

# Welfare Benefit Plan

## Summary Plan Description

WRAP Plan

University of Southern California  
Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program

# University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program

## *Summary Plan Description*

Your Employer maintains the University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program (“the Plan”) for the exclusive benefit of, and to provide health and welfare benefits to its eligible employees and their eligible dependents.

This Summary Plan Description (SPD) summarizes the important features of the Plan, including your benefits and obligations under the Plan. Read this SPD carefully so that you understand the provisions of the Plan and the benefits you will receive. These benefits are provided under various insurance contracts. The Benefit Documents for each Benefit are part of this SPD only to the extent it provides detailed descriptions regarding each Benefits’ eligibility rules, benefit descriptions, claims and appeal procedures, or other substantive provisions. You should keep this SPD with the Benefit Documents provided to you upon enrollment in each Benefit. You should also share this SPD with any family members you have elected to cover under the Plan.

The Plan is required to comply with certain federal laws and regulations that may change with the passage of new or revised laws. Your Employer reserves the right to amend the Plan in whole or in part or to completely discontinue the Plan at any time, except as otherwise specified in a collective bargaining agreement. Any amendment, termination or other action by your Employer will be done in accordance with its normal operating procedures and any applicable laws.

Certain terms in the SPD have special meaning and are capitalized throughout the SPD. Such terms are defined in more detail in the DEFINITIONS section of the SPD. If any information in this SPD conflicts with the terms of the official Plan Document, the terms of the Plan Document—not this SPD—will apply.

### **Plan Contacts:**

Below are the contacts you can reach out to for assistance regarding the Plan:

#### **Contact for Participant Questions about the Plan:**

Senior Manager for Postdoctoral Affairs  
University of Southern California  
3551 Trousdale Parkway  
Los Angeles, CA 90089  
213-740-5485

#### **Contact for COBRA Coverage Notifications:**

Flexible Benefit Service LLC  
8770 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 1290W  
Chicago, IL 60631  
847-699-6900

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Plan Contacts:.....	i
<b>EMPLOYER INFORMATION</b>	<b>1</b>
Who established the Plan? .....	1
<b>PLAN INFORMATION</b>	<b>1</b>
Amended and Restated Plan.....	1
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>1</b>
Q1. Who is eligible for Benefits?.....	1
Q2. Are my Dependents eligible to be covered by the Plan?.....	1
Q3. How do I enroll in Benefits?.....	1
Q4. Can I change Benefits throughout the year?.....	1
Q5. When does coverage begin and end?.....	2
Q6. What should I do if an Eligible Dependent loses eligibility status? .....	2
<b>BENEFITS AND FUNDING</b>	<b>2</b>
Q1. What is the purpose of the Plan?.....	2
Q2. What is the Plan’s funding method? .....	2
Q3. What Benefits are provided by the Plan? .....	2
Q4. What is the source of Contributions? .....	2
Q5. How do I pay for Benefits?.....	2
COORDINATION OF BENEFITS.....	2
Q6. What happens if I am covered by two or more health plans?.....	2
Q7. Will the Plan be primary or secondary payer if I am covered by Medicare? .....	2
<b>CLAIMS AND APPEALS</b>	<b>3</b>
Q1. What Claims and appeal procedures apply?.....	3
Q2. How do I appeal a Claim or benefit determination? .....	3
HEALTH CARE PLANS.....	3
Q3. What types of Health Care Claims can I appeal?.....	3
Q4. After I submit a Claim, when should I expect a response?.....	3
Q5. If my Health Care Claim is denied, will I receive a notification? .....	3
Q6. In addition to providing the notice of adverse benefit determination, is there anything else the Claims Administrator must do if a Health Care Claim is denied?.....	4
Q7. If my Health Care Claim is denied, what should I do? .....	4
Q8. Is there an expedited process for an urgent care Claim? .....	4
Q9. If I appeal a Claim determination, what happens next?.....	4
Q10. Will I receive a written notification of a claim determination on review (i.e., an appeal)?.....	5
Q11. If my appeal is denied, do I have any other rights?.....	5
DISABILITY PLANS.....	5
Q12. When will I receive a Disability Claim determination? .....	5
Q13. Will the Disability Claim determination period ever be extended?.....	6
Q14. What if I did not submit all the necessary information to process my Disability Claim?.....	6
Q15. Will I receive a notice if my Disability Claim is denied?.....	6
Q16. If my Disability Claim is denied, what should I do?.....	6
Q17. If I appeal a Disability Claim determination, what happens next?.....	6
Q18. What if a Plan Component is not a Health Care or Disability Component? .....	6
LEGAL ACTIONS.....	6
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>7</b>
LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	7
Q1. What happens to my Benefits if I take a leave of absence?.....	7
Q2. Is my Employer required to comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?.....	7

Q3.	What happens if my leave is protected by FMLA?.....	7
Q4.	What happens if I experience a “change in status” while on FMLA leave?.....	7
Q5.	What happens if I do not return to work following my FMLA leave?.....	7
Q6.	What happens if my leave is protected under USERRA?.....	7
LEGAL MATTERS.....		7
Q7.	Can I assign my rights under the Plan to another person or third party?.....	7
Q8.	Is this document a contract between me and my Employer?.....	7

**DEFINITIONS 8**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION 8**

Q1.	Who has the authority to make determinations under the Plan?.....	8
Q2.	What are some of the duties of the Plan Administrator?.....	8
Q3.	Can changes be made to the Plan?.....	9
Q4.	What happens if the Plan Administrator or its delegates makes a clerical error?.....	9
Q5.	If the Plan receives a premium refund, will the reimbursement be paid to Participants?.....	9
Q6.	Who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Plan?.....	9
Q7.	Who is responsible to administer the Plan’s Claims?.....	9
Q8.	Is the Plan subject to a collective bargaining agreement?.....	9
Q9.	How can I obtain additional information about the Plan?.....	9
Q10.	If I receive a medical child support order, what should I do?.....	9
Q11.	When can the Plan Administrator retroactively terminate coverage provided under a Health Care Plan?.....	9
Q12.	What is considered fraud or intentional misrepresentation?.....	10

**YOUR RIGHTS UNDER ERISA 10**

Q1.	Is the Plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)?.....	10
Q2.	What are my legal rights and protections under the Plan?.....	10

**COBRA 10**

Q1.	What is COBRA continuation coverage?.....	11
Q2.	Can I elect continuation for my Domestic Partner?.....	11
Q3.	When is COBRA continuation coverage available?.....	12
Q4.	How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?.....	12
Q5.	Are there other coverage options besides COBRA continuation coverage?.....	13
Q6.	Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?.....	13
Q7.	What if I have additional questions?.....	13
Q8.	How do I protect my COBRA rights?.....	13
Q9.	What factors should be considered when determining to elect COBRA continuation coverage?.....	13
Q10.	What is the procedure for obtaining COBRA continuation coverage?.....	13
Q11.	What is the election period and how long must it last?.....	13
Q12.	Will a waiver made before the end of the election period end a qualified beneficiary’s election rights?.....	13
Q13.	Is COBRA continuation coverage available if a qualified beneficiary has Medicare?.....	13
Q14.	When may a qualified beneficiary’s COBRA continuation coverage be terminated?.....	13
Q15.	Must the Plan allow payment for COBRA continuation coverage to be made in monthly installments?.....	14
Q16.	What is considered timely when paying for COBRA continuation coverage?.....	14

**PRIVACY RIGHTS UNDER HIPAA 14**

**OTHER LEGAL NOTICES 15**

Q1.	Do I have any other legal rights and protections under the Plan?.....	15
Q2.	Is there anything else I should know if I want to enroll my Domestic Partner?.....	17

**APPENDIX A 18**

Plan Components and Claims Administrators.....	18
--	----

<b>APPENDIX B</b>	<b>19</b>
Eligibility and Participation Requirements .....	19
<b>APPENDIX C</b>	<b>20</b>
Premium Assistance under Medicaid and CHIP .....	20

## EMPLOYER INFORMATION

### Who established the Plan?

The Plan Sponsor of the Plan is:	University of Southern California
Business Address:	3551 Trousdale Parkway Los Angeles, CA 90089
Business Telephone Number:	800-319-9557
Federal Tax Identification Number:	95-1642394

## PLAN INFORMATION

### Amended and Restated Plan

The official Name of the Plan is:	University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program
Plan Number:	501
Plan Year:	August 1 through July 31 of the following calendar year.
The Plan originally took effect on:	<u>August 1, 2012.</u>
This amended and restated Plan shall take effect on:	<u>August 1, 2024.</u>

## ELIGIBILITY

### Q1. Who is eligible for Benefits?

You are eligible to participate in the Plan if you are a common-law employee of your Employer and meet the criteria provided in Appendix B.

### Q2. Are my Dependents eligible to be covered by the Plan?

Yes, Dependents can be covered by the Plan under certain Benefits.

If you elect coverage for your Dependent Child(ren), their coverage generally will end when they reach a Benefit's limiting age (e.g., age 26 for the Major Medical Option).

### Q3. How do I enroll in Benefits?

Once you meet the eligibility criteria described in Appendix B you may enroll in Benefits.

To enroll, follow the procedures below:

#### **Initial Enrollment**

If you are eligible to participate in the Plan for the first time, you must submit your elections and any supporting documents, if applicable, in a timely manner in accordance with your Employer's enrollment procedures. If you miss your enrollment period, you may have to wait until the next open enrollment period or experience a qualifying life event to enroll in the Plan.

#### **Annual Open Enrollment**

You may change your coverage (or elect coverage in the Plan if you did not elect coverage when first eligible) during each annual open enrollment period. You should review the enrollment materials provided to you and follow the instructions for enrolling or re-enrolling, as applicable. If you do not properly complete enrollment materials on a timely basis, your elections for the prior Plan Year may cease or remain the same for the subsequent Plan Year.

#### **Dependents**

Coverage of Dependents may be contingent on receiving required documents, as requested by the Plan Administrator. If applicable, and you fail to provide the required documents in a timely manner and you enroll a Dependent in coverage, the Dependent may be removed retroactively to the first date of eligibility.

### Q4. Can I change Benefits throughout the year?

Maybe. In order to pay your portion of Health Care Plan premiums on a pre-tax basis, the IRS limits election changes to the annual enrollment period UNLESS you experience one of the qualifying life events defined by the IRS, such as marriage, divorce, job change, birth, or adoption of a child, or when a dependent child reaches a Plan Component's limiting age. If you experience a qualifying life event you must notify the Plan Administrator within a specified timeframe following the event.

Any election made on an after-tax basis may be changed in accordance with the Employer's policy or applicable Plan Component limitations. In addition, HIPAA special enrollment rights allow you and your eligible Dependents to enroll in a Major Medical Plan Component if 1) you or your Dependents experience a loss of coverage under another group health plan, health insurance, Medicaid, or CHIP; 2) you gain a new Dependent through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption; or 3) you or your Dependents become eligible for premium assistance through a state Medicaid or CHIP program.

**Q5. When does coverage begin and end?**

Coverage begins on the date you meet any required waiting period and, depending on the Benefit, generally ends on the date or end of the month in which you cease to satisfy the eligibility requirements. See the Appendix B for additional information on any applicable waiting period.

For example, coverage may end due to divorce, death, change in employment status (including termination), failure to pay Contributions, a Dependent Child reaching a Plan Component's limiting age, or a Plan amendment or termination. If you experience a divorce, you will not lose coverage, but your spouse will lose coverage. If your Dependent Child reaches a Plan Component's limiting age, you will not lose coverage, but your Child will lose coverage. If you experience a change in employment status that causes a change in Plan eligibility, you and your Dependents may lose coverage.

**Q6. What should I do if an Eligible Dependent loses eligibility status?**

When one of your covered Dependents loses eligibility status, such as through death, divorce, or a Dependent Child reaching a Plan Component's limiting age, you will have 30 days after the event to make an election change to drop their coverage. In addition, a COBRA election will be available to your Dependent only if you notify your Employer in writing within 60 days after the later of (1) the date of the event; or (2) the date on which the qualified beneficiary loses (or would lose) coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the event.

If you fail to notify the Plan Administrator when a Dependent becomes ineligible for coverage, you may be required to reimburse the Plan for costs incurred by the Plan and the Plan Administrator may take other action, as permitted by the Plan.

In general, a Dependent's coverage will terminate the date or end of the month in which your covered Dependent is no longer considered an eligible Dependent, as specified in the applicable Benefit Documents.

## BENEFITS AND FUNDING

**Q1. What is the purpose of the Plan?**

The Plan is a welfare benefit plan that is intended to provide you with a range of Benefits to promote your health and welfare.

**Q2. What is the Plan's funding method?**

The Plan is funded through insurance contracts.

**Q3. What Benefits are provided by the Plan?**

The Plan provides the Benefits listed on Appendix A to this SPD.

**Q4. What is the source of Contributions?**

Depending on the Plan Component, the cost of your coverage is either paid by:

- Employer Contributions only; or,
- Employee Contributions only; or,
- Both Employer and employee Contributions.

**Q5. How do I pay for Benefits?**

Depending on the Benefit, the cost of your coverage will be deducted from your pay on either a pre-tax or post-tax basis. Pre-tax payroll deductions lower your cost to participate in the Plan. Note that you do not pay Social Security taxes on the pre-tax dollars used, which could result in a small reduction in your Social Security benefits at retirement.

It is important to note that if you intend to enroll a non-tax Dependent, such as a Domestic Partner, the cost of their coverage cannot be paid for on a pre-tax basis and will be added to your wages as taxable income. We recommend you consult with your tax or legal advisor for further guidance before electing coverage for a non-tax Dependent.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

**Q6. What happens if I am covered by two or more health plans?**

Coordination of benefits is governed by the Benefit Document applicable to each Benefit. In general, the Plan that covers you as an employee will be the primary payor with the other health plan covering any additional costs that may remain after the primary plan's benefits have been exhausted.

If your Dependent Children are covered by this Plan and your spouse's health plan, the health plans generally will perform coordination of benefits using the "birthday rule." This means if your birthday month occurs earlier in a calendar year than your spouse's or partner's birthday month, this Plan will be the primary payor.

**Q7. Will the Plan be primary or secondary payer if I am covered by Medicare?**

If you are covered by Medicare, the Plan intends to pay either primary or secondary as follows.

- If you are 65 or older and your Employer has less than 20 employees, Medicare will be the primary payer.
- If you are 65 or older and your Employer has more than 20 employees, Medicare is the secondary payer.
- If you are disabled and your Employer has 100 or more employees, Medicare is the secondary payer.
- If you have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and you are in the first 30 months of Medicare coverage, Medicare is the secondary payer during the 30-month coordination period.

- If you have ESRD and are covered by COBRA continuation coverage and you are in your first 30 months of Medicare coverage, Medicare is the secondary payer during the 30-month coordination period.
- If you are 65 or older and are covered by Medicare and COBRA continuation coverage, Medicare is the primary payer and COBRA is the secondary payer.
- If you are disabled and covered by Medicare and COBRA, Medicare is the primary payer and COBRA is the secondary payer.

## CLAIMS AND APPEALS

### Q1. What Claims and appeal procedures apply?

You must follow the Claims submission rules and Claims appeal procedures contained in the applicable Benefit Document. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the Claims submission rules and Claims appeal procedures contained in the applicable Benefit Document provide fewer rights to you than the rights prescribed in Labor Regulation section 2560.503-1.

If the applicable Benefit Document does not include Claims and appeals procedures, or if such document includes procedures that do not satisfy the minimum requirements of ERISA, then the Claims and/or appeals will be determined in accordance with this Section and Section Five of the Plan document.

### Q2. How do I appeal a Claim or benefit determination?

If you disagree with a benefit or Claims determination, you must submit a written request to the Claims Administrator. Please see Appendix A for contact information, including the address of the Claims Administrator for the Benefit.

## HEALTH CARE PLANS

### Q3. What types of Health Care Claims can I appeal?

You can appeal any Claim for benefits, which includes a request for coverage determination, a pre-authorization or approval of a Plan benefit, or a utilization review determination in accordance with the terms of the Plan. Depending on the type of Claim, your Claim will fall into one of the following categories:

- **Urgent Care Claims** – Claims that require notification or approval prior to receiving medical care, where a delay in treatment could seriously jeopardize your life or health or the ability to regain maximum function or that could cause severe pain.
- **Pre-Service Claims** – Claims that require notification or approval prior to receiving medical care.
- **Concurrent Care Claims** – Claims that were previously approved for treatment.
- **Post-Service Claims** – Claims that are filed for payment of benefits after medical care has been received.

### Q4. After I submit a Claim, when should I expect a response?

The timeframe for a Plan Component to provide notice of a Claim determination varies based on the type of Claim filed:

CLAIM TYPE	DEADLINE FOR MAKING INITIAL DETERMINATION
Urgent care	As soon as possible, and no later than <b>72 hours</b> after receiving the Claim
Pre-service	Within a reasonable time period, and no later than <b>15 days</b> after receiving the Claim*
Post-service	Within a reasonable time period, and no later than <b>30 days</b> after receiving the Claim*

For concurrent medical care Claims, if the treatment was previously approved, the request to extend the treatment will be processed within 24 hours of the receipt of the request if the request is made 24 hours prior to the end of the approved treatment. However, if the request is not made at least 24 hours prior to the end of the approved treatment, the request will be processed as an urgent care Claim.

#### **Extension of Claim Determination Deadline**

- **Urgent Care Claims.** If the Plan Component needs more information, it must tell the Claimant within 24 hours and give the Claimant at least 48 hours to respond. Then the plan must decide the Claim within 48 hours after receiving the missing information or within 48 hours of the deadline for the Claimant to supply the missing information, whichever comes first.
- **Pre-Service Claims and Post-Service Claims.** The Plan Component may extend the time period up to 15 days more if, for reasons beyond its control, the plan cannot make the decision within the first deadline. If the Plan Component requests more information, the Claimant has at least 45 days to supply it. The Plan Component then must decide the Claim within 15 days after receiving the additional information or within 15 days of the deadline for the Claimant to supply the additional information, whichever comes first.

### Q5. If my Health Care Claim is denied, will I receive a notification?

Yes, if your Claim is denied in full or in part, you will receive a written notice of adverse benefit determination. The notice will contain the following information:

- Information sufficient to identify the Claim.
- The specific reason for the denial.
- Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based.



- A description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of your right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502 following a denial on review, if applicable.
- A statement that you are 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.
- 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 you upon request.
- If the denial is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either a) an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, or b) a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge, upon request.
- If the denial involves an urgent care Claim, the notice will also include a description of the expedited review process applicable to such Claims.

**Q6. In addition to providing the notice of adverse benefit determination, is there anything else the Claims Administrator must do if a Health Care Claim is denied?**

Yes, the Claims Administrator is required to take the following steps:

- Ensure that any notice includes information sufficient to identify the Claim, including the date of service, the health care provider, and the amount of the Claim. Moreover, the Plan must provide notice of the opportunity to request the diagnosis code, the treatment code, and its corresponding meaning;
- Ensure the notice includes the denial code and its corresponding meaning and the standard used to deny the Claim;
- Provide a description of the internal appeal and external review processes available under the Plan;
- Provide a description of how to initiate an appeal; and
- Disclose the availability of any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman available to assist with internal Claims and appeals or external review processes, including contact information.

**Q7. If my Health Care Claim is denied, what should I do?**

When you receive a denial, you will have **180 days** following receipt of the notification to appeal the decision. You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim. If you request, you will be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.

The Claims Administrator will review the appeal upon receipt and will follow the terms of the Plan. An appeal decision will be made within the time frame provided by the Plan and will be reviewed even if information or documents are missing from the appeal.

A document, record, or other information is relevant to a Claim if it

- was relied upon in making the Claim determination;
- was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the Claim determination, even if it was not used to make the Claim determination;
- demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that Claim reviews follow the terms of the Plan has been applied consistently; or
- 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 you relating to the Claim, even if the information was not submitted or considered in the initial Claim review. The review will not rely on the initial denial and will be performed by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who denied the Claim nor a direct report of that individual.

**Q8. Is there an expedited process for an urgent care Claim?**

Yes, you are entitled to an expedited review process that permits you to submit your request orally or in writing and that permits all necessary information to be shared by telephone, facsimile, or other similarly expeditious method.

**Q9. If I appeal a Claim determination, what happens next?**

**First Appeal**

Once you have submitted an appeal, you will receive a written response, as follows:

- **Urgent Care Claim.** As soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the appeal by the Plan Component.

- **Pre-Service Claim.** Within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the appeal by the Plan Component.
- **Post-Service Claim.** Within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 60 days after receipt of the appeal by the Plan Component.
- **Concurrent Care Claim.** Before treatment ends or is reduced, where the adverse determination is the decision to reduce or terminate concurrent care early, or, if the Component Plan denies your request to extend treatment, within the appropriate time period based upon the type of Claim.

### **Second Appeal**

If specified in the Benefit Documents for each Plan Component or in documentation given to you by the Claims Administrator, you may be entitled to a second appeal following an adverse determination of your initial appeal. In such case, the second appeal must be filed no later than 30 days from the date indicated on the response letter to the first appeal.

The appeal decision with respect to any second appeal will be made according to the following schedule:

- **Urgent Care Claim.** As soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the appeal.
- **Pre-Service Claim.** Within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 15 days after receipt of the appeal.
- **Post-Service Claim.** Within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the appeal.
- **Concurrent Claim.** The response will be made in the appropriate time period based upon the type of Claim: Pre-Service Urgent, Pre-Service Non-urgent or Post-Service.

## **Q10. Will I receive a written notification of a claim determination on review (i.e., an appeal)?**

Yes, you will receive a final notice of adverse benefit determination. The notice will include the following information:

- Information sufficient to identify the Claim.
- The specific reason for the denial.
- Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based.
- A description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why the material or information is necessary.
- A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to the procedures. This will include a statement of your right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502 following a denial on review, if applicable.
- A statement that you are 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.
- 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 you upon request.
- If the denial is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either (i) an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, or (ii) a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge, upon request.
- The following statement: "You and your Plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your state insurance regulatory agency."

## **Q11. If my appeal is denied, do I have any other rights?**

Yes, you may have the right to request an independent, external review. Your external review will be conducted by an independent review organization not affiliated with the Plan. This independent review organization may overturn the Plan's decision, and the independent review organization's decision is binding on the Plan. Your appeal denial notice will include more information about your right to file a request for an external review and contact information. You must file your request for external review within four months of receiving your final internal appeal determination. Filing a request for external review will not affect your ability to bring a legal claim in court. When filing a request for external review, you will be required to authorize the release of any medical records that may be required to be reviewed for the purpose of reaching a decision on the external review.

## **DISABILITY PLANS**

### **Q12. When will I receive a Disability Claim determination?**

You will receive a written or electronic notification of the Plan's Claim decision within 45 days.

**Q13. Will the Disability Claim determination period ever be extended?**

Yes, the Plan may extend the review period twice, each time by 30 days, if the extension is necessary due to circumstances beyond the control of the Plan. If an extension is necessary, the Plan will notify you in writing.

**Q14. What if I did not submit all the necessary information to process my Disability Claim?**

The Plan will send you a written notice and will provide a description of the required documents or information. You will then have 45 days to submit the additional information to the Plan.

**Q15. Will I receive a notice if my Disability Claim is denied?**

Yes, you will receive a notice that will contain the following information:

- Information sufficient to identify the Claim.
- The specific reason for the denial.
- Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based.
- A description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of your right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502 following a denial on review, if applicable.
- A statement that you are 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.
- 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 you upon request.

**Q16. If my Disability Claim is denied, what should I do?**

When you receive a denial, you will have **180 days** following receipt of the notification in which to appeal the decision. You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim. If you request, you will 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.

**Q17. If I appeal a Disability Claim determination, what happens next?**

Once you have submitted an appeal, you will receive a written response within 45 days after receipt of your request to review a Claim determination. The 45-day period may be extended by 45 days if the Plan determines that special circumstances require an extension. If an extension is required, you will receive a written notification.

**NON-HEALTH/NON-DISABILITY PLANS**

**Q18. What if a Plan Component is not a Health Care or Disability Component?**

Generally, any Plan Component that is not a Health Care or Disability Component will review a Claim within 90 days and provide written notification of its decision. The 90-day period may be extended by 90-days in certain circumstances. If you disagree with the Claim decision, you may file an appeal within 60 days of your receipt of the written notice of denial of a Claim. The Plan administrator will then render a decision within 60 days after receipt of the request for review. In special circumstances, the Plan may make a determination within 120 days after the receipt of your request for review. If such an extension is required, you will be notified in writing.

**LEGAL ACTIONS**

**Q19. What should I do if I want to pursue a legal action against the Plan?**

These claim and appeals procedures must be exhausted for all claims before you can bring any legal action. If you do not make a claim or file an appeal in the manner and within the appropriate time period discussed in this SPD or, if applicable, the Benefit Documents of a Plan Component, you may lose the right to file suit in state or federal court in the state of California.

The individual named below can be served with legal papers regarding the Plan.

University of Southern California  
Attn: Chief Legal Officer  
3551 Trousdale Parkway  
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Service of legal process also may be directed to the Plan Administrator.

## Q20. What is the time limit to bring a lawsuit?

Please refer to the applicable Benefit Document for information about the time period applicable to your Claim. If the Benefit Document does not contain any such provision, as permitted by law, you must bring a lawsuit within the following time frames:

- In the case of a fully-insured Plan Component, the time period for bringing any lawsuit against the insurance company issuing such Plan Component or the Plan will be determined by the terms of the applicable Plan Component. If the Plan Component does not set forth such a time period, you must bring any lawsuit seeking benefits within the shorter of (i) one year from the date of the final appeal denial under the Plan's claims and appeals procedures or (ii) three years from the date of the services giving rise to the claim. All claims other than claims for benefits must be brought within one year of the act or omission giving rise to the claim.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### Q1. What happens to my Benefits if I take a leave of absence?

Depending on the leave policies and procedures adopted by your Employer, you may be able to continue certain Benefits while on an approved leave of absence. If you are eligible to continue certain Benefits, you may be required to complete certain forms or documents and pay towards the cost of coverage.

#### Q2. Is my Employer required to comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?

Yes, your Employer is required to comply with FMLA. The Plan Administrator must continue Health Care Plan coverage while you are on leave protected by the FMLA.

#### Q3. What happens if my leave is protected by FMLA?

If your leave is protected under FMLA, you may continue your group health care coverage under the Plan (e.g. Medical, Dental, or Vision) for you and any covered Dependents as long as you continue to pay your portion of the cost for your Benefits during the leave, or if allowed, after the leave.

Your Employer may offer the following options for payment of Contributions:

- **Paid Leave** – Contributions will be automatically deducted from payroll.
- **Unpaid Leave** – You will be required to submit payment to your Employer for any required Contributions. If you do not pay Contributions in a timely manner, your Employer has at least 15 days before cessation of your coverage to provide you with a notice of the cancellation. Unless your Employer has adopted a longer grace period, you will have **15 days** from the date of the notice to make the required payment. If you fail to make the payment in the permitted time, your coverage will be cancelled.

Any coverage that are terminated during your FMLA leave will be reinstated upon your return from leave without any evidence of good health or newly imposed waiting period so long as you make the required Contributions, including any catch-up payments, if applicable, attributable to the period prior to your return from leave.

#### Q4. What happens if I experience a "change in status" while on FMLA leave?

If you experience a "change in status" (e.g., change in marital status, number of Dependents, residency, or employment status), you may change your coverage election as if you were actively employed.

#### Q5. What happens if I do not return to work following my FMLA leave?

If you do not return to work following your FMLA leave, you may be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage, if applicable. You may also be required to reimburse your Employer for costs of coverage provided to you while you were on unpaid FMLA leave.

#### Q6. What happens if my leave is protected under USERRA?

If you are going into or returning from military service, your Benefits may be protected under USERRA. Under USERRA, you may elect to continue coverage under the Plan for up to 24 months. To continue coverage, you must comply with the terms of the Plan, including election and payment of coverage. Moreover, upon return from leave protected under USERRA, your coverage will be reinstated (i.e., begin again).

### LEGAL MATTERS

#### Q7. Can I assign my rights under the Plan to another person or third party?

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or required by law, Benefits payable to you or your Dependents under the Plan may not be assigned, transferred or in any way made over to another party.

Even if an assignment is permitted under the Benefit Document, the Plan Administrator, or any delegated third-party, has the right to determine the validity of the assignment.

#### Q8. Is this document a contract between me and my Employer?

No, this document is an SPD and is intended to summarize general provisions of the Plan. This document does not constitute a contract of any type between you and your Employer. Nothing in this document shall give you any right of employment.

## DEFINITIONS

When used in this SPD with initial capital letters, the following words will have the meanings described below unless the content indicates other meanings are intended. If any defined term in this SPD conflicts with the same term contained in an insurance contract or other document, the other document shall govern.

**BENEFIT** – Each benefit available under the Plan, as identified in Appendix A.

**BENEFIT DOCUMENT** – Any policy, contract, or other document that governs the terms of the Benefit.

**CHILD(REN)** – Your child(ren) as defined in a Benefit Document.

**CIVIL UNION PARTNER** – Your Civil Union Partner as defined in the Benefit's insurance contract or other document for eligibility requirements.

**CLAIM** – A request for benefits made by you under the terms of the Benefit Document.

**CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR** – The Plan Administrator or the third party appointed by the Plan Administrator to review claims submitted by you, including appeals, as applicable.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** – The amount paid by you or your Employer equal to the cost of coverage under a Benefit.

**DEPENDENT** – Your dependent as defined in the applicable Benefit Document.

**DISABILITY PLAN** – The Benefit that provides a Participant supplemental income during a limited or extended period of time due to the inability to work as a result of illness, injury, or accident. The Disability Plan includes a short-term disability plan, other than state-mandated benefits, and a long-term disability plan.

**DOMESTIC PARTNER** – Your Domestic Partner as defined in the Benefit's insurance contract or other document for eligibility requirements.

**EMPLOYER** – Your Employer who adopted this Plan is University of Southern California. Your Employer will also serve as the Plan Administrator, as defined in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), who is responsible for the day-to-day operations and decisions regarding the Plan, unless a separate Plan Administrator is appointed for all or some of the Plan responsibilities.

**HEALTH CARE PLAN** – Any Benefit that provides medical care, including a Major Medical Option, dental, vision.

**MAJOR MEDICAL OPTION** – A Benefit that provides medical benefits, other than vision or dental benefits, to eligible employees and their Eligible Dependents.

**PARTICIPANT** – An employee of your Employer who has satisfied the eligibility requirements and entered the Plan.

**PLAN** – The Plan described in this SPD is the University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program.

**PLAN ADMINISTRATOR** – Your Employer is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Plan and is the Plan Administrator unless an appointed Plan Administrator is named in the Administrative Information section of this SPD.

**PLAN DOCUMENT** – The document that sets out the official terms and conditions of the Plan.

**PLAN SPONSOR** – The Plan Sponsor is University of Southern California.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Q1. Who has the authority to make determinations under the Plan?

The Plan Administrator has discretionary authority to interpret and make determinations under the Plan. The Plan Administrator may delegate its authority to third parties regarding Claims administration (e.g., the review and processing of Claims), ministerial services (e.g., recordkeeping, mailing of notices, etc.), and other services, as necessary.

### Q2. What are some of the duties of the Plan Administrator?

The Plan Administrator's duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Appointing and supervising a third-party administrator to pay Claims;
- Administering the Plan in accordance with its terms;
- Delegating to any person or entity powers, duties, and responsibilities, as necessary;
- Determining all questions of eligibility, status, and coverage under the Plan;
- Interpreting the Plan, including ambiguities, inconsistencies, omissions, and disputed terms;
- Making factual findings;
- Deciding disputes that may arise relative to a covered person's rights;
- Recommending procedures for filing a Claim for Benefits, review Claim denials, and appeals relating to them, and uphold or reverse such denials;
- Keeping and maintaining the Plan document and all other records pertaining to the Plan;
- Performing all necessary reporting, as required by ERISA, if applicable;
- Establishing and communicating procedures to determine an order's status as a qualified medical child support order; and
- Performing functions necessary for the Plan's administration.

**Q3. Can changes be made to the Plan?**

Yes. While the Employer intends to maintain the Plan indefinitely, the Employer may, in its sole discretion, at any time, amend, suspend, or terminate the Plan in whole or in part. This includes amending Benefits provided under the Plan. If an amendment, suspension, or termination is enacted, the Employer will provide notice, as required by law.

**Q4. What happens if the Plan Administrator or its delegates makes a clerical error?**

If the Plan Administrator or its delegated agent make a clerical error, the error will not invalidate coverage. Rather, coverage effective dates will be determined solely in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, including any Benefit Document. Moreover, as permitted by law, the Plan Administrator will make an equitable adjustment as a result of an error or delay.

**Q5. If the Plan receives a premium refund, will the reimbursement be paid to Participants?**

If the Plan has an insured Major Medical Option, the Plan may receive a refund of premium payments. For example, the Plan may receive a medical loss ratio rebate or an experience adjustment. If this occurs, your Employer will determine if the refund is a Plan asset. If so, the Plan Administrator will have discretion to pay the refund to Participants as follows:

- Distribute a refund to Participants within 90 days of receipt,
- Use the refund to reduce Participants' portion of future premiums under the Plan; or
- Use the refund to enhance future Benefits under the Plan.

If the Plan Administrator determines the refund does not belong to the Plan, the Employer may determine how to use the refund and the Participants will not have any right to reimbursement.

**Q6. Who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Plan?**

Your Employer is responsible for the Plan's day-to-day administration. To assist in operating the Plan efficiently and accurately, your Employer may appoint additional persons or organizations to act on its behalf or to perform certain functions. The Plan Administrator may provide the Claims administration through a third-party Claims Administrator.

The Plan Administrator keeps the records for the Plan and is responsible for the administration of the Plan. The Administrator will also answer any questions you may have about the Plan. The Plan Administrator has the exclusive right to interpret the Plan's provisions. You may contact the Plan Administrator for any further information about the Plan.

**Q7. Who is responsible to administer the Plan's Claims?**

The Claims Administrator is responsible to administer the Plan's Claims. The Claims Administrator is:

- The Insurance Issuer appointed by the Employer.
- The Employer.

Refer to the chart in Appendix A for Claims Administrator contact information.

**Q8. Is the Plan subject to a collective bargaining agreement?**

Yes. Certain benefits described in this SPD are maintained pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements for eligible union employees. A copy of any applicable collective bargaining agreement may be obtained by participants and beneficiaries upon written request to your union representative at:

The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America  
United Auto Workers  
8000 East Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48214  
313-926-5000

The collective bargaining agreement is also available for examination by participants and beneficiaries during normal business hours at the offices of the Employer.

**Q9. How can I obtain additional information about the Plan?**

For additional information regarding the Plan, contact the person or department listed on Page i of this SPD, or refer to the Benefit Documents. Copies of the Plan document, this SPD, and incorporated Benefit Documents are available free of charge from your Employer upon request.

**Q10. If I receive a medical child support order, what should I do?**

If you receive a medical child support order, send the order to the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator will then review the order to determine if it is a "qualified medical child support order" (QMCSO). If it is determined the order is a QMCSO, the Plan will automatically change your coverage to extend coverage to the Child. Coverage for the Child will begin on the date specified in the order, or if none is specified, the date of the order, as permitted under a Benefit.

You are permitted to obtain, without charge, a copy of the policy and/or procedures governing the QMCSO from the Plan Administrator.

**Q11. When can the Plan Administrator retroactively terminate coverage provided under a Health Care Plan?**

A retroactive termination of coverage is referred to as a "rescission." The Plan Administrator may retroactively terminate your coverage or the coverage of your Eligible Dependent if you commit fraud or if you intentionally misrepresent a material fact to the Plan.

## Q12. What is considered fraud or intentional misrepresentation?

Fraud or intentional misrepresentation occurs when you obtain Benefits by fraudulently or intentionally misrepresenting a material fact to the Plan. If you fraudulently or intentionally misrepresent a fact, the Plan Administrator may take certain action, as permitted by law, at its sole discretion.

## YOUR RIGHTS UNDER ERISA

### Q1. Is the Plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)?

Yes, the Plan is subject to ERISA and you have certain rights summarized in this section.

### Q2. What are my legal rights and protections under the Plan?

As a Participant in the Plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under ERISA. ERISA provides that all Plan Participants shall be entitled to the following.

#### **Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

1. Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts and any collective bargaining agreements, and, if required by ERISA to be filed, a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefit Security Administration.
2. Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) (if required by ERISA to be prepared) and updated SPD. The administrator may charge a reasonable fee for the copies.
3. Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each Participant with a copy of this summary Annual Report.

#### **Continue Health Care Plan Coverage**

The Plan Administrator is required to continue Health Care Plan coverage for you or your 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 SPD and the documents governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

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

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

#### **Enforce Your Rights**

If your Claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within a certain period of time. Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of the Plan document or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan Administrator.

If you have a Claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court after exhausting the Plan's Claims procedures. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court. If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

#### **Assistance With Your Questions**

If you have any questions about your Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. For more information about this statement or your rights under ERISA or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, 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 the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

You also may obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the EBSA. In addition, you may contact the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, EBSA, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

## COBRA

This section has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This section 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 this SPD 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.

## Q1. 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 Q1. 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.

Each qualified beneficiary is required to pay the entire cost of COBRA coverage, including both employee and employer contributions. The amount a qualified beneficiary may be required to pay may not exceed 102% (or, in the case of an extension of COBRA coverage due to a disability, 150%) of the cost to the Health Care Plan.

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:

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

## Q2. Can I elect continuation for my Domestic Partner?

An individual covered under the Plan due to his or her status as an employee's Domestic Partner is not provided with federal continuation coverage rights under COBRA. However, the Plan will provide such Domestic Partners with continuation coverage that mirrors the rights and obligations of continuation coverage of the spouse of an employee under COBRA.

If you are covered under the Plan as a dependent because of your status as an employee's Domestic Partner, you will be treated as a qualified beneficiary ("Domestic Partner qualified beneficiary") if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events occurs:

- Your Domestic Partner dies;
- Your Domestic Partner's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your Domestic Partner's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The employee- Domestic Partner becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- Your domestic partnership terminates.

**Notification requirements.** If you become eligible for these continuation coverage rights because of the termination of your domestic partnership, you must notify the Plan Administrator in writing within 60 days after the later of (1) the date your domestic partnership terminates; or (2) the date on which you lose (or would lose) coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the termination of the domestic partnership. Your notice must indicate that your domestic partnership has terminated, the date of such termination, and your name and address. You must provide this notice to the contact listed on Page i of this SPD.

**You may lose your right to elect continuation coverage if proper procedures are not followed within the time periods described.**

As a Domestic Partner qualified beneficiary, your election requirements, length of continuation coverage, cost of continuation coverage, payment obligations, and termination of the continuation coverage rights will be equivalent to those of an eligible spouse who is a qualified beneficiary under COBRA as described in this "Continuation of Coverage Rights" section.

If you have any questions about continuation coverage requirements and benefits for Domestic Partners, please contact the Plan Administrator.



### **Q3. 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;
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

#### **NOTICE PROCEDURES:**

**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, or a longer time period if permitted by the Plan, or the latest of:**

- The date of the qualifying event;
- The date coverage would be lost because of the qualifying event; or
- The date on which the qualified beneficiary was informed of the responsibility to provide the notice and procedures for doing so.

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must include:

- the Plan's name: University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program,
- the name and address of the Participant and any other qualified beneficiaries,
- the Qualifying Event and the date it happened, and,
- be accompanied by any documentation providing proof of the event (e.g., the divorce decree, legal separation agreement).

If provided electronically (if allowed), your notice should be provided by following the Plan Administrator's reasonable procedures established in compliance with the regulations.

**You must provide this notice to the person, department or entity listed on Page i of this SPD.**

### **Q4. 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 qualify for the disability extension, the qualified beneficiary must notify the Plan Administrator of the disability determination on a date that is both within 60 days after the date of the determination and before the end of the original 18-month maximum coverage. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee and in accordance with the procedures described above.

#### **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.

#### **Extension of COBRA Coverage under California State Law**

COBRA qualified beneficiaries under federal law who are covered under a group health policy issued in California are eligible to receive up to 18 months of additional continuation coverage for medical care upon completion of the 18 months received under federal COBRA. This provision does not apply to self-funded medical plans. The combination of state and federal COBRA continuation coverage may not exceed 36 months in any event. The 36-month period dates back to the original qualifying event. The additional period of continuation coverage terminates the earliest of:

- The date the maximum period of coverage expires;
- The date coverage ceases because a premium payment is not made on time;
- The date the employer no longer provides any group health plan; or,
- The date the employee or qualified beneficiary moves out of insurer's services area.

**Q5. 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, Medicare, Medicaid, [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), 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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

**Q6. Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?**

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>.

**Q7. What if I have additional 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](http://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](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

**Q8. How do I protect my COBRA rights?**

**Keep Your Plan Administrator Informed of Address Changes.** To protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in your family members' addresses. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices that you send to the Plan Administrator or its designee.

**Q9. What factors should be considered when determining to elect COBRA continuation coverage?**

You may have the right to request special enrollment in another health plan for which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your spouse's employer) within 30 days after Plan coverage ends because of a Qualifying Event listed above. You may also have the same special right at the end of COBRA continuation coverage if you elect COBRA continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

**Q10. What is the procedure for obtaining COBRA continuation coverage?**

The Plan has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

**Q11. What is the election period and how long must it last?**

The election period is the time period within which the qualified beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan. The election period must begin no later than the date the qualified beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before the date that is 60 days after the later of 1) the date the qualified beneficiary would lose coverage because of the Qualifying Event, or 2) the date notice is provided to the qualified beneficiary of the qualified beneficiary's right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

**Q12. Will a waiver made before the end of the election period end a qualified beneficiary's election rights?**

If, during the election period, a qualified beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. The waiver's revocation is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. If a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee, as applicable.

**Q13. Is COBRA continuation coverage available if a qualified beneficiary has Medicare?**

Qualified Beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage may do so even if they are entitled to Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA continuation coverage is elected. But a qualified beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA continuation coverage, the qualified beneficiary becomes entitled to Medicare or becomes covered under another health Plan.

**Q14. When may a qualified beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage be terminated?**

A qualified beneficiary may waive COBRA continuation coverage during the election period. Except for an interruption of coverage in connection with a waiver, a qualified beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage must extend for at least the period beginning on the date of the Qualifying Event and ending not before the earliest of the following dates.

- The last day of the applicable maximum coverage period.

- The first day for which timely payment is not made to the Plan with respect to the qualified beneficiary.
- The date upon which your Employer ceases to provide any health Plan (including a successor Plan) to any employee.
- The date, after the date of the election, that the qualified beneficiary first becomes covered under a health Plan.
- The date, after the date of the election, that the qualified beneficiary first becomes entitled to Medicare (either part A or part B, whichever occurs earlier).
- The later of the following two dates if the qualified beneficiary is entitled to a disability extension.
  1. The end of the maximum coverage period that applies to the qualified beneficiary without regard to the disability extension.
  2. The earlier of 1) the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date of a final determination under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act that the qualified beneficiary is no longer disabled, or 2) 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event.

The Plan can terminate for cause a qualified beneficiary's coverage on the same basis that the Plan terminates for cause the coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries (for example, for submitting a fraudulent Claim).

If the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the qualified beneficiary ceases, and an individual who is not a qualified beneficiary receives coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a qualified beneficiary, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a qualified beneficiary.

**Q15. Must the Plan allow payment for COBRA continuation coverage to be made in monthly installments?**

Yes. The Plan is also permitted to allow for payment at other intervals.

**Q16. What is considered timely when paying for COBRA continuation coverage?**

Payment is made timely if made no later than 30 days after the first day of the coverage period.

The Plan does not require payment for any period of COBRA continuation coverage for a qualified beneficiary earlier than 45 days after the date on which the election of COBRA continuation coverage is made for that qualified beneficiary. Payment is considered made on the date on which it is postmarked to those providing COBRA continuation coverage.

If you make a timely payment and the payment is less than the amount the Plan requires, the Plan Administrator may consider the amount timely if 1) the amount owed is insignificant, and 2) you pay the amount owed within a reasonable period. A reasonable period is 30 days, and an insignificant amount is considered \$50 or 10% of the required amount. Please see the Plan document for additional information.

**PRIVACY RIGHTS UNDER HIPAA**

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

This notice describes how your Protected Health Information (PHI) may be used or disclosed under the privacy and security rules of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). PHI or Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) means individually identifiable health information held by, or on behalf of, the Plan.

***Uses and Disclosures of Your Information***

The Plan Administrator on behalf of the Plan may use or disclose your PHI for the purposes of routine treatment, payment, or health care operations related to the Plan. For example, the Plan may use your PHI for management activities related to the Plan—including auditing, fraud and abuse detection, and customer service. The Plan also may use or disclose your PHI in order to pay your Claims for benefits. For example, the Plan may use your information to make eligibility determinations and for billing and Claims management purposes. Note that the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) prohibits using PHI that is genetic information for underwriting purposes. In addition, the Plan may disclose your PHI to the Plan Administrator so that the Plan Administrator can perform administrative functions on behalf of the Plan, such as facilitating Claims or appeals.

The Plan also may use or disclose your PHI where required or permitted by law. The Plan Administrator on behalf of the Plan is permitted to use or disclose PHI:

- when required by law;
- for public health activities;
- to report Child or domestic abuse;
- for governmental oversight activities;
- pursuant to judicial or administrative proceedings;
- for certain law enforcement purposes;
- for a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director in order to obtain information about a deceased individual;
- for organ, eye, or tissue donation purposes;
- for certain government-approved research activities;
- to avert a serious threat to an individual's or the public's health or safety;
- for certain government functions, such as related to military service or national security;
- to comply with workers' compensation laws;
- to a family member or close friend that you have identified and who is directly involved in your care or payment for your care; or
- to notify a family member or other individual involved in the care of your location, general condition, or death or to a public or private entity authorized by law or its charter to assist in disaster relief efforts to make such notifications.

For any other uses and disclosures of your PHI, the Plan will obtain your written authorization. The Plan will obtain your written authorization to use or disclose PHI for marketing purposes where the Plan receives financial remuneration, for the sale of PHI, or with respect to psychotherapy notes, except for limited health care operations purposes. You may revoke this authorization in writing at any time, provided the Plan has not yet acted while relying on your authorization.

Stricter State Privacy Laws – Under the HIPAA privacy and security rules, the Plan is required to comply with state laws, if any, that also are applicable and are not contrary to HIPAA (for example, where state laws may be stricter). The Plan maintains a policy to ensure compliance with these laws.

#### **Your Rights With Respect To Your Health Information**

You have several rights with respect to your PHI, which are described below. Please call the Privacy Officer listed below if you have questions about your rights.

- You have the right to request restrictions on how your PHI may be used or disclosed. The Plan generally is not required to agree to your requested restriction, except in limited circumstances.
- You have the right to receive your PHI confidentially, such as at a location other than your home, if you state in writing that disclosing the information through normal means could endanger you.
- You have the right to inspect and copy your PHI that is maintained by the Plan in a designated record set or to request an electronic copy. The Plan may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for such copies.
- You have the right to request an amendment to your PHI that the Plan maintains in a designated record set. The Plan may deny your request for an amendment if it believes your information is accurate and complete, or if the information was created by a party other than the Plan.
- You have a right to request an accounting of disclosures that the Plan has made of your PHI during the six years before your request, except for disclosures that you have authorized or for disclosures related to routine treatment, payment, or health care operations of the Plan.
- You have a right to request a paper copy of this notice, even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically.

#### **Our Duties With Respect To Your Individually Identifiable Health Information**

The Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI and to provide you with a notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI.

#### **Questions?**

If you have questions or would like more information about the Plan's privacy policies, you may contact the Privacy Officer. The Privacy Officer is responsible for developing and implementing the Plan's privacy policies and procedures.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Plan or the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You cannot be retaliated against for filing such a complaint.

## **OTHER LEGAL NOTICES**

### **Q1. Do I have any other legal rights and protections under the Plan?**

Yes, the Plan is required to comply with other federal regulations, which guarantee certain legal rights and protections, as follows.

#### **Your Rights Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA) provides certain consumer protections, including the elimination of annual and lifetime limits on benefits, the provision of preventive services without cost sharing, the limitation of out-of-pocket annual costs, the coverage of essential health benefits, the elimination of waiting periods of more than 90 days for coverage to begin, the elimination of pre-existing conditions, and the guarantee of issue and renewal of coverage. As applicable, these provisions are contained within the Benefit Document of the Major Medical Option.

#### **Your Rights Under the Americans With Disabilities Act**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides that your Employer may not discriminate against you on the basis of disability. In addition, it generally restricts your Employer from obtaining medical information from you but permits your Employer to obtain medical information or request medical examinations as part of a voluntary Wellness Program. Your Employer may not deny you the right to access the Wellness Program on the basis of disability. If you have a disability, your Employer is required to provide a reasonable accommodation or adjustment that allows you to participate in the Wellness Program. Any information provided to your Employer due to participation in the Wellness Program must remain confidential. To request an accommodation, please contact the Plan Administrator or follow the instructions contained in the "Notice Regarding Wellness Program."

#### **Your Rights Under the Family and Medical Leave Act**

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides that Health Care must be maintained during any period of unpaid leave covered by FMLA under the same conditions as if you continued to work. Moreover, FMLA requires that you be reinstated to the same or an equivalent job with the same pay, benefits, and terms and conditions of employment on your return from FMLA-protected leave. If your leave extends beyond the end of your FMLA entitlement, you do not have return rights under FMLA. If you do not return to work following FMLA leave for a reason other than: 1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition which would entitle you to FMLA leave; 2) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a covered servicemember's serious injury or illness which would entitle you to FMLA leave; or 3) other circumstances beyond your control, you may be required to reimburse your Employer for its share of health care premiums or Contributions paid on your behalf during your FMLA leave.

#### **Your Rights Under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008**

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) provides that your Employer may not discriminate against you on the basis of genetic information, including adjusting premiums and contribution amounts.

#### **Your Rights Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Special Enrollment)**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) provides certain special enrollment rights if you decline coverage in the Major Medical Option for yourself or your Eligible Dependents because of other coverage. If you or your Eligible Dependents lose eligibility for

that other coverage or if your Employer stops contributing toward your or your Dependent's other coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your Eligible Dependent in the Major Medical Option. Generally, you must request enrollment within 30 days after your or your Eligible Dependent's other coverage ends or after your Employer stops contributing toward the other coverage.

If the other coverage is Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your Eligible Dependent's Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends. Finally, if you have a new Eligible Dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your Eligible Dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

#### ***Your Rights Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Health Factors)***

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) prohibits the Major Medical Option from discriminating against you or your Eligible Dependents based on a health factor. Health factors include your health status, medical condition, claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or disability. Compliance with this provision is not determinative of compliance with any other federal or state laws, including COBRA or ADA.

#### ***Your Rights Under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008***

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) provides that if any Major Medical Option under the Plan 1) provides for both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits, and 2) is not subject to increased cost exemption (within the meaning of the MHPAEA), the following conditions apply:

- The Major Medical Option may not apply annual or lifetime limits for mental health or substance use disorders that are lower than those for medical and surgical benefits.
- The Major Medical Option may not apply more restrictive financial requirements or treatment limitations to mental health or substance use disorder benefits in any classification than the predominant limitations applied to substantially all of the medical and surgical benefits in any classification.
- The criteria for medical necessity determinations made under any health insurance option with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits will be made available by the Plan Administrator (in accordance with the MHPAEA) to any current or potential Participant upon request.
- The reason for any denial under the Plan for reimbursement or payment for services with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits in the case of any Participant will, on request or as otherwise required under the MHPAEA, be made available by the Plan Administrator to the Participant in accordance with the Claims procedures applicable to the group medical coverage feature.
- The Plan will be operated and constructed in all respects in compliance with the MHPAEA.

"Mental health benefits" and "substance use disorder benefits" are defined in the Major Medical Option applicable to the health insurance option, pursuant to applicable state and federal law, and consistent with generally recognized standards of current medical practice.

#### ***Your Rights Under Michelle's Law***

Michelle's Law provides that a Major Medical Option of the Plan that requires a certification of student status for any period of coverage of an Eligible Dependent will comply with Public Law No. 110-381 (2008), as amended from time to time. Eligibility for such coverage for an Eligible Dependent who is enrolled in an institution of higher education at the beginning of a medically necessary leave of absence will be extended if the leave normally would cause the Eligible Dependent to lose eligibility for coverage under any Major Medical Option's coverage due to loss of student status. This eligibility extension shall last up to one year beginning on the first day of the medically necessary leave of absence or the date the coverage would otherwise terminate due to loss of student status, whichever is earlier.

#### ***Your Rights Under Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act***

The Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (NMHPA) provides that the Major Medical Option of the Plan 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 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, the Major Medical Option may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the Plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

#### ***Your Maternity Hospital Stay Rights under California State Law***

The California Newborns' and Mothers' Health Act of 1997 generally requires group policies issued in the State of California that provide maternity benefits to cover at least 48 hours of inpatient care after a normal vaginal delivery and at least 96 hours after a cesarean section, unless:

- The treating physician in consultation with the mother decides on an earlier discharge; and
- The policy covers one postdischarge follow-up visit for the mother and child within 48 hours when prescribed by the treating physician; this visit must be conducted by a licensed health care provider whose scope of practice includes postpartum and newborn care and must include parent education, training in breast or bottle feeding, and all necessary maternal and neonatal assessments. The treating physician in consultation with the mother must determine whether the follow-up visit takes place in the office, at home, or in another facility.

#### ***Your Rights Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964***

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) provides that your Employer cannot discriminate against you on the basis of religion. Title VII permits you to request an accommodation to participate in a Wellness Program Plan due to a sincerely-held religious belief, practice, or observance and requires your Employer to provide the reasonable accommodation or adjustment unless the request imposes an undue hardship.

#### ***Your Rights Under USERRA***

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides for continuation of Health Care Plan coverage if you are called for active-duty military service. The maximum length of extended coverage under USERRA is the lesser of

- 24 months beginning on the date that the military leave begins, or
- A period beginning on the day that the leave began and ending on the day after your reemployment application deadline.

If your military leave does not exceed 31 days, you will not be required to pay more than your share of the premium toward the extended coverage. If the leave is 31 days or more, then you will be required to pay the full premium cost, plus an additional two-percent administration fee. If you return to covered employment after a military leave has ended, your medical coverage will be reinstated. You will not have to provide proof of good health or satisfy any waiting periods that might otherwise apply. However, exclusions or limitations may apply to an illness or injury (as defined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) incurred as a result of the military service.

***Your Rights Under Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act***

The Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) requires that a Major Medical Option that provides medical and surgical benefits with respect to a mastectomy provide coverage for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
- Prostheses and treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These services must be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient. This coverage may be subject to annual deductibles, copays, and coinsurance provisions applicable to other such medical and surgical benefits provided under the applicable medical option. Please refer to the Major Medical Option’s summary of benefits coverage for additional information. If you have other questions, please contact the Plan Administrator.

***Your Rights Under Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021***

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (CAA) provides for:

- Certain disclosures, including insurance ID cards with stated in-network and out-of-network deductibles and out-of-pocket costs; and provider directories that are current and accurate.
- Notification of the ability to receive transitional care for an ongoing course of treatment when an in-network facility transitions to an out-of-network facility during a course of treatment.
- Protections from surprise medical bills from out-of-network providers for emergency services and out-of-network services at in-network facilities.

Contact your Plan Administrator for this information as it pertains to a particular Benefit.

**Q2. Is there anything else I should know if I want to enroll my Domestic Partner?**

Yes. Unless otherwise provided by the Plan Documents, you must be aware of the following:

***Imputed Income:*** Under current federal income tax laws, the value of providing medical benefits to a Domestic Partner and the partner’s Eligible Dependent Children is considered taxable to you—unless they are considered your Dependents for purposes of federal income taxes. This means you will pay federal, state, and local income taxes, as well as employment taxes, on the full value of the coverage provided to your Domestic Partner and the partner’s Dependents. This type of taxable income is known as imputed income, and your Employer will report it on your Form W-2 at the end of each year. It is important for you to understand the tax implications of covering a Domestic Partner and the partner’s Eligible Dependent Children. Please consult a tax advisor to determine the full tax and financial effect of electing this coverage.

**Appendix A**  
**University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program**

**Plan Components and Claims Administrators**

Benefit Documents are part of this SPD. Any update to the Benefit Document will replace any earlier versions for the period defined in the updated Benefit Document.

Fully-Insured Benefits	Policy/Group No.	Type of Benefit	Claims Administrator <i>(Use the address &amp; phone number on your ID Card if different)</i>	
<b>Aetna</b> 151 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06156	806301	Medical – HMO Medical – PPO	Aetna PO Box 14079 Lexington, KY 40512-4079  <u>Grievances:</u> Aetna PO Box 14463 Lexington, KY 40512	888-632-3862  <a href="http://www.aetna.com">www.aetna.com</a>
<b>DeltaCare USA</b> 560 Mission Street, Suite 1300 San Francisco, CA 94105	70064	Dental – DHMO	DeltaCare USA PO Box 1810 Alpharetta, GA 30023	866-774-5595  <a href="http://www1.deltadentalins.com">www1.deltadentalins.com</a>
<b>EyeMed Vision Care</b> 4000 Luxottica Place Mason, OH 45040	98521871001	Vision	EyeMed PO Box 8504 Mason, OH 45040	866-804-0982  <a href="http://member.eyemedvisioncare.com">member.eyemedvisioncare.com</a>
<b>Principal Life Insurance Company</b> 711 High Street Des Moines, IA 50392	1029227	Dental – PPO	Principal PO Box 10357 Des Moines, IA 50392	800-247-4695  <a href="http://www.principal.com">www.principal.com</a>
<b>Hartford Life &amp; Accident Insurance Company</b> One Hartford Plaza Hartford, CT 06155	804118G	Long-Term Disability Short-Term Disability	The Hartford PO Box 14302 Lexington, KY 40512-4302	888-277-4767  <a href="http://www.thehartford.com">www.thehartford.com</a>
<b>The Standard Insurance Company</b> 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 711 Portland, OR 97204	160197	Basic Life/AD&D	The Standard PO Box 2800 Portland, OR 97208	800-628-8600  <a href="http://www.standard.com">www.standard.com</a>

## Appendix B

### University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program

#### Eligibility and Participation Requirements

An employee who is determined to be benefit-eligible as of their start date shall be able to participate in the Plan as of the Coverage Date specified below.

Employee Class	Working Hours Minimum	Benefits Offered	Date Coverage Begins
All Employees	30 hours per week	All Benefits Included in Appendix A	Date of Hire

#### Dependent Eligibility

Unless specified otherwise under the applicable Plan Component's benefit documents, coverage for dependents, if elected, begins on the date the Employee's coverage begins (provided the Employee timely enroll them in coverage). Mid-Plan Year elections for newly acquired Dependents may also be permitted under certain circumstances.

Dependent Definitions. For purposes of eligibility and participation in this Plan, Dependent definitions shall have the same meaning set forth in each applicable Plan Component's benefit documents.

Proof of Dependent Status. Your Employer reserves the right to verify a Dependent is eligible or continues to be eligible for coverage under the Plan. Documents requested may include (but are not limited to) copies of birth certificates, court orders, divorce decrees or marriage certificates as needed to establish dependent status. Dependent eligibility determinations made by your Employer shall be final, binding and conclusive on all parties claiming an interest in the Plan.

#### Cessation of Participation

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable Benefit Documents, your coverage will cease upon the earliest of the following:

- The date or end of the month (as applicable under each Plan Component) in which you cease to satisfy the eligibility requirements for a particular Plan Benefit. This may result from your death, reduction in hours, or termination of active, or if your hours of service are tracked under the ACA Look-Back Measurement Method, it may result because you lose ACA full-time status during a subsequent Standard Stability Period;
- The end of the period for which you paid your required Contribution if the Contribution for the next period is not paid when due;
- The date you report for active military service, unless coverage is continued through the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA") as described in the "Your Rights Under USERRA" section; or,
- The date that your coverage is terminated by amendment of the Plan, by whole or partial termination of the Plan, termination of the contract or agreement, or by discontinuance of Contributions for your Employer.

Coverage for your spouse and other Dependents (including your Domestic Partner or Civil Union Partner) terminates when your coverage terminates. Their coverage will also cease for other reasons specified in the Benefit Documents for the Plan Components. In addition, their coverage will terminate:

- The date or end of the month on which your covered spouse, Domestic Partner, Civil Union Partner, or Child is no longer considered an eligible Dependent;
- The date, end of the month, or end of the Plan Year in which your Dependent Child attains a Plan Component's limiting age (unless the Plan Component allows for the continuation of coverage for a mentally or physically disabled Child who is primarily dependent on you for support);
- The end of the pay period in which you stop making Contributions required for Dependent coverage; or,
- The date that a Child is no longer covered under QMCSO, if the Child is not otherwise eligible to participate in the Plan.

Depending on the reason for termination of coverage, you and your covered Dependents may have the right to continue health coverage temporarily under COBRA. See the "COBRA" section of this SPD for details.

#### Rehire Rule

An employee who is rehired prior to the end of a certain period of time after date of termination may be credited with hours of service met towards the eligibility waiting period during his or her preceding period of employment. If applicable, the Benefit Documents for each Component Plan will set forth the specifics for such rehire rules. Otherwise, a terminated employee who is rehired will be treated as a new hire and will be required to satisfy all eligibility and participation requirements for his or her employment class.



## APPENDIX C

### University of Southern California Postdoctoral Scholar Benefit Program

#### Premium Assistance under Medicaid and CHIP

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs, but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at [www.askebsa.dol.gov](http://www.askebsa.dol.gov) or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

<b>ALABAMA – Medicaid</b>	<b>ALASKA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-692-5447	The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: <a href="http://myakhipp.com/">http://myakhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: <a href="mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com">CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com</a> Medicaid Eligibility: <a href="https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx</a>
<b>ARKANSAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>CALIFORNIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: <a href="http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>
<b>COLORADO – Medicaid and CHIP+</b>	<b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b>
Health First Colorado Website: <a href="https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/">https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/</a> Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711 CHIP+: <a href="https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus">https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus</a> CHIP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): <a href="https://www.mycohibi.com/">https://www.mycohibi.com/</a> HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442	Website: <a href="https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html">https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html</a> Phone: 1-877-357-3268
<b>GEORGIA – Medicaid</b>	<b>INDIANA – Medicaid</b>
GA HIPP Website: <a href="https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp">https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp</a> Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1 GA CHIPRA Website: <a href="https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra">https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra</a> Phone: (678) 564-1162, Press 2	Health Insurance Premium Payment Program All other Medicaid Website: <a href="https://www.in.gov/medicaid/">https://www.in.gov/medicaid/</a> <a href="http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/">http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/</a> Family and Social Services Administration Phone: 1-800-403-0864 Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584
<b>IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)</b>	<b>KANSAS – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="#">Iowa Medicaid   Health &amp; Human Services</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: <a href="#">Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa   Health &amp; Human Services</a> Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)   Health &amp; Human Services (iowa.gov)</a> HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562	Website: <a href="https://www.kancare.ks.gov/">https://www.kancare.ks.gov/</a> Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660

<p align="center"><b>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx">https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx</a>  Phone: 1-855-459-6328  Email: <a href="mailto:KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov">KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov</a>  KCHIP Website: <a href="https://kynect.ky.gov">https://kynect.ky.gov</a>  Phone: 1-877-524-4718  Kentucky Medicaid Website: <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms">https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.medicaid.la.gov">www.medicaid.la.gov</a> or <a href="http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp">www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp</a>  Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)</p>
<p align="center"><b>MAINE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Enrollment Website: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a>  Phone: 1-800-442-6003  TTY: Maine relay 711  Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a>  Phone: -800-977-6740.  TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p align="center"><b>MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa">https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa</a>  Phone: 1-800-862-4840  TTY: 711  Email: <a href="mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com">masspremassistance@accenture.com</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>MINNESOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/">https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/</a>  Phone: 1-800-657-3672</p>	<p align="center"><b>MISSOURI – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a>  Phone: 573-751-2005</p>
<p align="center"><b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</a>  Phone: 1-800-694-3084  Email: <a href="mailto:HSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov">HSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a>  Phone: 1-855-632-7633  Lincoln: 402-473-7000  Omaha: 402-595-1178</p>
<p align="center"><b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dhcfp.nv.gov">http://dhcfp.nv.gov</a>  Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900</p>	<p align="center"><b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program</a>  Phone: 603-271-5218  Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218  Email: <a href="mailto:DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov">DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-800-356-1561  CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392  CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html</a>  CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)</p>	<p align="center"><b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/">https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
<p align="center"><b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</a>  Phone: 919-855-4100</p>	<p align="center"><b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare">https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare</a>  Phone: 1-844-854-4825</p>
<p align="center"><b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a>  Phone: 1-888-365-3742</p>	<p align="center"><b>OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a>  Phone: 1-800-699-9075</p>
<p align="center"><b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html">https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html</a>  Phone: 1-800-692-7462  CHIP Website: <a href="#">Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)</a>  CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)</p>	<p align="center"><b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a>  Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)</p>
<p align="center"><b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.scdhhs.gov">https://www.scdhhs.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-549-0820</p>	<p align="center"><b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-828-0059</p>

TEXAS – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Texas Health and Human Services</a>  Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p>Utah’s Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:upp@utah.gov">upp@utah.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-222-2542</p> <p>Adult Expansion Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/</a>  Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/</a>  CHIP Website: <a href="https://chip.utah.gov/">https://chip.utah.gov/</a></p>
VERMONT– Medicaid	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Department of Vermont Health Access</a>  Phone: 1-800-250-8427</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://covera.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select">https://covera.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select</a>  <a href="https://covera.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs">https://covera.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs</a>  Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924</p>
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: <a href="https://www.hca.wa.gov/">https://www.hca.wa.gov/</a>  Phone: 1-800-562-3022</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://dhr.wv.gov/bms/">https://dhr.wv.gov/bms/</a>  <a href="http://mywvhipp.com/">http://mywvhipp.com/</a>  Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700  CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)</p>
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	WYOMING – Medicaid
<p>Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm</a>  Phone: 1-800-362-3002</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/">https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/</a>  Phone: 1-800-251-1269</p>

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2024, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565