
Central Garden & Pet Company

Welfare Benefits Plan

Master Summary Plan Description

Amended/Restated Effective January 1, 2024

This document, together with the additional documents provided along with it, constitute the written plan document required by ERISA § 402 and the Summary Plan Description required by ERISA § 102.

If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a Federal law gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. Please see the notice reproduced in Appendix B for more details.

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1. Definitions

Capitalized terms used in this document have the following meanings:

"AD&D" means accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

"Affordable Care Act" means the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended.

"COBRA" means the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"Company" means Central Garden & Pet Company or any successor thereto, and any affiliated entity within the same controlled group, as that term is defined under section 414(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, that participates in the plan.

"DCAP" means a dependent care assistance program that may be established by the Company under a separate document. The DCAP is a benefit program under the Plan. It may allow you to use pre-tax dollars to pay for the care of your eligible dependents while you are at work. It is not subject to ERISA.

"Employee" means any common-law employee of the Company who satisfies the eligibility provisions of in this document and is not excluded from participation by the terms of an applicable benefit program, except individuals classified or treated by the Company as independent contractors (regardless of any subsequent reclassification), or as an employee of an employment agency.

"ERISA" means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

"Health FSA" means a health flexible spending account plan that may be established by the Company under a separate document. The health FSA is a benefit program under the Plan. It allows you to use before-tax dollars to pay for most medical and dental expenses not reimbursed under other programs.

"HIPAA" means the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended.

"NMHPA" means the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996, as amended.

"Plan" means the Central Garden & Pet Co. Medical/Dental Plan and includes this document, written amendments and updates to this document, and the terms of all policies and component benefit programs listed in Section 15.

"Plan Administrator" means the Company.

"SPD" means the Summary Plan Description required by ERISA § 102 summarizing this Plan and includes this document, information booklets supplied by insurance carriers, and other benefits descriptions provided to participants with this document or at any other period as appropriate to provide updates to the document, such as during open enrollment.

"WHCRA" means the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, as amended.

2. Introduction

The Company maintains the Plan for the exclusive benefit of eligible Employees and eligible family members or “dependents.” It is important that you share this document and the materials referenced here in with your covered dependents. The Plan provides health and welfare benefits through the benefit programs listed in Section 15. See Section 15 for a listing of benefit programs and the entities that help administer the programs.

Each of these benefit programs is summarized in a certificate of insurance booklet issued by an insurance company, a summary plan description or another document (a "Benefit Description"). A Benefit Description will be available from the insurer (if the benefit is fully-insured) or Plan Administrator (if the benefit is self-funded). Whether a benefit program is fully-insured or self-funded is noted in Section 15.

This document and its attachments constitute the plan document required by ERISA § 402. This document and its attachments, coupled with the information booklets and other descriptive materials provided for benefits as described in Section 15 constitutes the wrap Summary Plan Description as required by ERISA § 102.

3. General Information about the Plan

Plan Name:	Central Garden & Pet Co. Medical/Dental Plan
Type of Plan:	Welfare plan providing coverages listed in Section 15. The Plan also includes funding through a cafeteria plan under Code § 125.
Plan Year:	January 1 to December 31.
Plan Number:	520
Effective Date:	January 1, 2024.
Funding Medium and Type of Plan Administration:	<p>Some benefits under the Plan are self-funded, and some are fully-insured. See Section 15 for a description of the benefit programs and whether they are self-funded or fully-insured.</p> <p>For benefit programs which are fully-insured, benefits are insured under a group contract entered into between the Company and insurance companies or HMO.</p> <p>The insurance companies and/or HMO, not the Company, are responsible for paying claims with respect to these programs. The Company shares responsibility with the insurance companies and/or HMO for administering these program benefits, as described below.</p> <p>For benefit programs which are self-funded, the Company is responsible for processing and paying appropriate claims. The</p>

Company may hire a third party administrator (a "TPA") to process claims.

Premiums for Employees and their eligible family members may be paid in part by the Company out of its general assets and in part by Employees' pre-tax and/or post-tax payroll deductions. The Plan Administrator provides a schedule of the applicable premiums during the initial and subsequent open enrollment periods and on request for each of the benefit programs, as applicable.

The Company provides Employees the opportunity to pay for benefits on a pre-tax basis through a cafeteria plan. Appendix C provides information with regard to such a plan.

Plan Sponsor:

The employer is the Plan Sponsor.

Central Garden & Pet Company
1340 Treat Blvd
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-7578

(925) 948-4000

**Plan Sponsor's Employer
Identification Number:**

68-0275553

Insurance Companies/HMO:

See a complete list under the heading Plan Provider Information later in this document.

Plan Administrator:

Attention: Human Resources Manager
Central Garden & Pet Company
1340 Treat Blvd
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-7578

(925) 948-4000

Named Fiduciary:

Central Garden & Pet Company
1340 Treat Blvd
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-7578

(925) 948-4000

**Agent for Service of Legal
Process:**

Central Garden & Pet Company
1340 Treat Blvd
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-7578

(925) 948-4000

Service for legal process may also be made on the Plan Administrator.

Language assistance is available for those who speak Spanish. If you have difficulty understanding any part of this Summary Plan Description contact Human Resources, Socorro Meza at smeza@central.com or 562-567-2028.

Benefits hereunder may be provided pursuant to an insurance contract or pursuant to a governing document adopted by the Company. If so, these contracts are made a part of this Plan document, and the contracts and Plan document should be construed as consistent, if possible. If the terms of this Plan document conflict with the terms of such insurance contract or other governing document, then the terms of the insurance contract or governing document will control, with the exception of defining eligible employees and dependents, which is determined by the Company, unless otherwise required by law.

4. Eligibility and Participation Requirements

Eligibility and Participation

An eligible Employee with respect to the Plan will be an Employee who is eligible to participate in and receive benefits under one or more of the benefit programs. To determine whether you or your family members are eligible to participate in a benefit program, please see Section 15. Reclassification from non-employee to employee status by a court or any agency or by the Company will not create any retroactive right to coverage.

Certain benefit programs require that you make an annual election to enroll for coverage.

Generally, you cannot enroll, drop coverage, or change your or your dependents coverage under the plan except during annual Open Enrollment. However you may be able to add or drop coverage for yourself or a dependent during the plan year if you experience an event that triggers a HIPAA Special Enrollment Right (see discussion below) or if you have a Status Change Event (see Appendix C for an explanation of Status Change Events). Please review the rules for changing your benefits elections described in Appendix C very carefully as the rules regarding making benefits changes mid-year must be strictly enforced.

Information about enrollment procedures is provided by the Company. Information about when your participation begins in various benefit programs is found under Section 15. You must follow any required enrollment procedures. **Always make sure the Company has your current home address and other contact information for you and your covered dependent to correctly administer your benefits and to send you important benefits information.**

Eligible Dependent Status

Section 15 describes whether your spouse and or child can participate in a particular benefit program. Section 15 also describes any limits on such participation. For example, children covered under the Medical benefit program generally can be covered until the end of the month during which they reach age 26. However, coverage may end earlier for other benefits (or may not be available at all). For specifics on eligibility for each benefit offered refer to Section 15. Note that the definition of dependent may be different for the different benefits offered under the Plan.

You cannot be covered both as an employee and as a dependent under the plan.

Full Time Status and the ACA

Under the ACA, employers are required to report specific benefits information to IRS on “full-time” employees as defined by the ACA. A “full-time” employee is generally an employee who works on average 130 hours per month. Employers may also face penalties if they do not offer major medical coverage to substantially all full-time employees or if the coverage they offer is unaffordable or does not meet a minimum value standard. The Company determines full-time status using the Lookback method. ACA full-time status is not a guarantee of major medical benefits eligibility. Benefits eligibility is described in Section 15.

Special Enrollment Provisions under HIPAA

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), a special enrollment period for the Medical benefit program (or similar benefit programs providing medical benefits) may be available, usually if you lose medical coverage under certain conditions or when you acquire a new dependent by marriage, birth, or adoption.

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in this Plan, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after your other coverage ends. In addition, if you acquire a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

In addition, if you declined enrollment in the Plan for yourself or your dependents (including a spouse) because of coverage under Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program, there may be a right to enroll in this Plan if there is a loss of eligibility for the government-provided coverage. However, a request for enrollment must be made within 60 days after the government-provided coverage ends.

Finally, if you declined enrollment in the Plan for yourself or your dependents (including a spouse), and you or a dependent later becomes eligible for state “premium assistance” through Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program which provides help with paying for Plan coverage, then there may be a right to enroll in this Plan. However, a request for enrollment must be made within 60 days after the determination of eligibility for the state assistance. ***Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program premium assistance are not available with respect to coverage under a health FSA or a high-deductible health plan. Thus, this special enrollment event will not apply to such plans.***

Coverage during Certain Leaves of Absence

Certain Federal (and State) statutes like the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) require that eligibility for medical benefits continue for employees on those protected leaves of absence under the same terms as active employees. When wages continue during such a leave, your contributions will be deducted from those wages on a pre-tax basis. When such a leave is unpaid, you are still required to pay your portion of the premium. Your portion of the premium may be paid as regular monthly intervals during the leave on a post-tax basis.

You may also generally discontinue coverage at the beginning of such an unpaid leave and when you return your benefits will either be reinstated or you may re-enroll for the remainder of the coverage period or plan year.

Human Resources must determine whether or not you are eligible for a statutory or other leave of absence.

Terms of Participation

Your participation and the participation of your spouse and dependents in a benefit program will terminate according to the terms of the specific benefit program. Generally, coverage for most benefit programs terminates on the last day of the month in which you terminate employment, but certain benefit programs may provide coverage only through the date your employment terminates. Please see Section 15 for further information on the date participation in a specific benefit program will terminate.

Coverage may also terminate if you fail to pay your share of an applicable premium, if your hours drop below the required hourly threshold for the particular benefit, if you engage in fraud or make an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact, or for any other reason as set forth in the attached documents. You should consult Section 15 for a general summary and the attached documents for specific termination events and information.

Coverage may be terminated retroactively in the normal course of business due to a participant's termination of employment, nonpayment of premiums, loss of dependent eligibility or other, similar factors. When you or a dependent lose eligibility for benefits, regardless of whether or not you timely report that loss of eligibility, a change to any existing salary reduction election will be made automatically. To the extent that the coverage at issue does not allow for retroactive termination of that coverage and election to the date of the loss of eligibility, such changes will be prospective. If coverage can be terminated retroactively to the date of the loss of eligibility, or sometime thereafter, excess salary reduction contributions will be refunded on a post-tax basis to the date the termination of coverage can be made effective.

Any person claiming benefits under the Plan shall furnish the Company, any insurance company or other entity working on behalf of the Plan or a benefit program with such information and documentation as may be necessary to verify eligibility for and/or entitlement to benefits under the Plan or a benefit program. This may include but is not limited to providing social security numbers, birth certificates, marriage certificates, or proof of dependent eligibility. Failure to cooperate and provide such information will lead to a loss of eligibility for benefits.

Knowingly enrolling an ineligible dependent in plan benefits constitutes fraud and is considered a material misrepresentation that will result in termination of coverage as well as other disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Eligibility for benefits is described in Section 15. If you have questions about whether a dependent is eligible you must contact Human Resources before enrolling that dependent.

COBRA Rights

You may be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage or conversion policies when your coverage for a medical benefit program under this Plan terminates. Information about continuation coverage or conversion is contained in Appendix A. If you have questions about this law or these rights, please contact the Plan Administrator (for benefit programs that are self-

funded) or the insurance carrier (if the benefit is fully-insured). You can determine whether a benefit program is self-funded or fully-insured by consulting Section 15.

For the Health FSA benefit program, COBRA continuation coverage is available if your account is underspent (if the COBRA premium for the account (the monthly salary reduction election + 2%) for the remainder of the coverage period is less than the account's balance) but generally cannot extend beyond the end of the Plan Year (including any 2½ month grace period). COBRA continuation coverage will not be offered with respect to the Health FSA benefit program if your Health FSA is overspent, unless otherwise required by applicable law.

5. Summary of Plan Benefits

Benefits and Contribution

The Plan provides you and your eligible spouse and dependents with the benefit programs listed in Section 15. A summary of each benefit program provided under the Plan may be provided in the attached documents (such as a certificate of insurance booklet, summary plan description for a specific benefit program or other governing document). Note that some of the attached documents may be labeled as a "summary plan description." If so, that document will only be a summary of the specific benefit program to which it relates. Notwithstanding any of the terms of such a document, that document is not the formal, single "Summary Plan Description" for this Plan. Rather, this document constitutes the formal, single "Summary Plan Description."

The cost of the benefits provided through the benefit programs may be funded in part by Company contributions and in part by pre-tax and/or post-tax employee contributions. The Company will determine and periodically communicate your share of the cost, if any, of the benefit programs. The Company reserves the right to change that determination.

The Company will make its contributions, if any, in an amount that (in the Company's sole discretion) is at least sufficient to fund the benefits or a portion of the benefits that are not otherwise funded by your contributions. The Company will pay its contribution and your contributions to any insurance carrier or, with respect to benefits that are self-insured, will use these contributions to pay benefits directly to, or on behalf of, you or your eligible family members from the Company's general assets. Your contributions toward the cost of a particular benefit program will be used in their entirety prior to using Company contributions to pay for the cost of such benefit program.

Medical benefits under this Plan may be subject to cost-sharing provisions, premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, copayment amounts, annual or lifetime limits, pre-authorization requirements or utilization review. There may also be limitations on the selection of primary care or network providers, limits on emergency medical care, or limited coverage for preventive services, drugs, medical tests, medical devices or medical procedures. These limitations are set forth in the attached documents.

Certain prescription drug benefits are considered "Creditable Coverage" under Medicare Part D. The attached documents provide details regarding this coverage and an annual notice (attached and incorporated by reference in Appendix B) explains how this creditable coverage works for these prescription drug benefit programs.

The Plan will provide benefits in accordance with the requirements of all applicable Federal laws regulating group health plans, such as COBRA, HIPAA, NMHPA, WHCRA and the Affordable Care Act. A brief summary of some of these laws is below.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (NMHPA) of 1996

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) of 1998

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Protheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this Plan.

Qualified Medical Child Support Orders

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally must provide benefits as required by any qualified medical child support order, or "QMCSO." The Plan has detailed procedures for determining whether an order qualifies as a QMCSO. Participants and beneficiaries can obtain, without charge, a copy of such procedures from the Plan Administrator.

Michelle's Law: Mandate on Dependent Student Eligibility

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally are prohibited from terminating a college student's health coverage on the basis of the child taking a medically necessary leave of absence from school or changing to a part-time status.

The leave of absence or reduction in hours must be medically necessary and must commence while the eligible student is suffering from a serious illness or injury and would otherwise lose coverage under the Plan because dependent age limitations (i.e. non-student dependent eligibility ending at age 18). The student must have been enrolled in the group health plan before the first day of the leave. There must also be a written certification by the student's physician indicating that the student is indeed

suffering from a serious illness or injury that necessitates the leave or change in enrollment status. The coverage under Michelle's Law must be extended for at least one year; however, coverage may end earlier for certain reasons, such as aging out of the Plan.

Lifetime and Annual Limits

Lifetime or annual limit on the dollar value of "essential health benefits" are no longer permitted under the major medical plans offered by the Plan. For more information on "essential health benefits" refer to the terms of policies and benefit program materials listed in Section 15. These documents are provided to you during enrollment and are available from Human Resources, the insurer (if the benefit is fully-insured), or Plan Administrator (if the benefit is self-funded).

6. Grandfathered Status under the Affordable Care Act

Non-Grandfathered Benefit Programs under the Affordable Care Act

The following benefit programs that provide health benefits are not "grandfathered health plans" under the Affordable Care Act:

- Anthem Basic
- Anthem HDHP
- Anthem Core Plan
- Anthem Buy-Up Plan
- Kaiser HMO (CA Only)
- Kaiser HMO (GA Only)
- HMSA PPO (HI employees only)

These benefit programs must, under the Affordable Care Act, provide additional protections. The protections provided by the Affordable Care Act include the following:

Preventive Services covered at 100%

In-network preventive care services will be covered at 100% with no cost sharing (e.g., copayment, coinsurance percentage, deductible, etc.). Preventive services include those services outlined in the US Preventive Services Taskforce recommendations (services rated "A" or "B"). Please see the attached documents for the preventive services included at no cost share.

Non-Network Emergency Services covered as In-Network

Emergency services must be covered without the need for prior authorization, regardless of the participating status of the provider or facility, and at the in-network cost sharing level.

Access to Primary Care Physicians

The Affordable Care Act generally allows participants the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in the network and who is available to accept the participant and his or her family members. If the benefit program requires that a primary care provider be designated, but one is not designated, the benefit program or a health insurance issuer will designate one until the participant or family member makes such a designation.

- For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.
- You do not need prior authorization from the Plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals.

7. How the Plan Is Administered

Plan Administration

The administration of the Plan is under the supervision of the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator is a named fiduciary within the meaning of ERISA § 402 and has full discretionary authority to administer the Plan, to interpret the Plan, and to determine eligibility for participation and for benefits under the terms of the Plan. However, insurers and parties that have entered into administrative service agreements (Third Party Service Providers or TPAs) assume sole responsibility for their performance under applicable policies or administrative services agreements and, under ERISA, may be fiduciaries with respect to their performance.

The principal duty of the Plan Administrator is to see that the Plan is carried out, in accordance with its terms, for the exclusive benefit of persons entitled to participate in the Plan. The administrative duties of the Plan Administrator include, but are not limited to, interpreting the Plan, prescribing applicable procedures, determining eligibility for and the amount of benefits, and authorizing benefit payments and gathering information necessary for administering the Plan. (However, as noted below, one or more insurance companies may have these responsibilities with respect to fully-insured benefits.)

The Plan Administrator may delegate any of these administrative duties among one or more persons or entities, provided that such delegation is in writing, expressly identifies the delegate(s) and expressly describes the nature and scope of the delegated responsibility. The Plan Administrator has the discretionary authority to interpret the Plan in order to make eligibility and benefit determinations as it may determine in its sole discretion. The Plan Administrator also has the discretionary authority to make factual determinations as to whether any individual is entitled to receive any benefits under the Plan.

Power and Authority of Insurance Company

As detailed in Section 15, certain benefits under the Plan may be fully insured. The insurance companies are responsible for: (1) determining eligibility for and the amount of any benefits

payable under their respective benefit programs, and (2) prescribing claims procedures to be followed and the claims forms to be used by employees pursuant to their respective benefit programs.

Questions

If you have any general questions regarding the Plan, or your eligibility for or the amount of any benefit payable under any benefit program, please contact the Plan Administrator or the appropriate insurance company as applicable.

8. Circumstances Which May Affect Benefits

Denial or Loss of Benefits

Your benefits (and the benefits of your eligible spouse and dependents) will cease when your participation in the Plan terminates. See Section 15. Your benefits will also cease on termination of the Plan.

Right to Recover Benefit Overpayments and Other Erroneous Payments

The Plan and its benefit programs (including any insurance company on behalf of a benefit program) have all necessary or helpful rights to subrogation or reimbursement of benefits. If, for any reason, any benefit under the Plan is erroneously paid or exceeds the amount appropriately payable under the Plan, the recipient of such benefit (the "Recipient") shall be responsible for refunding the overpayment to the Plan or insurance company to the fullest extent permitted by law. In addition, if the Plan or insurance company makes any payment that, according to the terms of the Plan, policy or contract should not have been made, the insurance company, the Plan Administrator, or the Plan Sponsor (or designee) may, to the fullest extent permitted by law, recover that incorrect payment, whether or not it was made due to the insurance company's or Plan Administrator's (or its designee's) own error, from the person to whom it was made or from any other appropriate party.

As may be permitted in the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator or insurance company, the refund or repayment may be made in one or a combination of the following methods: (a) as a single lump-sum payment, (b) as a reduction of the amount of future benefits otherwise payable under the Plan, (c) as automatic deductions from pay, or (d) any other method as may be required or permitted in the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator or the insurance company. The Plan may also seek recovery of the erroneous payment or benefit overpayment from any other appropriate party.

Any benefit payments or reimbursements made by check must be cashed or deposited within one year after the check is issued. If any check or other payment for a benefit is not cashed or deposited within one year of the date of issue, the Plan will have no liability for the benefit payment and the amount of the check will be deemed a forfeiture. No funds will escheat to any state.

9. Amendment or Termination of the Plan

Amendment or Termination

The Plan and any benefit program under the Plan may be amended or terminated at any time, in the sole discretion of the Company as Plan sponsor, by a written instrument signed by an authorized individual. Some benefit programs may also be amended or terminated by an insurance carrier, as more fully described in any attached documents from an insurance carrier. The policies and agreements may also be amended or terminated at any time in accordance with their terms. No individual (including a retired employee) shall have a right to continuing benefits except to the extent required by law.

10. No Contract of Employment

The Plan is not intended to be, and may not be construed as, constituting a contract or other arrangement between you and the Company to the effect that you will be employed for any specific period of time.

11. No Assignment

Except as may otherwise be specifically provided in this Plan, the benefit programs, or applicable law, an individual's rights, interests or benefits under this Plan or the benefit programs shall not be subject in any manner to anticipation, alienation, sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance, charge, garnishment, execution or levy of any kind, either voluntary or involuntary, prior to being received by the persons entitled thereto under the terms of the benefit programs, and any such attempt shall be void.

Specifically, participants and beneficiaries covered under this plan cannot assign their rights to medical providers to pursue direct payment of claims either as the participant or beneficiaries' agent or under power of attorney. Under the terms of this plan, medical providers cannot take action enforcing a patient's right to recover benefits under ERISA or assert any claims under ERISA on behalf of patients, even where the patient(s) have assigned their rights to their medical providers.

12. Claims Procedure

Claims for Fully-Insured Benefits

For purposes of determining of the amount of, and entitlement to, benefits of the benefit programs provided under insurance contracts or policies, the respective insurer is the named fiduciary under the Plan, with the full power to interpret and apply the terms of the Plan as they relate to benefits.

To obtain benefits from the insurer of a benefit program, you must follow the claims procedures under the applicable insurance contract, which may require you to complete, sign and submit a written claim on the insurer's form.

The insurance company will decide your claim in accordance with its reasonable claims procedures as required by ERISA.

See the appropriate certificate of insurance or booklet for details regarding the insurance company's claims procedures. You must fully follow and exhaust these claims procedures before you can file a lawsuit in state or federal court. You may have a right to seek external review of your claims, if so noted in the applicable insurance contract or policy.

Claims for Self-Funded Benefits

For purposes of determining the amount of, and entitlement to, benefits under the benefit programs which are self-funded, the Plan Administrator is the named fiduciary under the Plan, with the full power to make factual determinations and to interpret and apply the terms of the Plan.

To obtain benefits from a benefit program which is self-funded you must complete, execute, and submit to the Plan Administrator a written claim on the form available from the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator has the right to secure independent medical advice and to require such other evidence, as it deems necessary to decide your claim.

The Plan Administrator will decide your claim in accordance with reasonable claims procedures, as required by ERISA. You may have a right to seek external review of your claims, if so noted in the applicable attached document for the self-funded benefit program.

See the appropriate benefits description for information about how to file a claim and for details regarding the claims procedures applicable to your claim. You must fully follow and exhaust these claims procedures before you can file a lawsuit in court.

The Role of Authorized Representatives

Under ERISA and the ACA participants and beneficiaries have the right to designate an Authorized Representative for certain purposes. These purposes are generally limited to requesting documents or other information on behalf of a participant or beneficiary or acting on their behalf during claims and appeals procedures that can follow an adverse benefits determination. In any situation that does not constitute an urgent care claim, to designate any third party as an Authorized Representative a participant or beneficiary must use the signed statement included as an appendix of this document with the required witness signature. A medical provider will not become a participant or beneficiary's Authorized Representative as a result of an attempt to secure an assignment of benefits. The Plan does not guarantee that any purported assignment will be valid under the terms of the Plan.

13. Statement of ERISA Rights

This Statement of ERISA Rights applies to those benefit programs which are subject to ERISA. Not all benefit programs which are part of this Plan will be subject to ERISA. The following

benefit programs are not subject to ERISA: Health Savings Account (HSA), DCAP, Cafeteria plan, Commuter plan.

Your Rights

As a participant in an ERISA plan you are entitled to certain rights and protections under ERISA. ERISA provides that, as a participant, you are entitled to:

- examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, the Plan documents, including insurance contracts, and copies of all documents filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor (if any) such as annual reports and Plan descriptions;
- obtain copies of the benefit program documents and other program information on written request to the Plan Administrator (the Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies);
- receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report, if any (the Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report);
- 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.

Fiduciary Obligations

In addition to creating rights for participants, ERISA imposes duties on the people who are responsible for the operation of the benefit program. These people, called "fiduciaries" of the program, have a duty to operate the program prudently and in the interest of you and other program participants. Fiduciaries who violate ERISA may be removed and may be required to reimburse the Plan for any losses they have caused the program.

No Discrimination

No one, including the Company or any other person, may fire you or discriminate against you in any way with the purpose of preventing you from obtaining welfare benefits or exercising your rights under ERISA.

Right to Review

If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied in whole or in part, you must receive a written explanation of the reason for the denial. You have a right to have the Plan Administrator review and reconsider your claim.

Filing Suit

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce these rights. For instance, if you request materials from the Plan Administrator 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 Plan Administrator. If you have a claim for benefits that is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, and if you have exhausted the claims procedures available to you under the Plan, you may file suit in a court.

Any lawsuit must be filed within 36 months of the final decision on the claim. Exhaustion of the internal claims and appeals procedure is required prior to filing suit.

If it should happen that benefit program fiduciaries misuse the Program'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 (for example, if the court finds your claim is frivolous), the court may order you to pay these costs and fees.

Questions

If you have any questions about this statement or your rights under ERISA, 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 the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

14. General Information

COBRA

Benefit programs which provide health benefits generally are subject to the federal law known as COBRA. COBRA generally allows covered participants and beneficiaries to continue in the benefit program, even after a "qualifying event" occurs. For more information about COBRA please see Appendix A. You may also have state law continuation or conversion rights.

Subrogation and Reimbursement

If an individual has a claim for benefits under this Plan or any benefit program, and that individual acquires any right or action against a third party for the person's injury, sickness or other illness which is so covered, then: (a) the Plan shall be entitled to reimbursement for such benefits from such third party up to 100% of the benefits paid by the Plan; and (b) the Plan is automatically subrogated to all such rights or claims of the covered person. The covered person shall cooperate fully with the Plan in the enforcement of the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights. In addition, the person shall permit suit to be brought in the person's name under the direction of and at the expense of the Company if the Company so chooses. The Plan shall not be liable for such a person's attorney's fees absent prior written approval from the Plan. The Plan Administrator may require the receipt of a signed and dated subrogation and reimbursement agreement from the person before advancing any monies.

The failure or refusal of a covered person to fully cooperate with the Plan in the enforcement of the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights shall result in a forfeiture of all benefits payable to that person, even if such benefits have already been paid, in which event the Company shall retain a right to recover paid benefits which are forfeited in such a manner.

The Company, on behalf of this Plan, shall have a first priority right to recover from and a lien against any payment, whether designated as a payment for medical benefits or any other type of damages, from the proceeds of any recovery, including but not limited to any settlement, award or judgment which results from a claim or lawsuit by or on behalf of a covered person who received benefits under this Plan (even if such covered person is not made whole). The plan is not required to contribute to any expenses or fees (including attorney's fees or costs) incurred in obtaining the funds. The plan's recovery will not be limited or reduced by doctrines (equitable or other) including but not limited to, the make-whole doctrine, contributory or comparative negligence, or the common fund doctrine. The plan's right to full recovery is not reduced if settlement funds or other payments to you are spent or no longer in an individual's possession or control. Notice of the Plan's claim shall be sufficient to establish this Plan's lien against the third party or insurance carrier. The Company shall be entitled to deduct the amount of the lien from any future claims payable to or on behalf of the covered person or payee if the covered person or payee fails to promptly notify the Plan Administrator of a payment received from a third party or insurance carrier that is subject to this Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights.

In the event that the Plan obtains a recovery against a third party in excess of payments made to or on behalf of the covered person and reasonable out of pocket expenses of the recovery, then the Plan shall pay to the covered person that excess amount recovered by the Plan.

In the event of any direct conflict between this Section 13 and the subrogation and reimbursement provisions in any benefit program, the subrogation and reimbursement provisions in the benefit program shall control. Otherwise, the provisions of this Section 13 shall apply and may supplement those contained in any benefit program.

The above provisions of this "Subrogation and Reimbursement" section apply with respect to a benefit program that is self-funded and does not, in its governing documents (but excluding this Plan document) have a subrogation and reimbursement section. If the benefit program does have such a section that section shall control. With respect to a fully-insured benefit program, the contract or policy from the insurer shall control with respect to subrogation and reimbursement matters.

No Vesting of Benefits

Nothing in the Plan, nor anything in any benefit program, shall be construed as creating any vested rights to benefits in favor of any employee, former employee or covered person.

Waiver and Estoppel

No term, condition, or provision of this Plan or any benefit program shall be deemed to be waived, and there shall be no estoppel against enforcing any provision of the Plan or benefit program, except through a writing of the party to be charged by the waiver or estoppel. No such written waiver shall be deemed a continuing waiver unless explicitly made so, and shall operate only with regard to the specific term or condition waived, and shall not be deemed to waive such term or condition in the future, or as to any act other than as specifically waived. No covered person other than as named or described by class in the waiver shall be entitled to rely on the waiver for any purposes.

Effect on Other Benefit Plans

Amounts credited or paid under this Plan or any benefit program shall not be considered to be compensation for purposes of any benefit program hereunder or any qualified or nonqualified pension plan maintained by the Company unless expressly provided in such benefit program or qualified or nonqualified pension plan, as applicable, or if required by applicable law. The treatment of amounts paid under this Plan or any benefit program for purposes of any other employee benefit plan maintained by the Company shall be determined under the provisions of the applicable employee benefit plan.

Severability

If any provision of this Plan or any benefit program is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall continue to be fully effective.

Rebates

In some situations, a rebate may be paid by an insurance company which provides coverage under the Plan. For example, a rebate may be provided under the Medical Loss Ratio ("MLR") rules, which are part of the Affordable Care Act. Except as specifically and unambiguously provided in a Benefit Description, or as otherwise required by applicable law, any rebate from any source will be:

- Considered an asset of the Company, not the Plan. The Company does not need to use such a rebate to benefit Employees, participants or beneficiaries. The Company can use such a rebate for the Company's own purposes
- An asset of the Plan in proportion to how much of the rebate relates to Employee, participant, or beneficiary contributions. The portion relating to Company contributions shall not be considered a Plan asset. The Company will have the ability to make certain assumptions or minor changes (such as rounding to the nearest \$1 or \$10) when determining the amount which is considered a plan asset. The Company shall have discretion to determine how to use all amounts. Amounts which are plan assets will be used to benefit individuals selected by the Company. This group of individuals may not be identical to the group which relates to the rebate. In addition, certain individuals can receive the rebate (or the benefit of the rebate) even if the rebate related to a different benefit, to the extent allowed by applicable law.
- The entire amount shall be an asset of the Plan, to be used for the benefit of individuals covered by the Plan.

In all situations where ERISA applies the use of any ERISA-covered plan assets will be governed by applicable law, including but not limited to U.S. Department of Labor Technical Release 2011-04.

Controlling Law

This Plan shall be administered, construed, and enforced according to the federal law and the laws of the State of California, to the extent not preempted by federal law. However, with respect to a fully-insured benefit program, the applicable insurance policy or contract will control with respect to which state's laws apply.

15. Benefit Program Information

Summary of Eligibility and Participation Provisions

Note: If you have any questions about eligibility or participation, contact the Plan Administrator

Benefit Program	Fully-insured or self-funded? if fully-insured, carrier name	Policy or Group #, if fully-insured	Who is eligible	When Participation begins	When Participation Ends¹	To File a Claim, Contact:
Cafeteria Plan (pre-tax premium payments)	N/A	N/A	All employees who are eligible for the Medical benefit program	At the same time as Medical benefit program eligibility	Immediately upon termination of employment	Plan Administrator (see Section 2 for address)
Medical	Self-Funded/ Anthem	7AA6, L282, 7AAF	Full-time employees working 30+ hours per week. Spouses, domestic partners and children generally are covered	First day of the month following one full calendar month from the date of hire.	At the end of the month in which coverage is dropped or employment is terminated. Continuation coverage usually is available.	Attn: Anthem Claims Department P.O Box 60007 Los Angeles, CA 90060 (877) 800-3214
Medical	Fully-Insured / Kaiser	SoCal: 226645 NorCal: 48201 GA: 10614	Full-time employees working 30+ hours per week. Spouses, domestic partners and children generally are covered	First day of the month following one full calendar month from date of hire.	At the end of the month in which coverage is dropped or employment is terminated. Continuation coverage usually is available.	Kaiser Permanente: CA: (800) 464-4000 GA: (404) 261-2590

¹ Other Events (such as fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact) can also terminate coverage -- see the benefit program details.

Benefit Program	Fully-insured or self-funded? if fully-insured, carrier name	Policy or Group #, if fully-insured	Who is eligible	When Participation begins	When Participation Ends¹	To File a Claim, Contact:
Dental	Self-Funded/ Anthem	Core: 1859RA, 1859RC Buy Up: 1859RB & 1859RD	Full-time employees working 30+ hours per week. Spouses, domestic partners and children generally are covered	First day of the month following one full calendar month from date of hire.	At the end of the month in which coverage is dropped or employment is terminated. Continuation coverage usually is available	Attn: Anthem Claims Department P.O. Box 60007 Los Angeles, CA 90060 (877) 800-3214
Vision	Self Funded/ VSP	12107781	Full-time employees working at least 30+ hours per week. Spouses, domestic partners and children generally are covered	At the same time as Medical benefit program eligibility	At the end of the month in which coverage is dropped or employment is terminated. Continuation coverage usually is available	VSP P.O. Box 385018 Birmingham, AL 35238 (800) 877-7195
Life/ AD&D, LTD, Vol. Life/Vol. AD&D, LTD	Fully-Insured / Reliance Standard	Basic/Vol Life: GL-147867 AD&D/Vol AD&D: VAR-205031 LTD: 121465	Full-time employees working at least 30+ hours per week, employees are eligible to elect voluntary coverage for dependents if enrolled in Basic Life/AD&D coverage	At the same time as Medical benefit program eligibility	At the end of the month in which coverage is dropped or employment is terminated. Continuation coverage usually is available	Attn: Group Life Claims P.O. Box 7307 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7307 (800) 351-7500 LTD: P.O. Box 7749 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7307 (800) 351-7500
Short Term Disability & FMLA Leave	Self Funded/ Matrix	STD: 610101	Full-time employees working at least 30+ hours per week.	At the same time as Medical benefit program eligibility	Immediately upon termination of employment	www.matrixabsence.com (877) 202-0055

Benefit Program	Fully-insured or self-funded? if fully-insured, carrier name	Policy or Group #, if fully-insured	Who is eligible	When Participation begins	When Participation Ends¹	To File a Claim, Contact:
FSA, Limited FSA, HSA, Commuter	Self-Funded / Health Equity		Full-time employees working at least 30+ hours per week.	At the same time as Medical benefit program eligibility	Immediately upon termination of employment. Continuation coverage usually is available for Health FSA unless Health FSA is "overspent"	Health Equity: PO Box 14374 Lexington, KY 40512 (866) 346- 5800

Notes:

1. Please consult carrier documentation for further details regarding which family members are eligible to participate in each of the above coverages. For more information on eligibility and hours calculation please contact the Plan Administrator or Human Resources.
2. Other Events (Such as fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact) can also terminate coverage--see the benefit program details.

Appendix A: COBRA Continuation

General Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights

** Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA**

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently became eligible to elect coverage under the Central Garden & Pet group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it. When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

1. The parent-employee dies;
2. The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
3. The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
5. The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
6. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: Central Garden & Pet at (925) 948-4000.

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying

events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. To receive this extension a qualified beneficiary must notify the Central Garden & Pet Plan Administrator (Health Equity) at 866-346-5800, of that determination within 60 days and before the end of the original 18-month period. The affected individual must also notify the Central Garden & Pet Plan Administrator (Health Equity) within 30 days of any final determination that the individual is no longer disabled.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at www.healthcare.gov.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit www.dol.gov/ebsa. (Addresses and phone

numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan contact information

If you have any questions about COBRA, please contact:

Central Garden & Pet - (925) 948-4000 during business hours; or
Health Equity - 866-346-5800 available 24/7

Appendix B: Medicare Part D

Important Notice from Central Garden & Pet About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Central Garden & Pet and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Central Garden & Pet has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Anthem and Kaiser is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your Central Garden & Pet coverage **will not** be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

Since the existing prescription drug coverage under Core & Buy Up Medical plans through Anthem is creditable (e.g., as good as Medicare coverage), you can retain your existing prescription drug coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan; or you can enroll in a Part D plan as a supplement to, or in lieu of, your existing prescription drug coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your Central Garden & Pet prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents can only get this coverage back at open enrollment or if you experience an event that gives rise to a HIPAA Special Enrollment Right.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Central Garden & Pet and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact the person listed below for further information NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Central Garden & Pet changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users should call 877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO. MEDICAL/DENTAL PLAN

Date: January 1, 2024
Name of Entity/Sender: Central Garden & Pet
Contact-Position/Office: Human Resources Admin
Address: 1340 Treat Blvd, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Phone Number: (925) 948-4000

Appendix C: Cafeteria Plan and FSA Provisions

Please refer to the following pages for the Section 125 SPD and plan provisions.

**CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY
FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN
AND ALL SUPPORTING FORMS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR
HEALTH EQUITY INC**

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**CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY
FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN**

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**CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY
FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN**

INTRODUCTION

The Employer has amended this Plan effective August 1, 2020, to recognize the contribution made to the Employer by its Employees. Its purpose is to reward them by providing benefits for those Employees who shall qualify hereunder and their Dependents and beneficiaries. The concept of this Plan is to allow Employees to choose among different types of benefits based on their own particular goals, desires and needs. This Plan is a restatement of a Plan which was originally effective on January 1, 1999. The Plan shall be known as Central Garden & Pet Company Flexible Benefits Plan (the "Plan").

The intention of the Employer is that the Plan qualify as a "Cafeteria Plan" within the meaning of Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that the benefits which an Employee elects to receive under the Plan be excludable from the Employee's income under Section 125(a) and other applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS**

1.1 **"Administrator"** means the Employer unless another person or entity has been designated by the Employer pursuant to Section 9.1 to administer the Plan on behalf of the Employer. If the Employer is the Administrator, the Employer may appoint any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, to perform the duties of the Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing written acceptance with the Employer. Upon the resignation or removal of any individual performing the duties of the Administrator, the Employer may designate a successor.

1.2 **"Affiliated Employer"** means the Employer and any corporation which is a member of a controlled group of corporations (as defined in Code Section 414(b)) which includes the Employer; any trade or business (whether or not incorporated) which is under common control (as defined in Code Section 414(c)) with the Employer; any organization (whether or not incorporated) which is a member of an affiliated service group (as defined in Code Section 414(m)) which includes the Employer; and any other entity required to be aggregated with the Employer pursuant to Treasury regulations under Code Section 414(o).

1.3 **"Benefit" or "Benefit Options"** means any of the optional benefit choices available to a Participant as outlined in Section 4.1.

1.4 **"Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars"** means the amount available to Participants to purchase Benefit Options as provided under Section 4.1. Each dollar contributed to this Plan shall be converted into one Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollar.

1.5 **"Code"** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or replaced from time to time.

1.6 **"Compensation"** means the amounts received by the Participant from the Employer during a Plan Year.

1.7 **"Dependent"** means any individual who qualifies as a dependent under the self-funded plan for purposes of that plan or under Code Section 152 (as modified by Code Section 105(b)). Any child of a Plan Participant who is determined to be an alternate recipient under a qualified medical child support order under ERISA Sec. 609 shall be considered a Dependent under this Plan.

"Dependent" shall include any Child of a Participant who is covered under an Insurance Contract, as defined in the Contract, or under the Health Flexible Spending Account or as allowed by reason of the Affordable Care Act.

For purposes of the Health Flexible Spending Account, a Participant's "Child" includes his/her natural child, stepchild, foster child, adopted child, or a child placed with the Participant for adoption. A Participant's Child will be an eligible Dependent until reaching the limiting age of 26, without regard to student status, marital status, financial dependency or residency status with the Employee or any other person. When the child reaches the applicable limiting age, coverage will end at the end of the calendar year.

The phrase "placed for adoption" refers to a child whom the Participant intends to adopt, whether or not the adoption has become final, who has not attained the age of 18 as of the date of such placement for adoption. The term "placed" means the assumption and retention by such Employee of a legal obligation for total or partial support of the child in anticipation of adoption of the child. The child must be available for adoption and the legal process must have commenced.

1.8 **"Effective Date"** means January 1, 1999.

1.9 **"Election Period"** means the period immediately preceding the beginning of each Plan Year established by the Administrator, such period to be applied on a uniform and nondiscriminatory basis for all Employees and Participants. However, an Employee's initial Election Period shall be determined pursuant to Section 5.1.

1.10 **"Eligible Employee"** means any Employee who has satisfied the provisions of Section 2.1.

An individual shall not be an "Eligible Employee" if such individual is not reported on the payroll records of the Employer as a common law employee. In particular, it is expressly intended that individuals not treated as common law employees by the

Employer on its payroll records are not "Eligible Employees" and are excluded from Plan participation even if a court or administrative agency determines that such individuals are common law employees and not independent contractors.

1.11 **"Employee"** means any person who is employed by the Employer. The term Employee shall include leased employees within the meaning of Code Section 414(n)(2).

1.12 **"Employer"** means Central Garden & Pet Company and any successor which shall maintain this Plan; and any predecessor which has maintained this Plan. In addition, where appropriate, the term Employer shall include any Participating, Affiliated or Adopting Employer.

1.13 **"Employer Contribution"** means the contributions made by the Employer pursuant to Section 3.1 to enable a Participant to purchase Benefits. These contributions shall be converted to Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars and allocated to the funds or accounts established under the Plan pursuant to the Participants' elections made under Article V and as set forth in Section 3.1.

1.14 **"ERISA"** means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.

1.15 **"Insurance Contract"** means any contract issued by an Insurer underwriting a Benefit.

1.16 **"Insurer"** means any insurance company that underwrites a Benefit under this Plan or, with respect to any self-funded benefits, the Employer.

1.17 **"Key Employee"** means an Employee described in Code Section 416(i)(1) and the Treasury regulations thereunder.

1.18 **"Participant"** means any Eligible Employee who elects to become a Participant pursuant to Section 2.3 and has not for any reason become ineligible to participate further in the Plan.

1.19 **"Plan"** means this instrument, including all amendments thereto.

1.20 **"Plan Year"** means the 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. The Plan Year shall be the coverage period for the Benefits provided for under this Plan. In the event a Participant commences participation during a Plan Year, then the initial coverage period shall be that portion of the Plan Year commencing on such Participant's date of entry and ending on the last day of such Plan Year.

1.21 **"Premium Expenses" or "Premiums"** mean the Participant's cost for the self-funded Benefits described in Section 4.1.

1.22 **"Premium Expense Reimbursement Account"** means the account established for a Participant pursuant to this Plan to which part of his Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars may be allocated and from which Premiums of the Participant may be paid or reimbursed. If more than one type of insured or self-funded Benefit is elected, sub-accounts shall be established for each type of insured or self-funded Benefit.

1.23 **"Salary Redirection"** means the contributions made by the Employer on behalf of Participants pursuant to Section 3.2. These contributions shall be converted to Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars and allocated to the funds or accounts established under the Plan pursuant to the Participants' elections made under Article V.

1.24 **"Salary Redirection Agreement"** means an agreement between the Participant and the Employer under which the Participant agrees to reduce his Compensation or to forego all or part of the increases in such Compensation and to have such amounts contributed by the Employer to the Plan on the Participant's behalf. The Salary Redirection Agreement shall apply only to Compensation that has not been actually or constructively received by the Participant as of the date of the agreement (after taking this Plan and Code Section 125 into account) and, subsequently does not become currently available to the Participant.

1.25 **"Spouse"** means spouse as determined under Federal law.

ARTICLE II PARTICIPATION

2.1 ELIGIBILITY

Any Eligible Employee shall be eligible to participate hereunder as of the date he satisfies the eligibility conditions for the Employer's group medical plan, the provisions of which are specifically incorporated herein by reference. However, any Eligible Employee who was a Participant in the Plan on the effective date of this amendment shall continue to be eligible to participate in the Plan.

2.2 EFFECTIVE DATE OF PARTICIPATION

An Eligible Employee shall become a Participant effective as of the entry date under the Employer's group medical plan, the provisions of which are specifically incorporated herein by reference.

2.3 APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE

An Employee who is eligible to participate in this Plan shall, during the applicable Election Period, complete an application to participate in a manner set forth by the Administrator. The election shall be irrevocable until the end of the applicable Plan Year unless the Participant is entitled to change his Benefit elections pursuant to Section 5.4 hereof.

An Eligible Employee shall also be required to complete a Salary Redirection Agreement during the Election Period for the Plan Year during which he wishes to participate in this Plan. Any such Salary Redirection Agreement shall be effective for the first pay period beginning on or after the Employee's effective date of participation pursuant to Section 2.2.

2.4 TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION

A Participant shall no longer participate in this Plan upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) **Termination of employment.** The Participant's termination of employment, subject to the provisions of Section 2.5;
- (b) **Death.** The Participant's death, subject to the provisions of Section 2.6; or
- (c) **Termination of the plan.** The termination of this Plan, subject to the provisions of Section 10.2.

2.5 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

If a Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated for any reason other than death, his participation in the Benefit Options provided under Section 4.1 shall be governed in accordance with the following:

- (a) **Insurance Benefit.** With regard to Benefits provided under Section 4.1, the Participant's participation in the Plan shall cease at the end of the month in which they terminate employment, subject to the Participant's right to continue coverage under any Insurance Contract or self-funded benefit for which premiums have already been paid.
- (b) **Dependent Care FSA.** With regard to the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, the Participant's participation in the Plan shall cease at the end of the month in which they terminate employment and no further Salary Redirection contributions shall be made. However, such Participant may submit claims for employment related Dependent Care Expense reimbursements for claims incurred through the end of the month in which they terminate employment in which such termination occurs and submitted within 90 days after the end of the Plan Year, based on the level of the Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account as of the date of termination.
- (c) **COBRA applicability.** With regard to the Health Flexible Spending Account, the Participant may submit claims for expenses that were incurred before the end of the month in which they terminate, within 90 days after the end of the plan year. Thereafter, the health benefits under this Plan including the Health Flexible Spending Account shall be applied and administered consistent with such further rights a Participant and his Dependents may be entitled to pursuant to Code Section 4980B and Section 11.13 of the Plan.

2.6 DEATH

If a Participant dies, his participation in the Plan shall cease. However, such Participant's spouse or Dependents may submit claims for expenses or benefits for the remainder of the Plan Year or until the Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars allocated to each specific benefit are exhausted. In no event may reimbursements be paid to someone who is not a spouse or Dependent. If the Plan is subject to the provisions of Code Section 4980B, then those provisions and related regulations shall apply for purposes of the Health Flexible Spending Account.

ARTICLE III CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PLAN

3.1 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

The Employer shall make available to each Participant an Employer Contribution to the Participant's Health Savings Account equal to \$250/500 per Participant each Plan Year. Each Participant's Employer Contribution shall be converted to Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars and be available to purchase Benefits hereunder. The Employer's Contribution shall be made available at the beginning of the Plan Year. If a Participant fails to make any election of Benefit Option, there shall be no Employer Contribution (i.e., the Employer Contribution shall not be available in cash).

3.2 SALARY REDIRECTION

If a Participant's Employer Contribution is not sufficient to cover the cost of Benefits or Premium Expenses he elects pursuant to Section 4.1, his Compensation will be reduced in an amount equal to the difference between the cost of Benefits he elected and the amount of Employer Contribution available to him. Such reduction shall be his Salary Redirection, which the Employer will use on his behalf,

together with his Employer Contribution, to pay for the Benefits he elected. The amount of such Salary Redirection shall be specified in the Salary Redirection Agreement and shall be applicable for a Plan Year. Notwithstanding the above, for new Participants, the Salary Redirection Agreement shall only be applicable from the first day of the pay period following the Employee's entry date up to and including the last day of the Plan Year. These contributions shall be converted to Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars and allocated to the funds or accounts established under the Plan pursuant to the Participants' elections made under Article IV.

Any Salary Redirection shall be determined prior to the beginning of a Plan Year (subject to initial elections pursuant to Section 5.1) and prior to the end of the Election Period and shall be irrevocable for such Plan Year. However, a Participant may revoke a Benefit election or a Salary Redirection Agreement after the Plan Year has commenced and make a new election with respect to the remainder of the Plan Year, if both the revocation and the new election are on account of and consistent with a change in status and such other permitted events as determined under Article V of the Plan and consistent with the rules and regulations of the Department of the Treasury. Salary Redirection amounts shall be contributed on a pro rata basis for each pay period during the Plan Year. All individual Salary Redirection Agreements are deemed to be part of this Plan and incorporated by reference hereunder.

3.3 APPLICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

As soon as reasonably practical after each payroll period, the Employer shall apply the Employer Contribution and Salary Redirection to provide the Benefits elected by the affected Participants. Any contribution made or withheld for the Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account shall be credited to such fund or account. Amounts designated for the Participant's Premium Expense Reimbursement Account shall likewise be credited to such account for the purpose of paying Premium Expenses.

3.4 PERIODIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Notwithstanding the requirement provided above and in other Articles of this Plan that Salary Redirections be contributed to the Plan by the Employer on behalf of an Employee on a level and pro rata basis for each payroll period, the Employer and Administrator may implement a procedure in which Salary Redirections are contributed throughout the Plan Year on a periodic basis that is not pro rata for each payroll period. However, with regard to the Health Flexible Spending Account, the payment schedule for the required contributions may not be based on the rate or amount of reimbursements during the Plan Year.

ARTICLE IV BENEFITS

4.1 BENEFIT OPTIONS

Each Participant may elect any one or more of the following optional Benefits:

- (1) Health Flexible Spending Account
- (2) Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account
- (3) Insurance Premium Payment Plan
 - (i) Health Insurance Benefit
 - (ii) Dental Insurance Benefit
 - (iii) Vision Insurance Benefit
 - (iv) Prescription Drug Coverage Benefit

4.2 HEALTH FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT BENEFIT

Each Participant may elect to participate in the Health Flexible Spending Account option, in which case Article VI shall apply.

4.3 DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT BENEFIT

Each Participant may elect to participate in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account option, in which case Article VII shall apply.

4.4 HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and Dependents.** Each Participant may elect to be covered under a health Contract for the Participant, his or her Spouse, and his or her Dependents.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable health Contracts for use in providing this health insurance benefit, which policies will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such health Contract shall be determined therefrom, and such Contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

4.5 DENTAL INSURANCE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and/or Dependents.** Each Participant may elect to be covered under the Employer's dental Insurance Contract. In addition, the Participant may elect either individual or family coverage under such Insurance Contract.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable dental Insurance Contracts for use in providing this dental insurance benefit, which policies will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such dental Insurance Contract shall be determined therefrom, and such dental Insurance Contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

4.6 VISION INSURANCE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and/or Dependents.** Each Participant may elect to be covered under the Employer's vision Insurance Contract. In addition, the Participant may elect either individual or family coverage.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable vision Insurance Contracts for use in providing this vision insurance benefit, which policies will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such vision Insurance Contract shall be determined therefrom, and such vision Insurance Contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

4.7 PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and/or Dependents.** Each Participant may elect to be covered under the Employer's Prescription Drug Coverage Contract.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable prescription drug coverage for use in providing this benefit, including, but not limited to, if applicable, by-mail services and prescription drug cards, which will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such prescription drug coverage contract shall be determined therefrom, and such Contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

4.8 NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) **Intent to be nondiscriminatory.** It is the intent of this Plan to provide benefits to a classification of employees which the Secretary of the Treasury finds not to be discriminatory in favor of the group in whose favor discrimination may not occur under Code Section 125.

(b) **25% concentration test.** It is the intent of this Plan not to provide qualified benefits as defined under Code Section 125 to Key Employees in amounts that exceed 25% of the aggregate of such Benefits provided for all Eligible Employees under the Plan. For purposes of the preceding sentence, qualified benefits shall not include benefits which (without regard to this paragraph) are includible in gross income.

(c) **Adjustment to avoid test failure.** If the Administrator deems it necessary to avoid discrimination or possible taxation to Key Employees or a group of employees in whose favor discrimination may not occur in violation of Code Section 125, it may, but shall not be required to, reject any election or reduce contributions or non-taxable Benefits in order to assure compliance with this Section. Any act taken by the Administrator under this Section shall be carried out in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner. Contributions which are not utilized to provide Benefits to any Participant by virtue of any administrative act under this paragraph shall be forfeited and deposited into the benefit plan surplus.

**ARTICLE V
PARTICIPANT ELECTIONS**

5.1 INITIAL ELECTIONS

An Employee who meets the eligibility requirements of Section 2.1 on the first day of, or during, a Plan Year may elect to participate in this Plan for all or the remainder of such Plan Year, provided he elects to do so on or before his effective date of participation pursuant to Section 2.2.

5.2 SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL ELECTIONS

During the Election Period prior to each subsequent Plan Year, each Participant shall be given the opportunity to elect, on an election of benefits form to be provided by the Administrator, which Benefit options he wishes to select. Any such election shall be effective for any Benefit expenses incurred during the Plan Year which follows the end of the Election Period. With regard to subsequent annual elections, the following options shall apply:

- (a) A Participant or Employee who failed to initially elect to participate may elect new Benefits under the Plan during the Election Period;
- (b) A Participant may terminate his participation in the Plan by notifying the Administrator in writing during the Election Period that he does not want to participate in the Plan for the next Plan Year, or by not electing any Benefit options;
- (c) An Employee who elects not to participate for the Plan Year following the Election Period will have to wait until the next Election Period before again electing to participate in the Plan, except as provided for in Section 5.4.

5.3 FAILURE TO ELECT

Any Participant failing to complete an election of benefits form pursuant to Section 5.2 by the end of the applicable Election Period shall be deemed to have elected not to participate in the Plan for the upcoming Plan Year. No further Salary Redirections shall therefore be authorized for such subsequent Plan Year.

5.4 CHANGE IN STATUS

(a) **Change in status defined.** Any Participant may change a Benefit election after the Plan Year (to which such election relates) has commenced and make new elections with respect to the remainder of such Plan Year if, under the facts and circumstances, the changes are necessitated by and are consistent with a change in status which is acceptable under rules and regulations adopted by the Department of the Treasury, the provisions of which are incorporated by reference. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if the rules and regulations conflict, then such rules and regulations shall control.

In general, a change in election is not consistent if the change in status is the Participant's divorce, annulment or legal separation from a Spouse, the death of a Spouse or Dependent, or a Dependent ceasing to satisfy the eligibility requirements for coverage, and the Participant's election under the Plan is to cancel accident or health insurance coverage for any individual other than the one involved in such event. In addition, if the Participant, Spouse or Dependent gains or loses eligibility for coverage, then a Participant's election under the Plan to cease or decrease coverage for that individual under the Plan corresponds with that change in status only if coverage for that individual becomes applicable or is increased under the family member plan.

Regardless of the consistency requirement, if the individual, the individual's Spouse, or Dependent becomes eligible for continuation coverage under the Employer's group health plan as provided in Code Section 4980B or any similar state law, then the individual may elect to increase payments under this Plan in order to pay for the continuation coverage. However, this does not apply for COBRA eligibility due to divorce, annulment or legal separation.

Any new election shall be effective at such time as the Administrator shall prescribe, but not earlier than the first pay period beginning after the election form is completed and returned to the Administrator. For the purposes of this subsection, a change in status shall only include the following events or other events permitted by Treasury regulations:

- (1) Legal Marital Status: events that change a Participant's legal marital status, including marriage, divorce, death of a Spouse, legal separation or annulment;
- (2) Number of Dependents: Events that change a Participant's number of Dependents, including birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a Dependent;
- (3) Employment Status: Any of the following events that change the employment status of the Participant, Spouse, or Dependent: termination or commencement of employment, a strike or lockout, commencement or return from an unpaid leave of absence, or a change in worksite. In addition, if the eligibility conditions of this Plan or other employee benefit plan of the Employer of the Participant, Spouse, or Dependent depend on the employment status of that individual and there is a change in that individual's employment status with the consequence that the individual becomes (or ceases to be) eligible under the plan, then that change constitutes a change in employment under this subsection;

(4) Dependent satisfies or ceases to satisfy the eligibility requirements: An event that causes the Participant's Dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to attainment of age, student status, or any similar circumstance; and

(5) Residency: A change in the place of residence of the Participant, Spouse or Dependent, that would lead to a change in status (such as a loss of HMO coverage).

For the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, a Dependent becoming or ceasing to be a "Qualifying Dependent" as defined under Code Section 21(b) shall also qualify as a change in status.

Notwithstanding anything in this Section to the contrary, the gain of eligibility or change in eligibility of a child, as allowed under Code Sections 105(b) and 106, and guidance thereunder, shall qualify as a change in status.

(b) **Special enrollment rights.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Participants may change an election for group health coverage during a Plan Year and make a new election that corresponds with the special enrollment rights provided in Code Section 9801(f), including those authorized under the provisions of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (SCHIP); provided that such Participant meets the sixty (60) day notice requirement imposed by Code Section 9801(f) (or such longer period as may be permitted by the Plan and communicated to Participants). Such change shall take place on a prospective basis, unless otherwise required by Code Section 9801(f) to be retroactive.

(c) **Qualified Medical Support Order.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the event of a judgment, decree, or order (including approval of a property settlement) ("order") resulting from a divorce, legal separation, annulment, or change in legal custody (including a qualified medical child support order defined in ERISA Section 609) which requires accident or health coverage for a Participant's child (including a foster child who is a Dependent of the Participant):

(1) The Plan may change an election to provide coverage for the child if the order requires coverage under the Participant's plan; or

(2) The Participant shall be permitted to change an election to cancel coverage for the child if the order requires the former Spouse to provide coverage for such child, under that individual's plan and such coverage is actually provided.

(d) **Medicare or Medicaid.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), a Participant may change elections to cancel accident or health coverage for the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent if the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent is enrolled in the accident or health coverage of the Employer and becomes entitled to coverage (i.e., enrolled) under Part A or Part B of the Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare) or Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid), other than coverage consisting solely of benefits under Section 1928 of the Social Security Act (the program for distribution of pediatric vaccines). If the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent who has been entitled to Medicaid or Medicare coverage loses eligibility, that individual may prospectively elect coverage under the Plan if a benefit package option under the Plan provides similar coverage.

(e) **Cost increase or decrease.** If the cost of a Benefit provided under the Plan increases or decreases during a Plan Year, then the Plan shall automatically increase or decrease, as the case may be, the Salary Redirections of all affected Participants for such Benefit. Alternatively, if the cost of a benefit package option increases significantly, the Administrator shall permit the affected Participants to either make corresponding changes in their payments or revoke their elections and, in lieu thereof, receive on a prospective basis coverage under another benefit package option with similar coverage, or drop coverage prospectively if there is no benefit package option with similar coverage.

A cost increase or decrease refers to an increase or decrease in the amount of elective contributions under the Plan, whether resulting from an action taken by the Participants or an action taken by the Employer.

(f) **Loss of coverage.** If the coverage under a Benefit is significantly curtailed or ceases during a Plan Year, affected Participants may revoke their elections of such Benefit and, in lieu thereof, elect to receive on a prospective basis coverage under another plan with similar coverage, or drop coverage prospectively if no similar coverage is offered.

(g) **Addition of a new benefit.** If, during the period of coverage, a new benefit package option or other coverage option is added, an existing benefit package option is significantly improved, or an existing benefit package option or other coverage option is eliminated, then the affected Participants may elect the newly-added option, or elect another option if an option has been eliminated prospectively and make corresponding election changes with respect to other benefit package options providing similar coverage. In addition, those Eligible Employees who are not participating in the Plan may opt to become Participants and elect the new or newly improved benefit package option.

(h) **Loss of coverage under certain other plans.** A Participant may make a prospective election change to add group health coverage for the Participant, the Participant's Spouse or Dependent if such individual loses group health coverage sponsored by a governmental or educational institution, including a state children's health insurance program under the Social Security Act, the Indian Health Service or a health program offered by an Indian tribal government, a state health benefits risk pool, or a foreign government group health plan.

(i) **Change of coverage due to change under certain other plans.** A Participant may make a prospective election change that is on account of and corresponds with a change made under the plan of a Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer if (1) the cafeteria plan or other benefits plan of the Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer permits its participants to make a change; or (2) the cafeteria plan permits participants to make an election for a period of coverage that is different from the period of coverage under the cafeteria plan of a Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer.

(j) **Change in dependent care provider.** A Participant may make a prospective election change that is on account of and corresponds with a change by the Participant in the dependent care provider. The availability of dependent care services from a new childcare provider is similar to a new benefit package option becoming available. A cost change is allowable in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account only if the cost change is imposed by a dependent care provider who is not related to the Participant, as defined in Code Section 152(a)(1) through (8).

(k) **Health FSA cannot change due to insurance change.** A Participant shall not be permitted to change an election to the Health Flexible Spending Account as a result of a cost or coverage change under any health insurance benefits.

(l) **Changes due to reduction in hours or enrollment in an Exchange Plan.** A Participant may prospectively revoke coverage under the group health plan (that is not a health Flexible Spending Account) which provides minimum essential coverage (as defined in Code §5000A(f)(1)) provided the following conditions are met:

Conditions for revocation due to reduction in hours of service:

- (1) The Participant has been reasonably expected to average at least 30 hours of service per week and there is a change in that Participant's status so that the Participant will reasonably be expected to average less than 30 hours of service per week after the change, even if that reduction does not result in the Participant ceasing to be eligible under the group health plan; and
- (2) The revocation of coverage under the group health plan corresponds to the intended enrollment of the Participant, and any related individuals who cease coverage due to the revocation, in another plan that provides minimum essential coverage with the new coverage effective no later than the first day of the second month following the month that includes the date the original coverage is revoked.

The Administrator may rely on the reasonable representation of the Participant who is reasonably expected to have an average of less than 30 hours of service per week for future periods that the Participant and related individuals have enrolled or intend to enroll in another plan that provides minimum essential coverage for new coverage that is effective no later than the first day of the second month following the month that includes the date the original coverage is revoked.

Conditions for revocation due to enrollment in a Qualified Health Plan:

- (1) The Participant is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace (federal or state exchange) pursuant to guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and any other applicable guidance, or the Participant seeks to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace during the Marketplace's annual open enrollment period; and
- (2) The revocation of the election of coverage under the group health plan corresponds to the intended enrollment of the Participant and any related individuals who cease coverage due to the revocation in a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace for new coverage that is effective beginning no later than the day immediately following the last day of the original coverage that is revoked.

The Administrator may rely on the reasonable representation of a Participant who has an enrollment opportunity for a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace that the Participant and related individuals have enrolled or intend to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan for new coverage that is effective beginning no later than the day immediately following the last day of the original coverage that is revoked.

ARTICLE VI HEALTH FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT

6.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF PLAN

This Health Flexible Spending Account is intended to qualify as a medical reimbursement plan under Code Section 105 and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with such Code Section and the Treasury regulations thereunder. Participants who elect to participate in this Health Flexible Spending Account may submit claims for the reimbursement of Medical Expenses. All amounts reimbursed shall be periodically paid from amounts allocated to the Health Flexible Spending Account. Periodic payments reimbursing Participants from the Health Flexible Spending Account shall in no event occur less frequently than monthly.

6.2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Article and the Cafeteria Plan, the terms below have the following meaning:

(a) **"Health Flexible Spending Account"** means the account established for Participants pursuant to this Plan to which part of their Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars may be allocated and from which all allowable Medical Expenses incurred by a Participant, his or her Spouse and his or her Dependents may be reimbursed.

(b) **"Highly Compensated Participant"** means, for the purposes of this Article and determining discrimination under Code Section 105(h), a participant who is:

- (1) one of the 5 highest paid officers;
- (2) a shareholder who owns (or is considered to own applying the rules of Code Section 318) more than 10 percent in value of the stock of the Employer; or
- (3) among the highest paid 25 percent of all Employees (other than exclusions permitted by Code Section 105(h)(3)(B) for those individuals who are not Participants).

(c) **"Medical Expenses"** means any expense for medical care within the meaning of the term "medical care" as defined in Code Section 213(d) and the rulings and Treasury regulations thereunder, and not otherwise used by the Participant as a deduction in determining his tax liability under the Code. "Medical Expenses" can be incurred by the Participant, his or her Spouse and his or her Dependents. "Incurred" means, with regard to Medical Expenses, when the Participant is provided with the medical care that gives rise to the Medical Expense and not when the Participant is formally billed or charged for, or pays for, the medical care.

Over-the-counter medications and menstrual care products as allowed under IRS regulations are reimbursable under this Plan.

A Participant may not be reimbursed for the cost of other health coverage such as premiums paid under plans maintained by the employer of the Participant's Spouse or individual policies maintained by the Participant or his Spouse or Dependent.

A Participant may not be reimbursed for "qualified long-term care services" as defined in Code Section 7702B(c).

(d) The definitions of Article I are hereby incorporated by reference to the extent necessary to interpret and apply the provisions of this Health Flexible Spending Account.

6.3 FORFEITURES

The amount in the Health Flexible Spending Account as of the end of any Plan Year (and after the processing of all claims for such Plan Year pursuant to Section 6.7 hereof, excluding any carryover) shall be forfeited and credited to the benefit plan surplus. In such event, the Participant shall have no further claim to such amount for any reason, subject to Section 8.2.

6.4 LIMITATION ON ALLOCATIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision contained in this Health Flexible Spending Account to the contrary, the maximum amount of salary reductions that may be allocated to the Health Flexible Spending Account by a Participant in or on account of any Plan Year is the statutory amount under Code Section 125(i)(2), as adjusted for increases in the cost of living. The cost of living adjustment in effect for a calendar year applies to any Plan Year beginning with or within such calendar year. The dollar increase in effect on January 1 of any calendar year shall be effective for the Plan Year beginning with or within such calendar year. For any short Plan Year, the limit shall be an amount equal to the limit for the calendar year in which the Plan Year begins multiplied by the ratio obtained by dividing the number of full months in the short Plan Year by twelve (12).

(b) The minimum amount that may be allocated to the Health Flexible Spending Account by a Participant in or on account of any Plan Year is \$25.

(c) **Participation in Other Plans.** All employers that are treated as a single employer under Code Sections 414(b), (c), or (m), relating to controlled groups and affiliated service groups, are treated as a single employer for purposes of the statutory limit. If a Participant participates in multiple cafeteria plans offering health flexible spending accounts maintained by members of a controlled group or affiliated service group, the Participant's total Health Flexible Spending Account contributions under all of the cafeteria plans are limited to the statutory limit (as adjusted). However, a Participant employed by two or more employers that are not members of the same controlled group may elect up to the statutory limit (as adjusted) under each Employer's Health Flexible Spending Account.

(d) **Carryover.** A Participant in the Health Flexible Spending Account may roll over up to 20% of the annual salary reduction contribution limit of unused amounts in the Health Flexible Spending Account remaining at the end of one Plan Year to the immediately following Plan Year. These amounts can be used during the following Plan Year for expenses incurred

in that Plan Year. Amounts carried over do not affect the maximum amount of salary redirection contributions for the Plan Year to which they are carried over. Unused amounts are those remaining after expenses have been reimbursed during the runout period. These amounts may not be cashed out or converted to any other taxable or nontaxable benefit. Amounts in excess of 20% of the annual salary reduction contribution limit will be forfeited. The Plan is allowed, but not required, to treat claims as being paid first from the current year amounts, then from the carryover amounts.

6.5 NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) **Intent to be nondiscriminatory.** It is the intent of this Health Flexible Spending Account not to discriminate in violation of the Code and the Treasury regulations thereunder.

(b) **Adjustment to avoid test failure.** If the Administrator deems it necessary to avoid discrimination under this Health Flexible Spending Account, it may, but shall not be required to, reject any elections or reduce contributions or Benefits in order to assure compliance with this Section. Any act taken by the Administrator under this Section shall be carried out in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner. Contributions which are not utilized to provide Benefits to any Participant by virtue of any administrative act under this paragraph shall be forfeited and credited to the benefit plan surplus.

6.6 COORDINATION WITH CAFETERIA PLAN

All Participants under the Cafeteria Plan are eligible to receive Benefits under this Health Flexible Spending Account. The enrollment under the Cafeteria Plan shall constitute enrollment under this Health Flexible Spending Account. In addition, other matters concerning contributions, elections and the like shall be governed by the general provisions of the Cafeteria Plan.

6.7 HEALTH FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT CLAIMS

(a) **Expenses must be incurred during Plan Year.** All Medical Expenses incurred by a Participant, his or her Spouse and his or her Dependents during the Plan Year shall be reimbursed during the Plan Year subject to Section 2.5, even though the submission of such a claim occurs after his participation hereunder ceases; but provided that the Medical Expenses were incurred during the applicable Plan Year. Medical Expenses are treated as having been incurred when the Participant is provided with the medical care that gives rise to the medical expenses, not when the Participant is formally billed or charged for, or pays for the medical care.

(b) **Reimbursement available throughout Plan Year.** The Administrator shall direct the reimbursement to each eligible Participant for all allowable Medical Expenses, up to a maximum of the amount designated by the Participant for the Health Flexible Spending Account for the Plan Year. Reimbursements shall be made available to the Participant throughout the year without regard to the level of Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars which have been allocated to the fund at any given point in time. Furthermore, a Participant shall be entitled to reimbursements only for amounts in excess of any payments or other reimbursements under any health care plan covering the Participant and/or his Spouse or Dependents.

(c) **Payments.** Reimbursement payments under this Plan shall be made directly to the Participant. However, in the Administrator's discretion, payments may be made directly to the service provider. The application for payment or reimbursement shall be made to the Administrator on an acceptable form within a reasonable time of incurring the debt or paying for the service. The application shall include a written statement from an independent third party stating that the Medical Expense has been incurred and the amount of such expense. Furthermore, the Participant shall provide a written statement that the Medical Expense has not been reimbursed or is not reimbursable under any other health plan coverage and, if reimbursed from the Health Flexible Spending Account, such amount will not be claimed as a tax deduction. The Administrator shall retain a file of all such applications.

(d) **Claims for reimbursement.** Claims for the reimbursement of Medical Expenses incurred in any Plan Year shall be paid as soon after a claim has been filed as is administratively practicable; provided however, that if a Participant fails to submit a claim within 90 days after the end of the Plan Year, those Medical Expense claims shall not be considered for reimbursement by the Administrator.

6.8 DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS

Participants may, subject to a procedure established by the Administrator and applied in a uniform nondiscriminatory manner, use debit and/or credit (stored value) cards ("cards") provided by the Administrator and the Plan for payment of Medical Expenses, subject to the following terms:

(a) **Card only for medical expenses.** Each Participant issued a card shall certify that such card shall only be used for Medical Expenses. The Participant shall also certify that any Medical Expense paid with the card has not already been reimbursed by any other plan covering health benefits and that the Participant will not seek reimbursement from any other plan covering health benefits.

(b) **Card issuance.** Such card shall be issued upon the Participant's Effective Date of Participation and reissued for each Plan Year the Participant remains a Participant in the Health Flexible Spending Account. Such card shall be automatically cancelled upon the Participant's death or termination of employment, or if such Participant has a change in status that results in the Participant's withdrawal from the Health Flexible Spending Account.

(c) **Maximum dollar amount available.** The dollar amount of coverage available on the card shall be the amount elected by the Participant for the Plan Year. The maximum dollar amount of coverage available shall be the maximum amount for the Plan Year as set forth in Section 6.4.

(d) **Only available for use with certain service providers.** The cards shall only be accepted by such merchants and service providers as have been approved by the Administrator following IRS guidelines.

(e) **Card use.** The cards shall only be used for Medical Expense purchases at these providers, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Co-payments for doctor and other medical care;
- (2) Purchase of drugs prescribed by a health care provider, menstrual care products and over-the-counter medications as allowed under IRS regulations;
- (3) Purchase of medical items such as eyeglasses, syringes, crutches, etc.

(f) **Substantiation.** Such purchases by the cards shall be subject to substantiation by the Administrator, usually by submission of a receipt from a service provider describing the service, the date and the amount. The Administrator shall also follow the requirements set forth in Revenue Ruling 2003-43 and Notice 2006-69. All charges shall be conditional pending confirmation and substantiation.

(g) **Correction methods.** If such purchase is later determined by the Administrator to not qualify as a Medical Expense, the Administrator, in its discretion, shall use one of the following correction methods to make the Plan whole. Until the amount is repaid, the Administrator shall take further action to ensure that further violations of the terms of the card do not occur, up to and including denial of access to the card.

- (1) Repayment of the improper amount by the Participant;
- (2) Withholding the improper payment from the Participant's wages or other compensation to the extent consistent with applicable federal or state law;
- (3) Claims substitution or offset of future claims until the amount is repaid; and
- (4) if subsections (1) through (3) fail to recover the amount, consistent with the Employer's business practices, the Employer may treat the amount as any other business indebtedness.

6.9 QUALIFIED RESERVIST DISTRIBUTIONS

(a) **Qualified Reservist Distribution.** A Participant may request a Qualified Reservist Distribution, provided the following provisions are satisfied. "Qualified Reservist Distribution" means any distribution to a Participant of all or a portion of the balance in the Participant's Health Flexible Spending Account if:

- (1) Such Participant was an individual who was (by reason of being a member of a reserve component (as defined in Section 101 of Title 37, United States Code)) ordered or called to active duty for a period of 180 days or more or for an indefinite period.
- (2) A Participant may have been called prior to June 18, 2008, provided the individual's active duty continues after June 18, 2008 and the period of duty complies with subsection (a).
- (3) The distribution is made during the period beginning on the date of the order or call that applies to the Participant and ending on the last day of the Plan Year which includes the date of such order or call.
- (4) The Qualified Reservist Distribution option is offered to all Participants who qualify under this Article.
- (5) Qualified Reservist Distributions may only be made if the Participant is ordered or called to active duty, not the Participant's spouse or dependents.
- (6) Under Section 101 of the Title 37 of the United States Code, "reserve component" means: (1) the Army National Guard, (2) the Army Reserve, (3) the Navy Reserve, (4) the Marine Corps Reserve, (5) the Air National Guard, (6) the Air Force Reserve, (7) the Coast Guard Reserve, or (8) the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service.

(b) **Conditions:** The following conditions apply:

- (1) The Employer must receive a copy of the order or call to active duty and may rely on the order or call to determine the period that the Participant has been ordered or called to duty.

(2) Eligibility for a Qualified Reservist Distribution is not affected if the order or call is for 180 days or more or is indefinite, but the actual period of active duty is less than 180 days or is changed otherwise from the order or call.

(3) If the original order is less than 180 days, then no Qualified Reservist Distribution is allowed. However, if subsequent calls or orders increase the total days of active duty to 180 or more, then a Qualified Reservist Distribution will be allowed.

(c) **Amount:** The amount a Participant may be reimbursed from the Health Flexible Spending Account is the amount contributed by the Participant to the Health Flexible Spending Account as of the date of the distribution request, less any reimbursements received as of the date of the distribution request.

(d) **Procedure.** The Employer must specify a process for requesting the distribution. The Employer may limit the number of distributions processed for a Participant to 2 per Plan Year. The distribution request must be made on or after the call or order and before the last day of the Plan Year. The QRD shall be paid within a reasonable time but in no event more than 60 days after the date of the request.

(e) **Claims.** Claims incurred prior to the date of the request of the distribution shall be paid as any other claim. Claims incurred after the date of the distribution shall be paid on submission as any other claim.

ARTICLE VII DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT

7.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT

This Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account is intended to qualify as a program under Code Section 129 and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with such Code Section. Participants who elect to participate in this program may submit claims for the reimbursement of Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses. All amounts reimbursed shall be paid from amounts allocated to the Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.

7.2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Article and the Cafeteria Plan the terms below shall have the following meaning:

(a) **"Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account"** means the account established for a Participant pursuant to this Article to which part of his Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars may be allocated and from which Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses of the Participant may be reimbursed for the care of the Qualifying Dependents of Participants.

(b) **"Earned Income"** means earned income as defined under Code Section 32(c)(2), but excluding such amounts paid or incurred by the Employer for dependent care assistance to the Participant.

(c) **"Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses"** means the amounts paid for expenses of a Participant for those services which if paid by the Participant would be considered employment related expenses under Code Section 21(b)(2). Generally, they shall include expenses for household services and for the care of a Qualifying Dependent, to the extent that such expenses are incurred to enable the Participant to be gainfully employed for any period for which there are one or more Qualifying Dependents with respect to such Participant. Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses are treated as having been incurred when the Participant's Qualifying Dependents are provided with the dependent care that gives rise to the Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses, not when the Participant is formally billed or charged for, or pays for the dependent care. The determination of whether an amount qualifies as an Employment-Related Dependent Care Expense shall be made subject to the following rules:

(1) If such amounts are paid for expenses incurred outside the Participant's household, they shall constitute Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses only if incurred for a Qualifying Dependent as defined in Section 7.2(d)(1) (or deemed to be, as described in Section 7.2(d)(1) pursuant to Section 7.2(d)(3)), or for a Qualifying Dependent as defined in Section 7.2(d)(2) (or deemed to be, as described in Section 7.2(d)(2) pursuant to Section 7.2(d)(3)) who regularly spends at least 8 hours per day in the Participant's household;

(2) If the expense is incurred outside the Participant's home at a facility that provides care for a fee, payment, or grant for more than 6 individuals who do not regularly reside at the facility, the facility must comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations, including licensing requirements, if any; and

(3) Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses of a Participant shall not include amounts paid or incurred to a child of such Participant who is under the age of 19 or to an individual who is a Dependent of such Participant or such Participant's Spouse.

(d) **"Qualifying Dependent"** means, for Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account purposes,

(1) a Participant's Dependent (as defined in Code Section 152(a)(1)) who has not attained age 13;

(2) a Dependent or the Spouse of a Participant who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself and has the same principal place of abode as the Participant for more than one-half of such taxable year; or

(3) a child that is deemed to be a Qualifying Dependent described in paragraph (1) or (2) above, whichever is appropriate, pursuant to Code Section 21(e)(5).

(e) The definitions of Article I are hereby incorporated by reference to the extent necessary to interpret and apply the provisions of this Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.

7.3 DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

The Administrator shall establish a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account for each Participant who elects to apply Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars to Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account benefits.

7.4 INCREASES IN DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

A Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account shall be increased each pay period by the portion of Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars that he has elected to apply toward his Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account pursuant to elections made under Article V hereof.

7.5 DECREASES IN DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

A Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account shall be reduced by the amount of any Employment-Related Dependent Care Expense reimbursements paid or incurred on behalf of a Participant pursuant to Section 7.12 hereof.

7.6 ALLOWABLE DEPENDENT CARE REIMBURSEMENT

Subject to limitations contained in Section 7.9 of this Program, and to the extent of the amount contained in the Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, a Participant who incurs Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses shall be entitled to receive from the Employer full reimbursement for the entire amount of such expenses incurred during the Plan Year or portion thereof during which he is a Participant.

7.7 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF BENEFITS

On or before January 31st of each calendar year, the Employer shall furnish to each Employee who was a Participant and received benefits under Section 7.6 during the prior calendar year, a statement of all such benefits paid to or on behalf of such Participant during the prior calendar year. This statement is set forth on the Participant's Form W-2.

7.8 FORFEITURES

The amount in a Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account as of the end of any Plan Year (and after the processing of all claims for such Plan Year pursuant to Section 7.12 hereof) shall be forfeited and credited to the benefit plan surplus. In such event, the Participant shall have no further claim to such amount for any reason.

7.9 LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS

(a) **Code limits.** Notwithstanding any provision contained in this Article to the contrary, amounts paid from a Participant's Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account in or on account of any taxable year of the Participant shall not exceed the lesser of the Earned Income limitation described in Code Section 129(b) or \$5,000 (\$2,500 if a separate tax return is filed by a Participant who is married as determined under the rules of paragraphs (3) and (4) of Code Section 21(e)).

7.10 NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) **Intent to be nondiscriminatory.** It is the intent of this Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account that contributions or benefits not discriminate in favor of the group of employees in whose favor discrimination may not occur under Code Section 129(d).

(b) **25% test for shareholders.** It is the intent of this Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account that not more than 25 percent of the amounts paid by the Employer for dependent care assistance during the Plan Year will be provided for the class of individuals who are shareholders or owners (or their Spouses or Dependents), each of whom (on any day of the Plan Year) owns more than 5 percent of the stock or of the capital or profits interest in the Employer.

(c) **Adjustment to avoid test failure.** If the Administrator deems it necessary to avoid discrimination or possible taxation to a group of employees in whose favor discrimination may not occur in violation of Code Section 129 it may, but shall not be required to, reject any elections or reduce contributions or non-taxable benefits in order to assure compliance with this Section. Any act taken by the Administrator under this Section shall be carried out in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner.

Contributions which are not utilized to provide Benefits to any Participant by virtue of any administrative act under this paragraph shall be forfeited.

7.11 COORDINATION WITH CAFETERIA PLAN

All Participants under the Cafeteria Plan are eligible to receive Benefits under this Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. The enrollment and termination of participation under the Cafeteria Plan shall constitute enrollment and termination of participation under this Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. In addition, other matters concerning contributions, elections and the like shall be governed by the general provisions of the Cafeteria Plan.

7.12 DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT CLAIMS

The Administrator shall direct the payment of all such Dependent Care claims to the Participant upon the presentation to the Administrator of documentation of such expenses in a form satisfactory to the Administrator. However, in the Administrator's discretion, payments may be made directly to the service provider. In its discretion in administering the Plan, the Administrator may utilize forms and require documentation of costs as may be necessary to verify the claims submitted. At a minimum, the form shall include a statement from an independent third party as proof that the expense has been incurred during the Plan Year and the amount of such expense. In addition, the Administrator may require that each Participant who desires to receive reimbursement under this Program for Employment-Related Dependent Care Expenses submit a statement which may contain some or all of the following information:

- (a) The Dependent or Dependents for whom the services were performed;
- (b) The nature of the services performed for the Participant, the cost of which he wishes reimbursement;
- (c) The relationship, if any, of the person performing the services to the Participant;
- (d) If the services are being performed by a child of the Participant, the age of the child;
- (e) A statement as to where the services were performed;
- (f) If any of the services were performed outside the home, a statement as to whether the Dependent for whom such services were performed spends at least 8 hours a day in the Participant's household;
- (g) If the services were being performed in a day care center, a statement:
 - (1) that the day care center complies with all applicable laws and regulations of the state of residence,
 - (2) that the day care center provides care for more than 6 individuals (other than individuals residing at the center), and
 - (3) of the amount of fee paid to the provider.
- (h) If the Participant is married, a statement containing the following:
 - (1) the Spouse's salary or wages if he or she is employed, or
 - (2) if the Participant's Spouse is not employed, that
 - (i) he or she is incapacitated, or
 - (ii) he or she is a full-time student attending an educational institution and the months during the year which he or she attended such institution.
- (i) **Claims for reimbursement.** If a Participant fails to submit a claim within 90 days after the end of the Plan Year, those claims shall not be considered for reimbursement by the Administrator.

ARTICLE VIII BENEFITS AND RIGHTS

8.1 CLAIM FOR BENEFITS

- (a) **Insurance claims.** Any claim for Benefits underwritten by the self-funded plan shall be made to the Employer. If the Employer denies any claim, the Participant or beneficiary shall follow the Employer's claims review procedure.
- (b) **Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account claims.** Any claim for Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account Benefits shall be made to the Administrator. For the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, if a Participant fails to submit a claim within 90 days after the end of the Plan Year, those claims shall not be considered for reimbursement by the

Administrator. If the Administrator denies a claim, the Administrator may provide notice to the Participant or beneficiary, in writing, within 90 days after the claim is filed unless special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the claim. The notice of a denial of a claim shall be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant and shall set forth:

- (1) specific references to the pertinent Plan provisions on which the denial is based;
- (2) a description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation as to why such information is necessary; and
- (3) an explanation of the Plan's claim procedure.

(c) **Appeal.** Within 60 days after receipt of the above material, the claimant shall have a reasonable opportunity to appeal the claim denial to the Administrator for a full and fair review. The claimant or his duly authorized representative may:

- (1) request a review upon written notice to the Administrator;
- (2) review pertinent documents; and
- (3) submit issues and comments in writing.

(d) **Review of appeal.** A decision on the review by the Administrator will be made not later than 60 days after receipt of a request for review, unless special circumstances require an extension of time for processing (such as the need to hold a hearing), in which event a decision should be rendered as soon as possible, but in no event later than 120 days after such receipt. The decision of the Administrator shall be written and shall include specific reasons for the decision, written in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant, with specific references to the pertinent Plan provisions on which the decision is based.

(e) **Health FSA claims.** If a Participant fails to submit a claim under the Health Flexible Spending Account within 90 days after the end of the Plan Year, those claims shall not be considered for reimbursement by the Administrator. Once a claim is submitted, the following timetable for claims and rules below apply:

Notification of whether claim is accepted or denied	30 days
Extension due to matters beyond the control of the Plan	15 days
Insufficient information on the Claim:	
Notification of	15 days
Response by Participant	45 days
Review of claim denial	60 days

The Plan Administrator will provide written or electronic notification of any claim denial. The notice will state:

- (1) The specific reason or reasons for the denial.
- (2) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based.
- (3) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (4) A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of the right to bring a civil action under Section 502 of ERISA following a denial on review.
- (5) A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.
- (6) If the denial was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the denial and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.

When the Participant receives a denial, the Participant shall have 60 days following receipt of the notification in which to appeal the decision. The Participant may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim. If the Participant requests, the Participant shall be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.

The period of time within which a denial on review is required to be made will begin at the time an appeal is filed in accordance with the procedures of the Plan. This timing is without regard to whether all the necessary information accompanies the filing.

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a Claim if it:

- (1) was relied upon in making the claim determination;
- (2) was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the claim determination, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the claim determination;
- (3) demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that claim determinations are made in accordance with Plan documents and Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to all claimants; or
- (4) constituted a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied claim.

The review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the Claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial claim determination. The review will not afford deference to the initial denial and will be conducted by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse determination nor a subordinate of that individual.

(f) **Forfeitures.** Any balance remaining in the Participant's Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account as of the end of the time for claims reimbursement for each Plan Year and Grace Period (if applicable) shall be forfeited and deposited in the benefit plan surplus of the Employer pursuant to Section 6.3 or Section 7.8, whichever is applicable, unless the Participant had made a claim for such Plan Year, in writing, which has been denied or is pending; in which event the amount of the claim shall be held in his account until the claim appeal procedures set forth above have been satisfied or the claim is paid. If any such claim is denied on appeal, the amount held beyond the end of the Plan Year shall be forfeited and credited to the benefit plan surplus. If the Plan Administrator is unable to make payment to any Participant or other person to whom a payment is due under the Plan because it cannot ascertain the identity or whereabouts of such Participant or other person after reasonable efforts have been made to identify or locate such person, then such payment and all subsequent payments otherwise due to such Participant or other person shall be forfeited and returned to the Employer following a reasonable time after the date any such payment first became due.

8.2 APPLICATION OF BENEFIT PLAN SURPLUS

Any forfeited amounts credited to the benefit plan surplus by virtue of the failure of a Participant to incur a qualified expense or seek reimbursement in a timely manner may, but need not be, separately accounted for after the close of the Plan Year (or after such further time specified herein for the filing of claims) in which such forfeitures arose. In no event shall such amounts be carried over to reimburse a Participant for expenses incurred during a subsequent Plan Year for the same or any other Benefit available under the Plan (excepting any carryover); nor shall amounts forfeited by a particular Participant be made available to such Participant in any other form or manner, except as permitted by Treasury regulations. Amounts in the benefit plan surplus shall be used to defray any administrative costs and experience losses or used to provide additional benefits under the Plan.

8.3 NAMED FIDUCIARY

The Administrator shall be the named fiduciary pursuant to ERISA Section 402 and shall be responsible for the management and control of the operation and administration of the Plan.

8.4 GENERAL FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Administrator and any other fiduciary under ERISA shall discharge their duties with respect to this Plan solely in the interest of the Participants and their beneficiaries and

- (a) for the exclusive purpose of providing Benefits to Participants and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan;
- (b) with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; and
- (c) in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the Plan insofar as such documents and instruments are consistent with ERISA.

8.5 NONASSIGNABILITY OF RIGHTS

The right of any Participant to receive any reimbursement under the Plan shall not be alienable by the Participant by assignment or any other method, and shall not be subject to the rights of creditors, and any attempt to cause such right to be so subjected shall not be recognized, except to such extent as may be required by law.

ARTICLE IX ADMINISTRATION

9.1 PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The Employer shall be the Administrator, unless the Employer elects otherwise. The Employer may appoint any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, to perform the duties of the Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing acceptance in writing (or such other form as acceptable to both parties) with the Employer. Upon the resignation or removal of any individual performing the duties of the Administrator, the Employer may designate a successor.

If the Employer elects, the Employer shall appoint one or more Administrators. Any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, shall be eligible to serve as an Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing acceptance in writing (or such other form as acceptable to both parties) with the Employer. An Administrator may resign by delivering a resignation in writing (or such other form as acceptable to both parties) to the Employer or be removed by the Employer by delivery of notice of removal (in writing or such other form as acceptable to both parties), to take effect at a date specified therein, or upon delivery to the Administrator if no date is specified. The Employer shall be empowered to appoint and remove the Administrator from time to time as it deems necessary for the proper administration of the Plan to ensure that the Plan is being operated for the exclusive benefit of the Employees entitled to participate in the Plan in accordance with the terms of the Act, the Plan and the Code.

The operation of the Plan shall be under the supervision of the Administrator. It shall be a principal duty of the Administrator to see that the Plan is carried out in accordance with its terms, and for the exclusive benefit of Employees entitled to participate in the Plan. The Administrator shall have full power and discretion to administer the Plan in all of its details and determine all questions arising in connection with the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan. The Administrator may establish procedures, correct any defect, supply any information, or reconcile any inconsistency in such manner and to such extent as shall be deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the purpose of the Plan. The Administrator shall have all powers necessary or appropriate to accomplish the Administrator's duties under the Plan. The Administrator shall be charged with the duties of the general administration of the Plan as set forth under the Plan, including, but not limited to, in addition to all other powers provided by this Plan:

- (a) To make and enforce such procedures, rules and regulations as the Administrator deems necessary or proper for the efficient administration of the Plan;
- (b) To interpret the provisions of the Plan, the Administrator's interpretations thereof in good faith to be final and conclusive on all persons claiming benefits by operation of the Plan;
- (c) To decide all questions concerning the Plan and the eligibility of any person to participate in the Plan and to receive benefits provided by operation of the Plan;
- (d) To reject elections or to limit contributions or Benefits for certain highly compensated participants if it deems such to be desirable in order to avoid discrimination under the Plan in violation of applicable provisions of the Code;
- (e) To provide Employees with a reasonable notification of their benefits available by operation of the Plan and to assist any Participant regarding the Participant's rights, benefits or elections under the Plan;
- (f) To keep and maintain the Plan documents and all other records pertaining to and necessary for the administration of the Plan;
- (g) To review and settle all claims against the Plan, to approve reimbursement requests, and to authorize the payment of benefits if the Administrator determines such shall be paid if the Administrator decides in its discretion that the applicant is entitled to them. This authority specifically permits the Administrator to settle disputed claims for benefits and any other disputed claims made against the Plan;
- (h) To establish and communicate procedures to determine whether a medical child support order is qualified under ERISA Section 609; and
- (i) To appoint such agents, counsel, accountants, consultants, and other persons or entities as may be required to assist in administering the Plan.

Any procedure, discretionary act, interpretation or construction taken by the Administrator shall be done in a nondiscriminatory manner based upon uniform principles consistently applied and shall be consistent with the intent that the Plan shall continue to comply with the terms of Code Section 125 and the Treasury regulations thereunder.

9.2 EXAMINATION OF RECORDS

The Administrator shall make available to each Participant, Eligible Employee and any other Employee of the Employer such records as pertain to their interest under the Plan for examination at reasonable times during normal business hours.

9.3 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

Any reasonable administrative expenses shall be paid by the Employer unless the Employer determines that administrative costs shall be borne by the Participants under the Plan or by any Trust Fund which may be established hereunder. The Administrator may impose reasonable conditions for payments, provided that such conditions shall not discriminate in favor of highly compensated employees.

9.4 INSURANCE CONTROL CLAUSE

In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Plan and the terms of an Insurance Contract of an independent third party Insurer whose product is then being used in conjunction with this Plan, the terms of the Insurance Contract shall control as to those Participants receiving coverage under such Insurance Contract. For this purpose, the Insurance Contract shall control in defining the persons eligible for insurance, the dates of their eligibility, the conditions which must be satisfied to become insured, if any, the benefits Participants are entitled to and the circumstances under which insurance terminates.

9.5 INDEMNIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR

The Employer agrees to indemnify and to defend to the fullest extent permitted by law any Employee serving as the Administrator or as a member of a committee designated as Administrator (including any Employee or former Employee who previously served as Administrator or as a member of such committee) against all liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including attorney's fees and amounts paid in settlement of any claims approved by the Employer) occasioned by any act or omission to act in connection with the Plan, if such act or omission is in good faith.

**ARTICLE X
AMENDMENT OR TERMINATION OF PLAN**

10.1 AMENDMENT

The Employer, at any time or from time to time, may amend any or all of the provisions of the Plan without the consent of any Employee or Participant. No amendment shall have the effect of modifying any benefit election of any Participant in effect at the time of such amendment, unless such amendment is made to comply with Federal, state or local laws, statutes or regulations.

10.2 TERMINATION

The Employer reserves the right to terminate this Plan, in whole or in part, at any time. In the event the Plan is terminated, no further contributions shall be made. Benefits under any Contract shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the Contract.

No further additions shall be made to the Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, but all payments from such fund shall continue to be made according to the elections in effect until 90 days after the termination date of the Plan. Any amounts remaining in any such fund or account as of the end of such period shall be forfeited and deposited in the benefit plan surplus after the expiration of the filing period.

**ARTICLE XI
MISCELLANEOUS**

11.1 PLAN INTERPRETATION

All provisions of this Plan shall be interpreted and applied in a uniform, nondiscriminatory manner. This Plan shall be read in its entirety and not severed except as provided in Section 11.11.

11.2 GENDER, NUMBER AND TENSE

Wherever any words are used herein in one gender, they shall be construed as though they were also used in all genders in all cases where they would so apply; whenever any words are used herein in the singular or plural form, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the other form in all cases where they would so apply; and whenever any words are used herein in the past or present tense, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the other form in all cases where they would so apply.

11.3 WRITTEN DOCUMENT

This Plan, in conjunction with any separate written document which may be required by law, is intended to satisfy the written Plan requirement of Code Section 125 and any Treasury regulations thereunder relating to cafeteria plans.

11.4 EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT

This Plan shall be maintained for the exclusive benefit of the Employees who participate in the Plan.

11.5 PARTICIPANT'S RIGHTS

This Plan shall not be deemed to constitute an employment contract between the Employer and any Participant or to be a consideration or an inducement for the employment of any Participant or Employee. Nothing contained in this Plan shall be deemed to give any Participant or Employee the right to be retained in the service of the Employer or to interfere with the right of the Employer to discharge any Participant or Employee at any time regardless of the effect which such discharge shall have upon him as a Participant of this Plan.

11.6 ACTION BY THE EMPLOYER

Whenever the Employer under the terms of the Plan is permitted or required to do or perform any act or matter or thing, it shall be done and performed by a person duly authorized by its legally constituted authority.

11.7 NO GUARANTEE OF TAX CONSEQUENCES

Neither the Administrator nor the Employer makes any commitment or guarantee that any amounts paid to or for the benefit of a Participant under the Plan will be excludable from the Participant's gross income for federal or state income tax purposes, or that any other federal or state tax treatment will apply to or be available to any Participant. It shall be the obligation of each Participant to determine whether each payment under the Plan is excludable from the Participant's gross income for federal and state income tax purposes, and to notify the Employer if the Participant has reason to believe that any such payment is not so excludable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the rights of Participants under this Plan shall be legally enforceable.

11.8 INDEMNIFICATION OF EMPLOYER BY PARTICIPANTS

If any Participant receives one or more payments or reimbursements under the Plan that are not for a permitted Benefit, such Participant shall indemnify and reimburse the Employer for any liability it may incur for failure to withhold federal or state income tax or Social Security tax from such payments or reimbursements. However, such indemnification and reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of additional federal and state income tax (plus any penalties) that the Participant would have owed if the payments or reimbursements had been made to the Participant as regular cash compensation, plus the Participant's share of any Social Security tax that would have been paid on such compensation, less any such additional income and Social Security tax actually paid by the Participant.

11.9 FUNDING

Unless otherwise required by law, contributions to the Plan need not be placed in trust or dedicated to a specific Benefit, but may instead be considered general assets of the Employer. Furthermore, and unless otherwise required by law, nothing herein shall be construed to require the Employer or the Administrator to maintain any fund or segregate any amount for the benefit of any Participant, and no Participant or other person shall have any claim against, right to, or security or other interest in, any fund, account or asset of the Employer from which any payment under the Plan may be made.

11.10 GOVERNING LAW

This Plan is governed by the Code and the Treasury regulations issued thereunder (as they might be amended from time to time). In no event shall the Employer guarantee the favorable tax treatment sought by this Plan. To the extent not preempted by Federal law, the provisions of this Plan shall be construed, enforced and administered according to the laws of the State of California.

11.11 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the Plan is held invalid or unenforceable, its invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of the Plan, and the Plan shall be construed and enforced as if such provision had not been included herein.

11.12 CAPTIONS

The captions contained herein are inserted only as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, enlarge or describe the scope or intent of the Plan, nor in any way shall affect the Plan or the construction of any provision thereof.

11.13 CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE (COBRA)

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, in the event any benefit under this Plan subject to the continuation coverage requirement of Code Section 4980B becomes unavailable, each Participant will be entitled to continuation coverage as prescribed in Code Section 4980B, and related regulations. This Section shall only apply if the Employer employs at least twenty (20) employees on more than 50% of its typical business days in the previous calendar year.

11.14 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, in the event any benefit under this Plan becomes subject to the requirements of the Family and Medical Leave Act and regulations thereunder, this Plan shall be operated in accordance with Regulation 1.125-3.

11.15 HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, this Plan shall be operated in accordance with HIPAA and regulations thereunder.

11.16 UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT (USERRA)

Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service shall be provided in accordance with the Uniform Services Employment And Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and the regulations thereunder.

11.17 COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA PRIVACY STANDARDS

(a) **Application.** If any benefits under this Cafeteria Plan are subject to the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (45 CFR Part 164, the "Privacy Standards"), then this Section shall apply.

(b) **Disclosure of PHI.** The Plan shall not disclose Protected Health Information to any member of the Employer's workforce unless each of the conditions set out in this Section are met. "Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set forth in the Privacy Standards but generally shall mean individually identifiable information about the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual, including genetic information and information about treatment or payment for treatment.

(c) **PHI disclosed for administrative purposes.** Protected Health Information disclosed to members of the Employer's workforce shall be used or disclosed by them only for purposes of Plan administrative functions. The Plan's administrative functions shall include all Plan payment functions and health care operations. The terms "payment" and "health care operations" shall have the same definitions as set out in the Privacy Standards, but the term "payment" generally shall mean activities taken to determine or fulfill Plan responsibilities with respect to eligibility, coverage, provision of benefits, or reimbursement for health care. Protected Health Information that consists of genetic information will not be used or disclosed for underwriting purposes.

(d) **PHI disclosed to certain workforce members.** The Plan shall disclose Protected Health Information only to members of the Employer's workforce who are designated and authorized to receive such Protected Health Information, and only to the extent and in the minimum amount necessary for that person to perform his or her duties with respect to the Plan. "Members of the Employer's workforce" shall refer to all employees and other persons under the control of the Employer. The Employer shall keep an updated list of those authorized to receive Protected Health Information.

(1) An authorized member of the Employer's workforce who receives Protected Health Information shall use or disclose the Protected Health Information only to the extent necessary to perform his or her duties with respect to the Plan.

(2) In the event that any member of the Employer's workforce uses or discloses Protected Health Information other than as permitted by this Section and the Privacy Standards, the incident shall be reported to the Plan's privacy official. The privacy official shall take appropriate action, including:

(i) investigation of the incident to determine whether the breach occurred inadvertently, through negligence or deliberately; whether there is a pattern of breaches; and the degree of harm caused by the breach;

(ii) appropriate sanctions against the persons causing the breach which, depending upon the nature of the breach, may include oral or written reprimand, additional training, or termination of employment;

(iii) mitigation of any harm caused by the breach, to the extent practicable; and

(iv) documentation of the incident and all actions taken to resolve the issue and mitigate any damages.

(e) **Certification.** The Employer must provide certification to the Plan that it agrees to:

(1) Not use or further disclose the information other than as permitted or required by the Plan documents or as required by law;

(2) Ensure that any agent or subcontractor, to whom it provides Protected Health Information received from the Plan, agrees to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Employer with respect to such information;

- (3) Not use or disclose Protected Health Information for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the Employer;
- (4) Report to the Plan any use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information of which it becomes aware that is inconsistent with the uses or disclosures permitted by this Section, or required by law;
- (5) Make available Protected Health Information to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.524 of the Privacy Standards;
- (6) Make available Protected Health Information for amendment by individual Plan members and incorporate any amendments to Protected Health Information in accordance with Section 164.526 of the Privacy Standards;
- (7) Make available the Protected Health Information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.528 of the Privacy Standards;
- (8) Make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information received from the Plan available to the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining compliance by the Plan with the Privacy Standards;
- (9) If feasible, return or destroy all Protected Health Information received from the Plan that the Employer still maintains in any form, and retain no copies of such information when no longer needed for the purpose for which disclosure was made, except that, if such return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information infeasible; and
- (10) Ensure the adequate separation between the Plan and members of the Employer's workforce, as required by Section 164.504(f)(2)(iii) of the Privacy Standards and set out in (d) above.

11.18 COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA ELECTRONIC SECURITY STANDARDS

Under the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (45 CFR Part 164.300 et. seq., the "Security Standards"):

- (a) **Implementation.** The Employer agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Electronic Protected Health Information that the Employer creates, maintains or transmits on behalf of the Plan. "Electronic Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set out in the Security Standards, but generally shall mean Protected Health Information that is transmitted by or maintained in electronic media.
- (b) **Agents or subcontractors shall meet security standards.** The Employer shall ensure that any agent or subcontractor to whom it provides Electronic Protected Health Information shall agree, in writing, to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect the Electronic Protected Health Information.
- (c) **Employer shall ensure security standards.** The Employer shall ensure that reasonable and appropriate security measures are implemented to comply with the conditions and requirements set forth in Section 11.17.

11.19 MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, the Plan will comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and ERISA Section 712.

11.20 GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (GINA)

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, the Plan will comply with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

11.21 WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, the Plan will comply with the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998.

11.22 NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, the Plan will comply with the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Plan document is hereby executed this _____ day of _____.

Central Garden & Pet Company

By _____
EMPLOYER