# Plan Document and Summary Plan Description for the City of Fort Dodge Major Medical Plan

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

# Introduction

City of Fort Dodge (the "Employer" or "Company") is pleased to offer you this benefit plan. It is a valuable and important part of your overall compensation package.

This booklet provides information about your major medical insurance. It serves as the Plan document and the Summary Plan Description ("SPD") for the City of Fort Dodge Major Medical Plan ("the Plan"). The information supplements the benefits certificate, benefit summaries, schedule of benefits, Certificate of Coverage and other descriptive documents relating to the Plan. Unless otherwise noted, if there are any conflicts between the terms of this Plan document/SPD and the terms of any benefits certificates or summaries distributed by the insurer of the Plan, the information distributed by the insurer shall control.

We encourage you to read this booklet and become familiar with your benefits. You may also wish to share this information with your enrolled family members.

This SPD and Plan document replace all prior SPDs and Plan documents you may have in your files. Be sure to keep this booklet in a safe and convenient place for future reference.

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# **Plan Overview**

The Plan provides major medical coverage to eligible employees and their dependents through a combination of insurance provided by the insurer selected by the Company ("Insurer") and partial self-funding.

# Your Eligibility

You are eligible for major medical coverage if you are a full-time active employee normally scheduled to work 30 hours per week.

Unless otherwise communicated to you by the Company, the following individuals are not eligible for benefits: employees of a temporary or staffing firm, payroll agency, or leasing organization, contract employees, part-time employees, persons hired on a seasonal or temporary basis, and other individuals who are not on the Employer payroll, as determined by the Employer, without regard to any court or agency decision determining common-law employment status.

# **Eligible Dependents**

The definition of eligible dependents and other provisions, such as whether you may enroll your eligible dependents in the Plan, are defined in the insurance certificates. Those provisions, and the definition of a dependent, are incorporated by reference herein.

#### When Coverage Begins

To be eligible for major medical coverage, you must satisfy the eligibility requirements described in the applicable insurance certificates and other materials provided. Unless otherwise stated in those materials your coverage begins the first of the month following 30 days of employment, except for Police and Fire whose coverage begins the first of the month following date of hire. Coverage for your eligible dependents begins on the same day as your initial eligibility provided you enroll your dependents within 31 days of eligibility. Certain benefits, such as disability or life insurance, may require you to be actively at work in order to be initially eligible for a Benefit Program and for any change in coverage to take effect. See the materials provided by your Insurer to determine when this applies to you.

# Look-back Measurement Method for Determining Full-time Employee Status

The Company uses the look-back measurement method to determine who is a full-time employee for purposes of the Plan's health care benefits. The look-back measurement method is based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) final regulations.

The look-back measurement method applies to:

• All employees;

The look-back measurement method involves three different periods:

- A measurement period;
- The stability period; and
- An administrative period.

The measurement period is a period for counting your hours of service. Different measurement periods apply to ongoing employees, new employees who are variable hour, seasonal or part-time, and new non-seasonal employees who are expected to work full time.

If you are an ongoing employee, this measurement period is called the "standard measurement period." Your hours of service during the standard measurement period will determine your eligibility for the Plan's health care benefits for the stability period that follows the standard measurement period and any administrative period.

If you are a new employee who is variable hour, seasonal or part-time, this measurement period is called the "initial measurement period." Your hours of service during the initial measurement period will determine your eligibility for the Plan's health care benefits for the stability period that follows the initial measurement period and any administrative period.

If you are a new non-seasonal employee who is expected to work full time, the Company will determine your status as a full-time employee who is eligible for the Plan's health care benefits based on your hours of service for each calendar month. Once you have been employed for a certain length of time, the measurement rules for ongoing employees will apply to you.

The stability period is a period that follows a measurement period. Your hours of service during the measurement period will determine whether you are considered a full-time employee who is eligible for health care benefits during the stability period. As a general rule, your status as a full-time employee or a non-full-time employee is "locked in" for the stability period, regardless of how many hours you work during the stability period, as long as you remain an employee of the Company. There are exceptions to this general rule for employees who experience certain changes in employment status.

An administrative period is a short period between the measurement period and the stability period when the Company performs administrative tasks, such as determining eligibility for coverage and facilitating Plan enrollment. The administrative period may last up to 90 days. However, the initial measurement period for new employees and the administrative period combined cannot extend beyond the last day of the first calendar month beginning on or after the one-year anniversary of the employee's start date (totaling, at most, 13 months and a fraction of a month).

Special rules may apply in certain circumstances, such as when employees are rehired by the Company or return from unpaid leave.

The rules for the look-back measurement method are very complex. Keep in mind that this information is a summary of how the rules work. More complex rules may apply to your situation. The Company intends to follow applicable IRS guidance when administering the look-back measurement method. If you have any questions about this measurement method and how it applies to you, please contact the Plan Administrator.

# **Proof of Dependent Eligibility**

The Employer reserves the right to verify that your dependent is eligible or continues to be eligible for coverage under the Plan. If you are asked to verify a dependent's eligibility for coverage, you will receive a notice describing the documents that you need to submit. To ensure that coverage for an eligible dependent continues without interruption, you must submit the required proof within the designated time period. If you fail to do so, coverage for your dependent may be canceled retroactively.

#### Your Contribution for Coverage

Each year, the Employer will evaluate all costs and may adjust the cost of coverage during the next annual enrollment. Any required contribution amount will be provided to you by the

Employer in your enrollment materials. You may also request a copy of any required contribution amounts from the Plan Administrator.

For most benefits you pay the employee cost of Plan premiums through pre-tax payroll deductions each pay period; however, some Benefit Programs may require premiums to be paid with after-tax dollars.

## **Enrolling for Coverage**

#### **New Hire Enrollment**

As a newly eligible employee, you will receive an Election Form and enrollment information when you first become eligible for benefits. You will need to make your coverage elections by the deadline shown in your enrollment materials. When you enroll in the Plan, you authorize the Employer to deduct any required premiums from your pay through salary reduction.

The elections you make will remain in effect until the next open enrollment, unless you have a qualifying change in status. After your initial enrollment, you will enroll during the designated annual open enrollment period. If you do not enroll for coverage when initially eligible, you will be deemed to have elected no coverage or the default coverage designated by the Employer.

#### Annual Open Enrollment Period

Each year during a designated open enrollment period, you will be given an opportunity to make your elections for the upcoming year. Your enrollment materials and Election Form will provide the options available to you and your share of the premium cost, as well as any default coverage you will be deemed to have elected if you do not make an election by the specified deadline. The elections you make will take effect on July 1 and stay in effect through June 30, the Plan Year, unless you have a qualifying change in status. The Plan Year may differ from the policy year of an insured benefit, with deductible and out-of-pocket expenses based on the policy year. You should refer to the insurance certificate and other materials provided by the Insurer to determine if a different policy year applies.

# **Qualifying Change in Status**

If you experience a change in certain family or employment circumstances that results in you or a covered dependent gaining or losing eligibility under a health plan, you can change your coverage to fit your new situation without waiting for the next annual open enrollment period.

As defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 125, or the regulations thereunder, the following events may be considered a change in status:

- your marriage;
- the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption of a child;
- your death or the death of your spouse or other eligible dependent;
- your divorce, annulment, or legal separation;
- a change in a dependent child's eligibility;
- a change in employment status for you or your spouse that affects benefits (including termination or commencement of employment, strike or lockout, or commencement of or return from an unpaid leave of absence);
- a change in your Employer work location or home address that changes your overall benefit options and/or prices;

- employee's spouse's open enrollment period differs and employee needs to make changes to account for other coverage;
- a significant change in coverage or the cost of coverage;
- a reduction or loss of your or a dependent's coverage under this or another plan; or
- a court order, such as a QMCSO or NMSN, that mandates coverage for an eligible dependent child;
- change in employment status to less than 30 hours of service per week on average even if reduction does not result in loss of Plan eligibility;
- eligibility for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace or seeking to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through a Marketplace during the Marketplace's annual open enrollment period;

If you experience a change in certain family or employment circumstances, you can change your coverage. Changes in your election must be consistent with your change in status event. For example, if you get married, you may change your coverage level from you only to you and your spouse. If you move, and your current coverage is no longer available in the new area, you may change your coverage option.

You should report a status change to the Plan Administrator as soon as possible, but no later than 31 days after the event occurs.

Keep in mind that certain mid-year election change events do not apply to health Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), such as cost or coverage changes. Contact the Plan Administrator if you have questions about when you can change your elections.

#### When Coverage Ends

Except as otherwise provided in the insurance certificate, your coverage under this Plan ends on the last day of the month in which your employment terminates. Coverage may be extended under certain circumstances, such as when you take an approved leave of absence.

Coverage for your covered dependents ends on the date your coverage ends, or, if earlier, on the last day of the month in which your dependent is no longer eligible for coverage under the Plan.

Coverage will also end for you and your covered dependents as of the date the Employer terminates this Plan or, if earlier, the effective date you request coverage to be terminated for you and/or your covered dependent.

# Cancellation of Coverage

If you fail to pay any required premium for coverage under the Plan, coverage for you and your covered dependents will be canceled for that Plan and no claims incurred after the effective date of cancellation will be paid.

# Coverage While Not at Work

In certain situations, coverage may continue for you and your dependents when you are not at work, so long as you continue to pay your share of the cost. If you take an unpaid leave of absence, you will need to make payment arrangements prior to the start of your leave. Your payments will be made on an after-tax basis, unless you are on paid leave, in which case your premium payments will continue to be deducted on a pre-tax basis. You should discuss with

Human Resources or your supervisor what options are available for paying your share of costs while you are absent from work.

# If You Take a Leave of Absence (FMLA)

If you take an approved FMLA leave of absence, your coverage will continue for the duration of your leave, as long as you continue to pay your share of the cost as required under the Employer's FMLA Policy.

# **Benefits**

The Plan provides major medical benefits as outlined in the insurance certificates and summaries distributed by the Insurer. The Plan is fully-insured and benefits are paid for by the Insurer. For the current Plan Year the Company has decided to partially self-fund the Plan and to supplement the benefits provided by the Insurer as outlined in Exhibit A ("Partially Self-Funded Benefits").

## How to File a Claim

Claims for benefits under the Plan should be filed as outlined in the insurance certificates and summaries distributed by the Insurer. For Partially Self-Funded Benefits, when you (or your medical provider) submit eligible medical expenses incurred during a coverage period to the Insurer, claims will automatically be made to the Company's Claims Administrator for determination of coverage and payment, if applicable. Claims will be handled in accordance with the claims procedures outlined in the insurance certificate and summaries provided by the Insurer. To the extent a claim is denied, you may appeal the denial in accordance with the procedures outlined in the insurance certificate and summaries provided by the Insurer. If the Claim pertains solely to Partial Self-Funding Benefits then the appeal should be directed to the Claims Administrator.

#### **Benefit Payment**

When you file a claim, payment will be made directly to the provider or to the member as directed by the group administrator.

## **Timely Filing**

To be eligible for reimbursement under the Plan, a claim must be submitted within the time frame established by the Primary Carrier Plan. If that plan is silent, the claim must be submitted within 12 months of the date of service.

#### When Participation Ends

Your participation in the Plan ends when you terminate employment or fail to pay any required premium contribution.

#### Health Care Flexible Spending Account and PSF

The PSF is different from a Health Care Flexible Spending Account even though both may reimburse similar expenses. If you participate in both a Health Care Flexible Spending Account and a PSF, eligible expenses will be first reimbursed through the PSF.

# Administrative Information

The following sections contain legal and administrative information you may need to contact the right person for information or help. Although you may not use this information often, it can be helpful if you want to know:

- how to contact the Plan Administrator;
- how to contact the Insurer or Claims Administrators;
- what to do if a benefit claim is denied; and
- your rights under Federal laws such as COBRA.

IMPORTANT: This Summary Plan Description may not include language or certain mandated coverage required by state insurance laws. State mandated coverage may be addressed separately in the insurance certificates provided by the Insurer.

# Plan Sponsor and Administrator

City of Fort Dodge is the Plan Sponsor and the Plan Administrator for this Plan. You may contact the Plan Administrator at the following address and telephone number:

#### Plan Administrator

City of Fort Dodge 819 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South Fort Dodge, IA 50501 515-576-6869

The Plan Administrator will administer this Plan and will be the "Named Fiduciary" for the Plan. The Plan Administrator will have control of the day-to-day administration of this Plan and will serve without additional remuneration if such individual is an employee of the Employer. The Plan Administrator will have the following duties and authority with respect to the Plan:

- To prepare and file with governmental agencies all reports, returns, and all documents and information required under applicable law;
- To prepare and furnish appropriate information to eligible employees and Plan participants;
- To prescribe uniform procedures to be followed by eligible employees and participants in making elections, filing claims, and other administrative functions in order to properly administer the Plan;
- To receive such information or representations from the Employer, eligible employees, and participants necessary for the proper administration of the Plan and to rely on such information or representations unless the Plan Administrator has actual knowledge that the information or representations are false;
- To properly administer the Plan in accordance with all applicable laws governing fiduciary standards; and
- To maintain and preserve appropriate Plan records.

In addition, the Plan Administrator has the discretionary authority to determine eligibility under all provisions of the Plan; correct defects, supply omissions, and reconcile inconsistencies in the Plan; ensure that all benefits are paid according to the Plan; interpret Plan provisions for all participants and beneficiaries; and decide issues of credibility necessary to carry out and operate the Plan. For fully insured benefits, unless otherwise expressly provided in the insurance policy or contract, the Insurer shall be the Named Fiduciary only with respect to the benefits provided through the insurance policy or contract. The Insurer shall be responsible for determining eligibility for and the amount of benefits payable under the Benefit Program, and for prescribing claims procedures to be followed by Participants. The Insurer shall also be responsible for paying claims.

# Plan Year

The Plan Year is July 1 through June 30.

# Type of Plan

This Plan is a called a "welfare plan", which includes group health plans; they help protect you against financial loss in case of sickness or injury.

# **Identification Numbers**

The Employer Identification Number (EIN) and Plan number for the Plan is: EIN: 42-6004675

# Plan Funding and Type of Administration

Funding and administration of the Plan is as follows.

Type of Administration	The Plan is administered by the Employer through an arrangement with Insurers and third-party (claims) administrators. Insured benefits will be payable solely by the Insurer.	
Funding	The Employer and employees both contribute to the Plan. Premiums are paid to the Insurers for fully insured Benefit Programs and benefits will be paid by the Insurer in accordance with the applicable insurance contract/policy. The Partia Self-Funding benefits is paid for from the Company's general assets.	

# Insurers/Claims Administrators

The Insurer is responsible for administering benefits and paying claims, except for those claims covered by the Partial Self-Funding Benefits. The Company has contracted with a separate Claims Administrator to process Partial Self-Funding Benefits. You may contact the Insurer or Claims Administrator directly, using the information listed below.

While these service providers make every attempt to provide accurate information, mistakes can occur. It is important to understand that Federal law requires that the Plan Documents always control, even if their terms conflict with information given to you by an Insurer or other service provider.

#### Claims Administrator for Partial Self-Funding Benefits:

Employee Benefit Systems 214 North Main Street PO Box 1053 Burlington, IA 52601 800-373-1327 www.ebs-tpa.com

## Insurer:

Wellmark 1331 Grand Avenue PO Box 9232 Des Moines, IA 50306 www.wellmark.com

# Agent for Service of Legal Process

Service of Legal Process may be served upon: Human Resource Director City of Fort Dodge 819 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South Fort Dodge, IA 50501 515-576-6869 Service of Legal Process may also be served on the Plan Administrator.

# No Obligation to Continue Employment

The Plan does not create an obligation for the Employer to continue your employment or interfere with the Employer's right to terminate your employment, with or without cause.

# Non-Alienation of Benefits

With the exception of a Qualified Medical Child Support Order, your right to any benefit under this Plan cannot be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or garnished. The Plan Administrator or, where applicable, the Insurer, has procedures for determining whether an order qualifies as a QMCSO; participants or beneficiaries may obtain a copy without charge by contacting the Plan Administrator or Insurer.

#### Severability

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

#### **Payment of Benefits to Others**

The Insurer or Claims Administrator, as applicable, in its discretion, may authorize any payments due to be paid to the parent or legal guardian of any individual who is either a minor or legally incompetent and unable to handle his or her own affairs.

#### **Expenses**

All expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the Plan, are Plan expenses and will be paid from the general assets of the Company.

# Fraud

No payments under the Plan will be made if you or a provider of services attempts to perpetrate a fraud upon the Plan with respect to any such claim. The Insurer or Claims Administrator will have the right to make the final determination of whether a fraud has been attempted or committed upon the Plan or if a misrepresentation of fact has been made. The Plan will have the right to recover any amounts, with interest, improperly paid by the Plan by reason of fraud. If you or a covered dependent attempts or commits fraud upon the Plan, your coverage may be terminated and you may be subject to disciplinary action by the Employer, up to and including termination of employment.

# Subrogation

Participants and beneficiaries are required to follow the insurer's provisions relating to claims which may be the responsibility of a third party and the Plan will generally not cover claims that are the responsibility of a third party. With respect to any Partially Self-Funded Benefits, participants and beneficiaries are required to immediately notify the Plan Administrator if a claim is submitted for Partially Self-Funded Benefits that is the result of third party liability (such as workers compensation, negligence, auto accident) and complete any documents required by the Plan Administrator. For claims that are the responsibility of a third party, the Plan will be subrogated to all of the participant's or beneficiary's right of recovery and will be fully reimbursed for any claims paid on behalf of the participant or beneficiary. The insurer's provisions shall generally govern subrogation; however, the portion of the claim that was paid from Partially Self-Funded Benefits shall be recoverable by the Company. Plan Administrator may withhold future amounts owed for Partially Self-Funded Benefits to recoup any outstanding amounts owed by the participant or beneficiary pursuant to this subrogation provision. Participants and beneficiaries are required to assist the Plan Administrator and insurer in enforcing the Plan's right to enforce these subrogation provisions and may not negotiate any agreement with a third party that would limit or compromise the Plan's rights.

# Indemnity

To the full extent permitted by law, the Company will indemnify the Plan Administrator and each other employee who acts in the capacity of an agent, delegate, or representative ("Plan Administration Employee") of the Plan Administrator against any and all losses, liabilities, costs and expenses incurred by the Plan Administration Employee in connection with or arising out of any pending, threatened, or anticipated action, suit or other proceeding in which the Employee may be involved by having been a Plan Administration Employee.

# Future of the Plan

The Company has the sole right to amend, modify, suspend, or terminate all or part of the Plan at any time.

The Company may also change the level of benefits provided under the Plan at any time. If a change is made, benefits for claims incurred after the date the change takes effect will be paid according to the revised Plan provisions. In other words, once a change is made, there are no rights to benefits based on earlier Plan provisions.

# Your HIPAA/COBRA Rights

# Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Title II of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, and the regulations at 45 CFR Parts 160 through 164 (HIPAA) contain provisions governing the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI) by group health plans, and provide privacy rights to participants in those plans. These rules are called the HIPAA Privacy Rules.

You will receive a "Notice of Privacy Practices" from the Administrator(s) and/or Insurer(s) that contains information about how your individually identifiable health information is protected under the HIPAA Privacy Rules and who you should contact with questions or concerns.

The HIPAA Privacy Rules apply to group health plans. These plans are commonly referred to as "HIPAA Plans" and are administered to comply with the applicable provisions of HIPAA. PHI is individually identifiable information created or received by HIPAA Plans that relates to an individual's physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to an individual, or payment for the provision of health care to an individual. Typically, the information identifies the individual, the diagnosis, and the treatment or supplies used in the course of treatment. It includes information held or transmitted in any form or media, whether electronic, paper or oral. When PHI is in electronic form it is called "ePHI."

The HIPAA Plans may disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor only as permitted under the terms of the Plan, or as otherwise required or permitted by HIPAA. The Plan Sponsor agrees to use and disclose PHI only as permitted or required by the HIPAA Privacy Rules and the terms of the Plan.

The HIPAA Plans (or an Insurer with respect to the HIPAA Plans) may disclose enrollment and disenrollment information to the Plan Sponsor. Also, the HIPAA Plans (or an Insurer with respect to the HIPAA Plans) may disclose Summary Health Information to the Plan Sponsor if the Plan Sponsor requests the information for the purposes of (1) obtaining premium bids from health plans for providing health insurance coverage under the Plan; or (2) modifying, amending or terminating the Plan. "Summary Health Information" means information that summarizes the claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced by individuals covered under the HIPAA Plans and has almost all individually identifying information removed. The HIPAA Plans may also disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor pursuant to a signed authorization that meets the requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rules.

In addition, the HIPAA Plans (or an Insurer with respect to the HIPAA Plans) may disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor for plan administration purposes. Plan administration purposes means administration functions performed by the Plan Sponsor on behalf of the HIPAA Plans, such as claims processing, coordination of benefits, quality assurance, auditing and monitoring. Plan administration purposes do not include functions performed by the Plan Sponsor or any employment-related actions or decisions.

The Plan Sponsor agrees that with respect to any PHI (other than enrollment/disenrollment information, Summary Health Information and information disclosed pursuant to a valid HIPAA authorization) disclosed to it by the HIPAA Plans (or an Insurer with respect to the HIPAA Plans), the Plan Sponsor will:

• Not use or further disclose the information other than as permitted or required by the Plan or as required by law;

- Ensure that any agents, including subcontractors, to whom it provides PHI received from the HIPAA Plans agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Plan Sponsor with respect to PHI;
- Not use or disclose the information for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the Plan Sponsor;
- Report to the HIPAA Plans any use or disclosure of PHI of which it becomes aware that is inconsistent with the permissible uses or disclosures;
- Make PHI available in accordance with the individual rights of access under the HIPAA Privacy Rules;
- Make an individual's PHI available for amendment, and incorporate any amendments, as required by the HIPAA Privacy Rules;
- Make available the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to individuals, as required by the HIPAA Privacy Rules;
- Make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from the HIPAA Plans available to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining compliance with HIPAA's requirements;
- If feasible, return or destroy all PHI received from the HIPAA Plans that the Plan Sponsor still maintains in any form and retain no copies of this information when no longer needed for the purpose for which disclosure was made, except that, if this return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses or disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information infeasible; and
- Ensure adequate separation between the HIPAA Plans and the Plan Sponsor is established.

In addition, the Plan Sponsor will reasonably and appropriately safeguard ePHI (other than enrollment/disenrollment information, Summary Health Information and information disclosed pursuant to a valid HIPAA authorization) that is created, received, maintained or transmitted to or by the Plan Sponsor on behalf of the HIPAA Plans. The Plan Sponsor will:

- Implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the ePHI that it creates, receives, maintains or transmits on behalf of the HIPAA Plans;
- Ensure that adequate separation between the HIPAA Plans and the Plan Sponsor is supported by reasonable and appropriate security measures;
- Ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom it provides ePHI agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect the information; and
- Report to the HIPAA Plans any security incident of which it becomes aware.

# Continuing Health Care Coverage through COBRA

In special situations, you or your covered dependent(s) may continue health care coverage at your or your dependent's expense when it otherwise would end. The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) allows a continuation of health care coverage to qualified beneficiaries for a specific length of time. This section provides an overview of COBRA continuation coverage. The coverage described may change as permitted or required by applicable law. When you first enroll in coverage, you will receive from the Plan

Administrator/COBRA Administrator your initial COBRA notice. This notice and subsequent notices you receive will contain current requirements applicable for you to continue coverage.

The length of COBRA continuation coverage (COBRA coverage) depends on the reason that coverage ends, called the "qualifying event." These events and the applicable COBRA continuation period are described below.

If you and/or your eligible dependent(s) choose COBRA coverage, the Company is required to offer the same medical and prescription drug coverage that is offered to similarly situated employees. Proof of insurability is not required to elect COBRA coverage. In other words, you and your covered dependents may continue the same health care coverage you had under the Plan before the COBRA qualifying event.

If you have a new child during the COBRA continuation period by birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, your new child is considered a qualified beneficiary. Your new child is entitled to receive coverage upon his or her date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, provided you enroll the child within 30 days of the child's birth/adoption/placement for adoption. If you do not enroll the child under your coverage within 30 days, you will have to wait until the next open enrollment period to enroll your child.

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.

For more information about the Marketplace, visit <u>www.HealthCare.gov</u>.

# COBRA Qualifying Events and Length of Coverage

Each person enrolled in benefits will have the right to elect to continue health benefits upon the occurrence of a qualifying event that would otherwise result in such person losing health benefits. Qualifying events and the length of COBRA continuation are as follows:

#### **18-Month Continuation**

Health care coverage for you and your eligible dependent(s) may continue for 18 months after the date of the qualifying event if your:

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

# 18-Month Continuation Plus 11-Month Extension

If you or your eligible dependent is disabled at the time your employment ends or your hours are reduced, the disabled person may receive an extra 11 months of coverage in addition to the 18-month continuation period (for a total of 29 months of coverage). If the individual entitled to the disability extension has non-disabled family members who have COBRA coverage due to the same qualifying event, those non-disabled family members will also be entitled to the 11-month extension, including any child born or placed for adoption within the first 60 days of COBRA coverage.

The 11-month extension is available to any COBRA participant who meets all of the following requirements:

- he or she becomes disabled before or within the first 60 days of the initial 18-month coverage period; and
- he or she provides a copy of the Social Security Administration determination letter to the Plan Administrator (or its designated COBRA Administrator); and
- he or she notifies the Plan Administrator (or its designated COBRA Administrator) before the initial 18-month COBRA coverage period ends.

You must also notify the Plan Administrator (or its designated COBRA Administrator) within 30 days of the date Social Security Administration determines that you or your dependent is no longer disabled.

#### **36-Month Continuation**

Coverage for your eligible dependent(s) may continue for up to 36 months if coverage is lost due to your:

- death;
- divorce or legal separation;
- eligibility for Medicare coverage; or
- dependent child's loss of eligible dependent status under this Plan

Note: If any of these events (other than Medicare entitlement) occur while your dependents are covered under COBRA (because of an 18-month or 18-month plus extension qualifying event), coverage for the second qualifying event may continue for up to a total of 36 months from the date of the first COBRA qualifying event. In no case, however, will COBRA coverage be continued for more than 36 months in total.

If you become eligible for Medicare before a reduction in hours or your employment terminates, coverage for your dependents may be continued for up to 18 months from the date of your reduction in hours or termination of employment, or for up to 36 months from the date you became covered by Medicare, whichever is longer.

# **COBRA Notifications**

If you or your covered dependents lose coverage under the Plan because your employment status changes, you become entitled to Medicare, or you die, the Plan Administrator (or its designated COBRA administrator) will automatically provide you or your dependents with additional information about COBRA continuation coverage, including what actions you must take by specific deadlines.

If your covered dependent loses coverage as a result of your divorce, legal separation or a dependent child's loss of eligibility under the Plan, you or your dependent must notify the Company within 60 days of the qualifying event. The Plan Administrator (or its designated COBRA administrator) will automatically send you or your dependent, as applicable, COBRA enrollment information. If you or your dependent fails to provide notification of the event within 60 days, you or your dependent forfeits all continuation of coverage rights under COBRA. To continue COBRA coverage, you and/or your eligible dependents must elect and pay the required cost for COBRA coverage.

# Cost of COBRA Coverage

You or your eligible dependent pays the full cost for health care coverage under COBRA, plus an administrative fee of two percent, or 102 percent of the full premium cost, except in the case

of an 11-month disability extension where you must pay 150 percent of the full premium cost for coverage.

# **COBRA Continuation Coverage Payments**

Each qualified beneficiary may make an independent coverage election. You must elect COBRA coverage by completing and returning your COBRA enrollment form as instructed in your enrollment materials within 60 days of the date you receive information about your COBRA rights or, if later, the date of your qualifying event.

The first COBRA premium payment is due no later than 45 days from the date COBRA coverage is elected. Although COBRA coverage is retroactive to the date of the initial qualifying event, no benefits will be paid until the full premium payment is received. Each month's premium is due prior to the first day of the month of coverage. You or your dependent is responsible for making timely payments.

If you or your dependent fails to make the first payment within 45 days of the COBRA election, or subsequent payments within 30 days of the due date (the grace period), COBRA coverage will be canceled permanently, retroactive to the last date for which premiums were paid. COBRA coverage cannot be reinstated once it is terminated. Other important information you need to know about the required COBRA coverage payments follows.

COBRA premium payments that are returned by the bank for insufficient funds will result in termination of your COBRA coverage if a replacement payment in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order is not made within the grace period.

COBRA premium payments must be mailed to the address indicated on your premium notice. Even if you do not receive your premium notice, it is your responsibility to contact the COBRA administrator. Your COBRA coverage will end if payment is not made by the due date on your notice. It is your responsibility to ensure that your current address is on file.

You may be eligible for state or local assistance to pay the COBRA premium. For more information, contact your local Medicaid office or the office of your state insurance commissioner.

# How Benefit Extensions Impact COBRA

If you have a qualifying event that could cause you to lose your coverage, the length of any benefit extension period is generally considered part of your COBRA continuation coverage period and runs concurrently with your COBRA coverage. (Also see "Coverage While You Are Not at Work" in the Plan Overview for additional information.)

If you take a leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), COBRA begins;

- at the end of the leave if you do not return after the leave; or
- on the date of termination if you decide to terminate your employment during the leave.

# When COBRA Coverage Ends

COBRA coverage for a covered individual will end when any of the following occur:

- The premium for COBRA coverage is not paid on a timely basis (monthly payments must be postmarked within the 30-day grace period, your initial payment must be postmarked within 45 days of your initial election).
- The maximum period of COBRA coverage, as it applies to the qualifying event, expires.

- The individual becomes covered under any other group medical plan, even though the subsequent plan has a pre-existing condition exclusion, so long as the individual has enough creditable coverage to satisfy the subsequent plan's pre-existing condition exclusion. If the individual does not have enough creditable coverage to meet the new plan's requirement, he or she may continue to purchase COBRA coverage until the earlier of the day he or she is eligible for the new coverage, or 36 months.
- The individual becomes entitled to Medicare.
- The Company terminates its group health plan coverage for all employees.
- Social Security determines that an individual is no longer disabled during the 11-month extension period.

# Adoption of the Plan

The City of Fort Dodge Major Medical Plan, effective 07/01/2020, as amended and restated herein, is hereby adopted as of 07/01/2024. This document constitutes the basis for administration of the Plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this document to be executed on this \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

BY:\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_

# EXHIBIT A

# City of Fort Dodge Partial Self-Funding Benefits 07/01/2024

The Partial Self-Funding Benefits will pay the difference between the deductible and out-of-pocket maximums provided by the major medical plan so that the participant realizes the following:

Plan A	In-Network	Out-of-Network		
Calendar Year Deductible		·		
Per Person	\$	\$2,500		
Per Family	\$	\$5,000		
Out-of-Pocket Maximum				
Per Person	\$	\$2,500		
Per Family	\$	\$5,000		
Coinsurance you pay	0%	0%		

Plan B	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Calendar Year Deductible		
Per Person	\$250	
Per Family	\$500	
Deductible amounts you pay during the last three		
months of a benefit year carry over as credits to		
meet your deductible for the next benefit year.		
These credits do not apply toward your out-of-		
pocket maximum.		
Deductible is waived for:		
Independent Lab Services	Deductible waived	Deductible applied
Prosthetic limbs	Deductible waived	Deductible applied
Outpatient MHCD Facility Services	Deductible waived	Deductible applied
One Postpartum Home Visit	Deductible waived	Deductible applied
Chiropractic Office Visit Services	Deductible waived, 20%	Deductible waived, 20%
Outpatient X-ray and Labs (does not include	Deductible waived	Deductible applied
high level radiology services)		
Out-of-Pocket Maximum		
Per Person	\$1,000	
Per Family	\$2,000	
Coinsurance you pay	20%	30%

The Partial Self-Funding Benefits cover only those items and services determined by the Insurer to be covered services under the Plan.