested by the Policyholder. The Plan Change Effective date for the Policyholder will be shown on the policy cover, if the Policyholder has requested a change. The plan change effective date for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder's records or on the cover of the certificate.

## CONDITIONS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE

### *ELIGIBILITY*

**ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR MEMBERS.** The members of the eligible class(es) are shown on the Schedule of Benefits. Each member of the eligible class (referred to as "Member") will qualify for such insurance on the day he or she completes the required eligibility period, if any. Members choosing to elect coverage will hereinafter be referred to as "Insured."

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is any those electing the vision exam and material plan working a minimum number of hours per week as required by the Policyholder. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

If a husband and wife are both Members and if either of them insures their dependent children, then the husband or wife, whoever elects, will be considered the dependent of the other. As a dependent, the person will not be considered a Member of the Eligible Class, but will be eligible for insurance as a dependent.

**ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR DEPENDENT INSURANCE.** Each Member of the eligible class(es) for dependent coverage is eligible for the Dependent Insurance under the policy and will qualify for this Dependent Insurance on the latest of:

1. the day he or she qualifies for coverage as a Member;
2. the day he or she first becomes a Member; or
3. the day he or she first has a dependent. For dependent children, a newborn child will be considered an eligible dependent upon reaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The child may be added at birth or within 31 days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

A Member must be an Insured to also insure his or her dependents.

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance is any those electing the vision exam and material plan working a minimum number of hours per week as required by the Policyholder and has eligible dependents. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

Any husband or wife who elects to be a dependent rather than a member of the Eligible Class for Personal Insurance, as explained above, is not a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

When a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance dies and, if at the date of death, has dependents insured, the Policyholder has the option of offering the dependents of the deceased member continued coverage. If elected by the Policyholder and the affected dependents, the name of such deceased member will continue to be listed as a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

**CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.** Member Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of his or her insurance premiums.

Dependent Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of insurance premiums for his or her dependents.

**ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.** For Members on the Plan Effective Date of the policy, coverage is effective immediately.

For persons who become Members after the Plan Effective Date of the policy, qualification will occur after an eligibility period defined by the Policyholder is satisfied. The same eligibility period will be applied to all members.

If employment is the basis for membership in the Eligible Class for Members, an Insured whose eligibility terminates and is established again, may or may not have to complete a new eligibility period before he or she can again qualify for insurance.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** Each Member has the option of being insured and insuring his or her Dependents. To elect coverage, he or she must agree in writing to contribute to the payment of the insurance premiums. The Effective Date for each Member and his or her Dependents, will be:

1. the date on which the Member qualifies for insurance, if the Member agrees to contribute on or before that date.
2. the date on which the Member agrees to contribute, if that date is within 31 days after the date he or she qualifies for insurance.
3. the date we accept the Member and/or Dependent for insurance when the Member and/or Dependent is a Late Entrant. The Member and/or Dependent will be subject to any limitation concerning Late Entrants.

**EXCEPTIONS.** If employment is the basis for membership, a Member must be in active service on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. If not, the insurance will not take effect until the day he or she returns to active service. Active service refers to the performance in the customary manner by an employee of all the regular duties of his or her employment with his or her employer on a full time basis at one of the employer's business establishments or at some location to which the employer's business requires the employee to travel.

A Member will be in active service on any regular non-working day if he or she is not totally disabled on that day and if he or she was in active service on the regular working day before that day.

If membership is by reason other than employment, a Member must not be totally disabled on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. The insurance will not take effect until the day after he or she ceases to be totally disabled.

#### ***TERMINATION DATES***

**INSUREDS.** The insurance for any Insured, will automatically terminate on the **earliest of:**

1. the date the Insured ceases to be a Member;
2. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
3. the date the policy is terminated.

**DEPENDENTS.** The insurance for all of an Insured's dependents will automatically terminate on the **earliest of:**

1. the date on which the Insured's coverage terminates;
2. the date on which the Insured ceases to be a Member;
3. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
4. the date all Dependent Insurance under the policy is terminated.

The insurance for any Dependent will automatically terminate on the day before the date on which the dependent no longer meets the definition of a dependent. See "Definitions."

**CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.** If coverage ceases according to TERMINATION DATE, some or all of the insurance coverages may be continued. Contact your plan administrator for details.

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## EYE CARE INSURANCE

If an Insured under this section incurs Covered Expenses, we will pay benefits as stated below.

**AMOUNT PAYABLE.** The Amount Payable for Covered Expenses shall be the lesser of:

- a. the charge for frames or supplies furnished; or
- b. the Maximum Covered Expense for such services or supplies shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Procedures.

**DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT.** The Deductible Amount shown in the Schedule of Benefits is an amount of Covered Expenses for which no benefits are payable. It applies separately to the Covered Expenses incurred by each Insured. Benefits will be paid only for those Covered Expenses that are over the deductible amount.

**COVERED EXPENSES.** Covered Expenses means the Eye Care expenses incurred by an Insured for the procedures shown in the Schedule of Procedures, up to the Maximum Covered Expense shown for each procedure and the Eye Care Maximum as shown in the Schedule of Benefits, if applicable. But such expenses will be Covered Expenses only to the extent that they are incurred for procedures done by a physician, optometrist, or optician. These expenses are subject to the "Limitations" below.

Benefit Period means the period from January 1 of any year through December 31 of the same year. But during the first year a person is insured, a benefit period means the period from his or her effective date through December 31 of that year.

**EXPENSES INCURRED.** An expense is incurred at the time a service is rendered or a supply furnished.

**EXTENSION OF BENEFITS.** Should an Insured's coverage under this section terminate, we will pay Covered Expenses for frames or lenses which were ordered while coverage was in force, provided such frames or lenses are delivered within 30 days from the date the Insured's coverage ceases.

**LIMITATIONS:** Covered Expenses will not include and no benefits will be payable for expenses incurred for:

1. vision examinations more than once in any 12 month period.
2. prescribed lenses more than once in any 12 month period.
3. frames more than once in any 12 month period.
4. contact lenses more than once in any 12 month period. When chosen, contact lenses shall be in lieu of any other lenses benefit during the 12 month period and in lieu of any other frame benefit during the 12 month period. When lenses are chosen, expenses for contact lenses are not Covered Expenses during the 12 month period.
5. examinations performed or frames or lenses ordered before the Insured was covered under this section.
6. subject to Extension of Benefits, any examination performed or frame or lens ordered after the Insured's coverage under this section ceases.
7. sub-normal vision aids; orthoptic or vision training or any associated testing.
8. non-prescription lenses.
9. replacement or repair of lost or broken lenses or frames except at normal intervals.

10. any eye examination or corrective eye-wear required by an employer as a condition of employment.
11. medical or surgical treatment of the eyes.
12. any service or supply not shown on the Schedule of Eye Care Services.
13. coated lenses; oversize lenses (exceeding 71 mm); photo-gray lenses; polished edges; UV-400 coating and facets, and tints other than solid.
14. lenses and frames during the first 12 months that a person is insured under this section, when the person is a Late Entrant, as defined.

### **SCHEDULE OF EYE CARE SERVICES**

The following is a complete list of eye care services for which benefits are payable. No benefits are payable for a service which is not listed.

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM COVERED EXPENSE</b>
Maximum Amount – Each Benefit Period	Not Applicable
Vision Examination	Up to \$ 45.00
May consist of, but not limited to, the following: case history; external examination of the eye and adnexa; ophthalmoscopic examination; determination of refractive status; binocular balance testing; tonometry test for glaucoma, when indicated; gross visual fields, when indicated; color vision testing when indicated; summary finding; prescribing of lenses.	
Frame	Up to \$ 65.00
Lenses	
Single Vision	Up to \$ 45.00
Bifocal	Up to \$ 60.00
Trifocal	Up to \$ 75.00
No line bifocal or progressive power	Up to \$ 80.00
Lenticular	Up to \$ 80.00
Contact Lenses	Up to \$110.00



## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**NOTICE OF CLAIM.** Written notice of a claim must be given to us within 30 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable.

Notice must be given to us at our Home Office, or to one of our agents. Notice should include the Policyholder's name, Insured's name, and policy number. If it was not reasonably possible to give written notice within the 30 day period stated above, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if notice is filed as soon as is reasonably possible.

**CLAIM FORMS.** When we receive the notice of a claim, we will send the claimant forms for filing proof of loss. If these forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice, the claimant will meet our proof of loss requirements by giving us a written statement of the nature and extent of loss within the time limit for filing proofs of loss.

**PROOF OF LOSS.** Written proof of loss must be given to us within 90 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable. If it is impossible to give written proof within the 90-day period, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if the proof is filed as soon as is reasonably possible.

**TIME OF PAYMENT.** We will pay all benefits immediately when we receive due proof. Any balance remaining unpaid at the end of any period for which we are liable will be paid at that time.

**PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.** All benefits will be paid to the Insured unless you authorize us in writing to make payment to the Provider providing the services or supplies.

**FACILITY OF PAYMENT.** If an Insured or beneficiary is not capable of giving us a valid receipt for any payment or if benefits are payable to the estate of the Insured, then we may, at our option, pay the benefit up to an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the Insured who is considered by us to be equitably entitled to the benefit.

Any equitable payment made in good faith will release us from liability to the extent of payment.

**PROVIDER-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.** The Insured may choose any Provider who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of their license. We will in no way disturb the provider-patient relationship.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.** No legal action can be brought against us until 60 days after the Insured sends us the required proof of loss. No legal action against us can start more than five years after proof of loss is required.

**INCONTESTABILITY.** Any statement made by the Policyholder to obtain the Policy is a representation and not a warranty. No misrepresentation by the Policyholder will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Policy unless:

1. The Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder that contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for one year, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

**WORKER'S COMPENSATION.** The coverage provided under the Policy is not a substitute for coverage under a workmen's compensation or state disability income benefit law and does not relieve the Policyholder of any obligation to provide such coverage.

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## ERISA INFORMATION AND NOTICE OF YOUR RIGHTS

### A. Eligibility and Benefits Provided Under the Group Policy

Please refer to the **Conditions for Insurance** within the Group Policy and Certificate of Coverage for a detailed description of the eligibility for participation under the plan as well as the benefits provided. If this plan includes a participating provider (PPO) option, provider lists are furnished automatically, without charge, as a separate document.

### B. Qualified Medical Child Support Order ("QMCSO")

QMCSO Determinations. A Plan participant or beneficiary can obtain, without charge, a copy of the Plan's procedures governing Qualified Medical Child Support Order determinations from the Plan Administrator.

### C. Termination Of The Group Policy

The Group Policy which provides benefits for this plan may be terminated by the Policyholder at any time with prior written notice to Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. It will terminate automatically if the Policyholder fails to pay the required premium. Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. may terminate the Group Policy on any Premium Due Date if the number of persons insured is less than the required minimum, or if Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. believes the Policyholder has failed to perform its obligations relating to the Group Policy.

After the first policy year, Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. may also terminate the Group Policy on any Premium Due Date for any reason by providing a 60-day advance written notice to the Policyholder.

The Group Policy may be changed in whole or in part. No change or amendment will be valid unless it is approved in writing by a Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. executive officer.

### D. Claims For Benefits

Claims procedures are furnished automatically, without charge, as a separate document.

### E. Continuation of Coverage Provisions (COBRA)

COBRA (Consolidation Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) gives Qualified Beneficiaries the right to elect COBRA continuation after insurance ends because of a Qualifying Event. The law generally covers group health plans maintained by employers with 20 or more employees in the prior year. The law does not, however, apply to plans sponsored by the Federal government and certain church-related organizations.

#### i. Definitions For This Section

Qualified Beneficiary means an Insured Person who is covered by the plan on the day before a qualifying event. Any child born to or placed for adoption with a covered employee during the period of COBRA coverage is considered a qualified beneficiary.

A Qualifying Event occurs when:

1. The Member dies (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 1);
2. The Member's employment terminates for reasons other than gross misconduct as determined by the Employer (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 2);
3. The Member's work hours fall below the minimum number required to be a Member (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 3);

4. The Member becomes divorced or legally separated from a Spouse (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 4);
5. The Member becomes entitled to receive Medicare benefits under Title XVII of the Social Security Act (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 5);
6. The Child of a Member ceases to be a Dependent (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 6);
7. The Employer files a petition for reorganization under Title 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, provided the Member is retired from the Employer and is insured on the date the petition is filed (hereinafter referred to as Qualifying Event 7).

**ii. Electing COBRA Continuation**

- A. Each Qualified Beneficiary has the right to elect to continue coverage that was in effect on the day before the Qualifying Event. The Qualified Beneficiary must apply in writing within 60 days of the later of:
  1. The date on which Insurance would otherwise end; and
  2. The date on which the Employer or Plan Administrator gave the Qualified Beneficiary notice of the right to COBRA continuation.
- B. A Qualified Beneficiary who does not elect COBRA Continuation coverage during their original election period may be entitled to a second election period if the following requirements are satisfied:
  1. The Member's Insurance ended because of a trade related termination of their employment, which resulted in being certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance;
  2. The Member is certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance (as determined by the appropriate governmental agency) within 6 months of the date Insurance ended due to the trade related termination of their employment; and
  3. The Qualified Beneficiary must apply in writing within 60 days after the first day of the month in which they are certified eligible for trade adjustment assistance.

**iii. Notice Requirements**

1. When the Member becomes insured, the Plan Administrator must inform the Member and Spouse in writing of the right to COBRA continuation.
2. The Qualified Beneficiary must notify the Plan Administrator in writing of Qualifying Event 4 or 6 above within 60 days of the later of:
  - a. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - b. The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
3. A Qualified Beneficiary, who is entitled to COBRA continuation due to the occurrence of Qualifying Event 2 or 3 and who is disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage as determined by the Social Security

Administration pursuant to Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, must notify the Plan Administrator of the disability in writing within 60 days of the later of:

- a. The date of the disability determination;
  - b. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - c. The date on the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
4. Each Qualified Beneficiary who has become entitled to COBRA continuation with a maximum duration of 18 or 29 months must notify the Plan Administrator of the occurrence of a second Qualifying Event within 60 days of the later of:
- a. The date of the Qualifying Event; or
  - b. The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage due to the Qualifying Event.
5. The Employer must give the Plan Administrator written notice within 30 days of the occurrence of Qualifying Event 1, 2, 3, 5, or 7.
6. Within 14 days of receipt of the Employer's notice, the Plan Administrator must notify each Qualified Beneficiary in writing of the right to elect COBRA continuation.

In order to protect your rights, Members and Qualified Beneficiaries should inform the Plan Administrator in writing of any change of address.

**iv. COBRA Continuation Period**

1. 18-month COBRA Continuation

Each Qualified Beneficiary may continue Insurance for up to 18 months after the date of Qualifying Event 2 or 3.

2. 29-month COBRA Continuation

Each Qualified Beneficiary, who is entitled to COBRA continuation due to the occurrence of Qualifying Event 2 or 3 and who is disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage as determined by the Social Security Administration pursuant to Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, may continue coverage for up to 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event. All Insured Persons in the Qualified Beneficiary's family may also continue coverage for up to 29 months.

3. 36-Month COBRA Continuation

If you are a Dependent, you may continue Coverage for up to 36 months after the date of Qualifying Event 1, 4, 5, or 6. Each Qualified Beneficiary who is entitled to continue Insurance for 18 or 29 months may be eligible to continue coverage for up to 36 months after the date of their original Qualifying Event if a second Qualifying Event occurs while they are on continuation coverage.

Note: The total period of COBRA continuation available in 1 through 3 will not exceed 36 months.

4. **COBRA Continuation For Certain Bankruptcy Proceedings**

If the Qualifying Event is 7, the COBRA continuation period for a retiree or retiree's Spouse is the lifetime of the retiree. Upon the retiree's death, the COBRA continuation period for the surviving Dependents is 36 months from the date of the retiree's death.

v. **Premium Requirements**

Insurance continued under this provision will be retroactive to the date insurance would have ended because of a Qualifying Event. The Qualified Beneficiary must pay the initial required premium not later than 45 days after electing COBRA continuation, and monthly premium on or before the Premium Due Date thereafter. The monthly premium is a percentage of the total premium (both the portion paid by the employee and any portion paid by the employer) currently in effect on each Premium Due Date. The premium rate may change after you cease to be Actively at Work. The percentage is as follows:

18 month continuation - 102%

29 month continuation - 102% during the first 18 months, 150% during the next 11 months

36 month continuation - 102%

vi. **When COBRA Continuation Ends**

COBRA continuation ends on the earliest of:

1. The date the Group Policy terminates;
2. 31 days after the date the last period ends for which a required premium payment was made;
3. The last day of the COBRA continuation period.
4. The date the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes entitled to Medicare coverage under Title XVII of the Social Security Act;
5. The first date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is: (a) covered under another group Eye Care policy and (b) not subject to any preexisting condition limitation in that policy.

**F. Your Rights under ERISA**

As a participant in this Plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

**Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as work-sites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and

collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

Receive a summary of the plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

### **Continue Group Health Plan Coverage**

Continue health care coverage for yourself, spouse or dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

### **Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries**

In addition to creating rights for plan participants ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate your plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to operate and administer this plan prudently and in the interest of you and other plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

### **Enforce Your Rights**

If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. If it should happen that plan fiduciaries misuse the plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

### **Assistance with Your Rights**

If you have any questions about your plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling those publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

SAMPLE



**CLAIMS REVIEW PROCEDURES  
AS REQUIRED UNDER  
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 (ERISA)**

The following provides information regarding the claims review process and your rights to request a review of any part of a claim that is denied. Please note that certain state laws may also require specified claims payment procedures as well as internal appeal procedures and/or independent external review processes. Therefore, in addition to the review procedures defined below, you may also have additional rights provided to you under state law. If your state has specific grievance procedures, an additional notice specific to your state will also be included within the group policy and your certificate.

**CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS**

Claims may be submitted by mailing the completed claim form along with any requested information to:  
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.  
PO Box 82520  
Lincoln, NE 68501

**NOTICE OF DECISION OF CLAIM**

We will evaluate your claim promptly after we receive it. We will provide you written notice regarding the payment under the claim within at least 30 calendar days following receipt of the claim. This period may be extended for an additional 15 days, provided that we have determined that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond our control, and notify you, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which we expect to render a decision. If the extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension shall specifically describe the required information we need to decide the claim.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision, along with your right to receive a copy of these guidelines, free of charge, upon request.
- d. A statement that you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment we relied upon to exclude expenses that are experimental or investigational, or are not necessary or accepted according to generally accepted standards of Eye Care practice.
- e. A description of any additional information needed to support your claim and why such information is necessary.
- f. Information concerning your right to a review of our decision.
- g. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA following an adverse benefit determination on review.

**REVIEW PROCEDURE**

If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review. You must request a review in writing within 180 days after receiving notice of the denial.

You may send us written comments or other items to support your claim. You may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to your request for review. There will be no charge for such copies. You may request the names of the experts we consulted who provided advice to us about your claim.

The review will be conducted by the Plan's named fiduciary and will be someone other than the person who denied the initial claim and will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. If the denial was based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a service was considered experimental, investigational, and/or not medically necessary, the person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional. This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original judgment and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items you submit to support your claim.

We will review your claim promptly after we receive your request. Within at least 60 days after we receive your request for review we will send you a written decision on review.

If we deny any part of your claim on review, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision along with your right to receive a copy of these guidelines, free of charge, upon request.
- d. Information concerning your right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to your claim.
- e. A statement that you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgement we relied upon to exclude expenses that are experimental or investigational, or are not necessary or accepted according to generally accepted standards of Eye Care practice.
- f. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA.

Certain state laws also require specified internal appeal procedures and/or external review processes. In addition to the review procedures defined above, you may also have additional rights provided to you under state law. Please contact your state insurance regulatory agency for assistance. In any event, you need not exhaust such state law procedures prior to bringing civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA.

Any request for claim review should be sent to:

Quality Control, P.O. Box 82629, Lincoln, NE 68501-2629.

## NOTICE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY PRACTICES

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of our insured members' and their dependents' personal health information and to provide notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your personal health information. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice as long as it remains in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice as necessary and to make the new Notice effective for all personal health information maintained by us. Copies of revised Notices will be provided to you directly or to your group's Plan Sponsor (usually your employer) by regular mail or e-mail with instructions to deliver a paper copy to each certificate holder.

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES OUR PRACTICES REGARDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY THE GROUP EYE CARE LINE OF BUSINESS WITHIN THE UNIFI COMPANIES.**

**THIS NOTICE MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

### Contact Information

All of the entities affiliated under the common control of the UNIFI Mutual Holding Company that pay for the cost of healthcare, including Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. and First Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. of New York, are required by federal law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide notice of the legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your protected health information. This Notice fulfills the "Notice" requirements of the Final Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). If you have any questions about any part of this Notice of Protected Health Information Privacy Practices or desire to have further information concerning the information practices at the UNIFI Companies, please direct your inquiries to: The Privacy Office, Attn. HIPAA Privacy, P.O. Box 81889, Lincoln, NE 68501-1889, or e-mail us at [privacy@ameritas.com](mailto:privacy@ameritas.com).

**THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED AND BECOMES EFFECTIVE: APRIL 14, 2003**

### **OUR PLEDGE REGARDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

We understand that information about you and your family is personal and we are committed to protecting your privacy and the security of your protected health information. This Notice explains the ways in which we use and disclose protected health information about you and your covered dependents and details certain obligations we have in connection with such use and disclosure. It also describes your rights with regard to your protected health information. **We are required by both law and internal policy to: make sure that protected health information that identifies you and/or your covered dependents is kept private; give you notice of our legal duties and privacy practices and your rights with respect to your protected health information; and follow the practices outlined in this Notice.**

### **WHO WILL FOLLOW THE PRIVACY PRACTICES DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE**

The Protected Health Information Privacy Practices described in this Notice have been adopted and implemented by all of the divisions and associates who work directly or indirectly with your protected health information within the following UNIFI Companies: Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.; and First Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. of New York. All of the associates who need access to your protected health information in order to service your products and administer your claims have received proper training about how to protect your privacy, secure your protected health information and adhere to our Privacy of Protected Health Information Policies, Practices and Procedures.

In order to keep costs of your coverage down and provide you with the best customer service, we may contract with outside carriers and/or vendors, known as "business associates," to assist us with the administration of your policy. For example, we may contract with third party administrators who process claims and collect premium payments; or paper-shredding companies who destroy records when they are no longer needed. Because these business associates need access to your protected health information in order to fulfill their obligations to us, we **require** them to agree in writing to keep **your protected health information confidential** in the same manner that we do as described in this Notice.

## **TYPES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION WE MAY HAVE AND HOW WE OBTAIN IT**

**Protected Health Information is: Any information that identifies you that we obtain from you or others that relates to your past, present or future healthcare including the payment for such healthcare.**

In the regular course of business we receive protected health information about you in order to provide you with our products and services. Some of this protected health information comes directly from you. For example, when you purchase one of our health insurance products for you and your family, you provide us with information about you and your covered dependents such as name, address, phone number, social security number, etc. Some of the protected health information we obtain about you comes from your provider. For example, as you and your covered dependents utilize your coverage, your healthcare provider sends us information about services and treatments performed so that we can process and pay your claims. All of this information we receive about you and your covered dependents is necessary in order for us to provide you and your covered dependents with quality health insurance products and to comply with legal requirements.

## **HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

The following categories describe different ways we may use and disclose your protected health information without your authorization. For each category of uses and disclosures, we will explain what we mean and give an example. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the identified categories.

**For Payment: We may use and disclose protected health information about you and your covered dependents in order to verify your coverage to your provider, process payment for claims filed under your policy or coordinate benefits with another carrier.** For example, we may need to disclose your protected health information to a provider whom you have seen or are planning to see in order to pre-approve that a particular treatment you are seeking is covered under your plan. It is also necessary for us to use the information received from your medical provider concerning the services rendered to you so the health plan can pay the provider or reimburse you for the cost of the treatment under the terms of your plan. Finally, when you have more than one insurance policy that covers some of the same procedures as your plan with us, it may be necessary for us to exchange payment information with the carrier of your other insurance plan in order to coordinate the payment of your claim with that other carrier.

**For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose protected health information about you and your covered dependents as necessary to operate your health insurance plan and promote quality service.** For example, we may use or disclose your personal health information for quality assessment and quality improvement, credentialing health care providers, conducting or arranging for medical review or compliance. We may also disclose your personal health information to another health plan, health care facility or health care provider for activities such as quality assurance or case management.

**Business Associates: We may disclose protected health information to other persons or organizations, known as business associates, who provide services on our behalf under contract.** However, in order to assure the protection of your private information, we require our business associates to adhere to our Privacy Policies concerning the use and disclosure of your protected health information and appropriately safeguard the information we disclose to them. We prohibit our business associates from using and disclosing any of your protected health information in any manner except for the purpose intended by the contract. Business associates are expressly prohibited from using your protected health information to create any marketing target lists.

**Plan Sponsors:** We may disclose your protected health information to your plan sponsor (usually your employer). It is our policy not to disclose your protected health information to your Plan's sponsor. There may be exceptional occasions that your Plan Sponsor requests protected health information. We will only disclose your protected health information to your Plan Sponsor if we have your authorization to do so, or if the plan sponsor certifies that the information will be maintained in a confidential manner and will not be utilized or disclosed for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the plan sponsor.

**Public policy uses and disclosures of your protected health information**

**We may use and disclose your protected health information for public policy purposes. For example:**

**As Required By Law:** We will disclose protected health information about you or your covered dependent when required to do so by federal, state or local law. For example, we may be required by law to disclose certain protected health information about you pursuant to a court order or subpoena served upon us.

**About Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence:** For example, if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, we may disclose your protected health information to the governmental entity or agency authorized to receive such information. In this case the disclosure will be made consistent with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

**Workers' Compensation:** We may release your protected health information for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits to you for work-related injuries or illness but only in a manner consistent with applicable laws.

**Public Health:** We may have an occasion to disclose protected health information about you or your covered dependent for public health activities to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information. A public health activity would be, for example, an activity conducted by a public health authority in the furtherance of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting births, deaths or reactions to medications; or notifying people of recalls of products they may be using.

## **AUTHORIZED USES AND DISCLOSURES**

**From time to time you may request that we disclose your protected health information to other individuals or entities.** For example, you may request that we disclose your claims history to an attorney that you have hired to assist you in a civil matter. **Likewise, we may ask your permission to use or disclose your protected health information.** Any disclosures, such as these that do not fit into one of the categories in the previous section require us to obtain your written authorization prior to making such disclosure. In the event that you do provide us with written authorization to use or disclose your information, you may revoke such authorization at any time by writing to the Privacy Officer at the address indicated in the "Contact" section of this Notice below.

## **YOUR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

You have the following rights regarding protected health information that we maintain about you. All requests must be made in writing.

**Your Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice:** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice. You have a right to receive this Notice because you are insured by a health plan offered by Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. or First Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. of New York. You may ask us to give you a copy of this Notice at any time and we will comply. Even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically, you are entitled to a paper copy of this Notice if you so request.

**Your Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:** You have the right to request a listing of any disclosures of your protected health information that we have made that are required by law. This listing would exclude disclosures we made to you, or pursuant to your authorization or request, or for payment of your claims as described above, or for health care operations as described above. Your request must state a time period that may not be longer than six years and may not include dates prior to April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, electronically, fax etc.). The first accounting of disclosures you request within a 12-month period will be free. We may charge for the costs of providing additional lists during that same 12-month period. In the event that you may incur a charge, we will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request before any costs are incurred.

**Your Right to Request an Amendment:** You have the right to request an amendment to the protected health information that we maintain about you if you believe that our information is incorrect or incomplete. You maintain the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for the UNIFI Companies. You must provide a reason that supports your request. We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. We may also deny your request if you ask us to amend information that: 1) was not created by us; 2) is not part of the medical information kept by or for a UNIFI Company; 3) is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy under the law; or 4) is accurate and complete.

**Your Right to Request a Restriction:** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the protected health information we use or disclose about you for, payment or health plan operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the protected health information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for care, like a family member or friend. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree to a requested restriction, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to facilitate emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply.

**Your Right to Request Confidential Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about payment for your medical matters in an alternative means (such as by fax) or at an alternative location (such as to your office). To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

**Your Rights to Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to inspect and copy protected health information that we maintain about you that may be used to make decisions about payment for your care. To inspect this protected health information you may contact the Privacy Officer. To obtain copies of such protected health information, you must submit your request in writing as indicated below. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your protected health information, in most situations you may request that the denial be reviewed by a licensed health care professional who did not take part in the decision to deny access. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

**Your Right to Make Complaints:** If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated you may make a complaint to the UNIFI Companies Privacy Office or to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources as follows:

UNIFI Privacy Office  
Attn. HIPAA Privacy  
P.O. Box 81889  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Secretary, Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F  
HHH Building  
Washington D.C. 20201

Any complaint you file will not cause you to suffer retaliation from our company. We will promptly investigate your complaint as soon as we receive it. When we have completed our investigation, we will notify you of our findings. If the investigation reveals that your privacy rights have indeed been violated, we will immediately take the appropriate measures to correct the violation pursuant to our Privacy Practices and Procedures.

### **Individual Rights Contact**

To assert any of your rights with respect to this Notice, or to obtain an authorization form, please call 1-800-487-5553 and request the appropriate form.

### **Effective Date**

This Notice will become effective as of April 14, 2003.

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