

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

### **GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

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

You may send us written comments and other items to support your claim. You may request at no charge any non-privileged information that is relevant to your appeal. You may request the names of the experts we may have consulted for advice about Your claim. You may also request, at no charge, any clinical rationale and/or specific clinical guidelines relied upon by them for any benefit determinations related to clinical necessity.

The appeal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who denied the claim. The new reviewer will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. For a dental benefit, denials may be based in whole or in part on a medical judgment. This includes determinations with regard to whether a service was considered experimental, investigational, and/or not medically necessary. The person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional.

This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original judgment and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items You submit to support Your claim.

If Your appeal is about urgent care, You may call Toll Free at 877-897-4328 and an Expedited Review will be conducted. Verbal notification of our decision will be made within 72 hours, followed by written notice within 3 calendar days after that.

If Your appeal is about dental benefit decisions related to clinical or medical necessity, a Standard Consultant Review will be conducted. A written decision will be provided within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the request for appeal.

If Your appeal is about dental, vision, or hearing benefit decisions related to coverage, a Standard Administrative Review will be conducted. A written decision will be provided within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the request for appeal.

Any request for review concerning this claim should be sent to:

**Quality Control  
P.O. Box 82657  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2657  
877-897-4328 (Toll Free)  
Fax 402-309-2579**

You also have the right to contact the South Dakota Division of Insurance at any time. Their address and telephone and fax numbers are:

**South Dakota Division of Insurance  
445 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-3563  
605-773-5369 (FAX)**