



## **INDIVIDUAL EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE AND DISCLOSURE FORM**

### **LIBERTY DENTAL PLAN OF CALIFORNIA, INC.**

This Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form provides the following information:

- \* The advantages of your Liberty Dental Plan and how to use your benefits
- \* An evidence of coverage
- \* How to enroll in the plan
- \* Answers to your frequently asked questions

Information required by the state of California in regards to your dental plan.  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE (DMHC) COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

The DMHC has established a toll-free number for you as a member to utilize should you have a complaint against a health care service plan. This number is **888-HMO-2219**. As a member you may file a complaint against Liberty Dental Plan; however, you may only do so after contacting your plan directly to utilize its complaint resolution process.

A member may immediately file a complaint with the California DMHC in the event of a dental emergency situation. In addition a member may also file a complaint in the event that the plan does not satisfactorily resolve the complaint (grievance) within thirty (30) days of filing with your health care service plan.

This brochure will provide you with the information you should know about your Dental Plan. It explains clearly how it works and the many advantages Liberty Dental Plan provides you.

## **LIBERTY DENTAL PLAN BENEFITS ARE EASY TO USE**

Dental Benefits should be simple to use for you and your family. Our plans offer comprehensive dental coverage without claim forms, prohibitive deductibles, or restrictive annual maximums.

The difference with Liberty Dental Plan: good provider selection, clear communication and most importantly, requiring the dentists to perform to the standards of the participating contract they signed with the plan.

That is the difference in Liberty Dental Plan. We have open communication and provide excellent support to our panel of participating dentists.

Our goal is to provide you with the comprehensive dental benefits you purchased. We pledge to support your choice of Liberty Dental Plan by giving you confidence through the excellent customer service you deserve. After all, isn't that what it is all about?

At Liberty Dental Plan, you get quality dental benefits at a very reasonable price.

## **THE LIBERTY DENTAL PLAN ADVANTAGES**

- \* **No Claim Forms**
- \* **No Deductibles or Maximums**
- \* **Low Out-of-Pocket Costs**
- \* **Selection of Pre-screened Dentists & Specialists**
- \* **Multi-Lingual Provider Network**
- \* **Change Dentist Selection Any Time**
- \* **Orthodontic Coverage**
- \* **Most Pre-existing Conditions Covered**
- \* **Network Dentists Provide 24-hour Access to Emergency Care**
- \* **Toll-Free Member Assistance Lines**

The hearing and speech impaired may use the California Relay Service toll-free telephone numbers 1-800-735-2929 (TTY) or 1-888-877-5378 (TTY) to contact the department.

This booklet includes your Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form. Please keep this together with your records and your Schedule of Benefits, which includes the member co-payments, exclusions and limitations of the benefits and additional provisions of your dental plan.

This is a summary of how your Liberty Dental Plan dental plan works. This Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form will assist you in properly understanding your dental plan.

This Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form constitutes only a summary of the dental plan. The master Agreement must be consulted to determine the exact terms and conditions of coverage.

## **SECOND OPINION**

At no cost to you, you may request a second dental opinion when appropriate, by directly contacting Member Services either by calling the toll-free number (888) 703-6999 or by writing to: Liberty Dental Plan, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Ana, CA, 92799-6110. Your primary care dentist may also request a second dental opinion on your behalf by submitting a Standard Specialty or Orthodontic Referral form with appropriate x-rays. All requests for a second dental opinion are approved by Liberty Dental Plan within five (5) days of receipt of such request. Upon approval, Liberty Dental Plan will make the appropriate second dental opinion arrangements and advise the attending dentist of your concerns. You will then be advised of the arrangement so an appointment can be scheduled. Upon request, you may obtain a copy of Liberty Dental Plan's policy description for a second dental opinion.

## **YOUR DENTAL PLAN**

Liberty Dental Plan has been providing and administering dental benefits in California for over twenty (20) years. Liberty Dental Plan is in the on-going process of enhancing our statewide panel of participating dentists and specialists to accommodate the needs of our Subscribers.

Our goal is to provide Californians with appropriate dental benefits, delivered by highly qualified dental professionals in a comfortable setting. All of Liberty Dental Plan's contracted private practice dentists have undergone strict credentialing procedures, background checks and office evaluations. In addition, each Liberty Dental Plan participating dentist must adhere to strict contractual guidelines. All dentists are pre-screened and reviewed on a regular basis. Our Provider Relations Department conducts a quality assessment program which includes ongoing contract management to assure compliance with continuing education, accessibility for members, appropriate diagnosis and treatment planning. In addition, we conduct random surveys of member groups to evaluate their view of the dental plan overall. This includes both Primary Care Dentists (General Dentists) and Specialists. Your Primary Care Dentist will provide for all of your dental care needs including referring you to a specialist, should it be necessary.

When you join Liberty Dental Plan, you must choose a Primary Care Dentist. If you desire to make a change, you may do so at any time (Please note: Your request to change dentists will not be processed if you have an outstanding balance with your current dentist). Simply contact our Member Services Department toll-free at (888) 703-6999 or submit a change request in writing to:

Liberty Dental Plan, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Ana, CA, 92799-6110. Your requested change to a Primary Care Dentist will be in effect on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of the following month if the change is received by Liberty Dental Plan prior to the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) of the current month.

NOTE: Those enrolling in plans CA80, CA90, Prestige II or Prestige III do not select a Primary Care Dentist at the point of enrollment. To access care under one of these plans, simply contact a Liberty Dental Plan provider who is contracted to provide services under your selected plan for an appointment. The Primary Care Dentist will then contact Liberty Dental Plan to verify your eligibility.

All services and benefits described in this publication are covered only if provided by a contracted Liberty Dental Plan participating Primary Care Dentist or Specialist. The only time you may receive care outside the network is for emergency dental services as described herein under “Emergency Dental Care”.

A STATEMENT DESCRIBING OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRESERVING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS IS AVAILABLE AND WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL**

You and your eligible dependents are eligible to enroll in a Liberty Dental Plan dental plan. You must live in the plan service area.

- \* You may enroll your spouse
- \* Unmarried dependent children (including adopted) who are under the age of nineteen (19)
- \* Unmarried children under the age of twenty four (24), if they are a full-time student at an accredited college or university
- \* Disabled children dependent upon you for support and are not able to support themselves due to physical or mental handicap. You must provide proof of disability or handicap at the time you enroll
- \* New dependents such as new spouse, children placed with you for adoption, and newborns

### **WHAT IF I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT MY DENTAL PLAN**

Liberty Dental Plan provides toll-free telephone access to covered members. Just call our Member Services Department if you have a question or inquiry. Our Member Service representatives will be glad to provide you information or resolve your inquiry. **Call (888) 703-6999, between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (PST) Monday through Friday.**

## **HOW DO I RECEIVE CARE**

You must choose a Primary Care Dentist when you enroll in the plan. (See note under “Your Dental Plan” regarding selecting a Primary Care Dentist for plans CA80, CA90, Prestige II and Prestige III.) This dentist will be responsible for providing the dental care needs for you and your family, including referring you to a specialist should it be necessary (remember you can change dentists at anytime by calling Liberty Dental Plan or by submitting a request for provider change in writing). A directory of participating dentists will be sent to you upon request.

It is your choice to select a Primary Care Dentist. However, you may want to consider a choice convenient to your residence or work. You and your entire family must use the same dentist.

As a member, you should be able to make an appointment to be seen for dental hygiene and routine care within three weeks of the date of your request. This is based upon available schedule times.

## **HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

If Liberty Dental Plan receives your completed enrollment form payment by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month, you are eligible to receive care on the first day of the following month. You may call your selected dentist at any time after the effective date of your coverage.

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of Liberty Dental Plan when you call the dentist for an appointment. We also suggest that you keep this material handy and take this information and the Schedule of Benefits and applicable Limitations and Exclusions with you when you go to your appointment. You can then reference benefits and applicable co-payments which are the out-of-pocket costs associated with your plan.

## **HOW DO I FILE A CLAIM FORM**

There are no claim forms to worry about with your plan. Liberty Dental Plan prepays participating Primary Care Dentists in advance for covered services (less applicable co-payments of your plan).

## **IS PRIOR BENEFIT AUTHORIZATION NECESSARY**

No prior benefit authorization is required in order to receive dental services from your Primary Care Dentist. The Primary Care Dentist has the authority to make most coverage determinations. The coverage determinations are achieved through comprehensive oral evaluations which are covered by your plan. Your Primary

Care Dentist is responsible for communicating the results of the comprehensive oral evaluation and advising of available benefits and associated cost.

If your Primary Care Dentist encounters a situation that requires the services of a specialist, Liberty Dental Plan requires a preauthorization submission, which will be responded to within five (5) business days of receipt, unless urgent.

If you or your Primary Care Dentist encounter an urgent condition in which there is an imminent and serious threat to your health including but not limited to, the potential loss of life, limb, or other major body function, or the normal timeframe for the decision making process as described above would be detrimental to your life or health, the response to the request for referral should not exceed seventy-two (72) hours from the time of receipt of such information. The decision to approve, modify or deny will be communicated to the Primary Care Dentist within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision. In cases where the review is retrospective, the decision shall be communicated to the enrollee within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the information.

In the event that you need to be seen by a specialist, Liberty Dental Plan does require prior benefit authorization. Your Primary Care Dentist is responsible for obtaining authorization for you to receive specialty care.

If your specialty referral preauthorization is denied or you are dissatisfied with the preauthorization, please refer to page 9, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

### **INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW**

In cases which result in the denial of the preauthorization requests by a Liberty Dental Plan Provider, Subscribers may request a form for the independent medical review of their case by contacting Liberty Dental Plan at 888-703-6999 or writing to: Liberty Dental Plan, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Ana, CA, 92799-6110. You may also request the forms from the Department of Managed Health Care. The Department of Managed Health Care may be reached at 1-888-HMO-2219 or by visiting their website at: <http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov>.

### **EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE**

All affiliated Liberty Dental Plan Primary Care Dental offices provide availability of emergency dental care services twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week.

In the event you require Emergency Dental Care, contact your Primary Care Dentist to schedule an immediate appointment. For urgent or unexpected dental conditions that occur after-hours or on weekends, contact your Primary Care Dentist for instructions on how to proceed.

If after you contact your Primary Care Dentist, and are advised that your Primary Care Dentist is not available, simply contact any licensed dentist to receive care. Liberty Dental will reimburse you for dental expenses up to a maximum of seventy-five dollars (\$75), less applicable co-payments.

The Plan provides coverage for emergency dental services only if the services are required to alleviate severe pain or bleeding or if an enrollee reasonably believes that the condition, if not diagnosed or treated, may lead to disability, dysfunction or death.

**Emergency Dental Service and care include (and are covered by Liberty Dental Plan),** as defined in the California Health & Safety Code, a dental screening, examination, evaluation by dentist or dental specialist to determine if an emergency dental condition exists, and to provide care that would be acknowledged as within professionally recognized standards of care and in order to alleviate any emergency symptoms in a dental office. Medical and/or psychiatric emergencies are not covered by Liberty Dental Plan if the services are rendered in a hospital setting which are covered by a Medical Plan, or if Liberty Dental Plan determines the services were not dental in nature.

**Emergency services and care (and are not covered by Liberty Dental Plan)** also means an additional screening and examination, and evaluation by a physician, or other personnel to the extent permitted by applicable law and within the scope of licensure and clinical privileges, to determine if a psychiatric emergency medical condition exists, and the care and treatment necessary to relieve or eliminate the psychiatric emergency medical condition, within the capability of the facility. **Liberty Dental Plan does not provide coverage for such emergency services and care.**

**Reimbursement for Emergency Dental Care:** If the requirements in the section titled “Emergency Dental Care” are satisfied, Liberty Dental Plan will cover up to \$75 of such services per calendar year. If you pay a bill for covered Emergency Dental Care, submit a copy of the paid bill to Liberty Dental Plan, Claims Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Ana, CA, 92799-6110. Please include a copy of the claim from the provider’s office or a legible statement of services/invoice. Please forward to Liberty Dental Plan with the following information:

- Your membership information.
- Individual’s name that received the emergency services.
- Name and address of the dentist providing the emergency service.
- A statement explaining the circumstances surrounding the emergency visit.

If additional information is needed, you will be notified in writing. If any part of your claim is denied you will receive a written explanation of benefits (EOB) within 30 days of Liberty Dental Plan's receipt of the claim that includes:

- The reason for the denial.
- Reference to the pertinent Evidence of Coverage provisions on which the denial is based.
- Notice of your right to request reconsideration of the denial, and an explanation of the grievance procedures. Please refer to page 9, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

## **CONTINUITY OF CARE**

### **Current Members:**

Current Members may have the right to the benefit of completion of care with their terminated provider for certain specified dental conditions. Please call the Plan at 1-888-703-6999 to see if you may be eligible for this benefit. You may request a copy of the Plan's Continuity of Care Policy. You must make a specific request to continue under the care of your terminated provider. We are not required to continue your care with that provider if you are not eligible under our policy or if we cannot reach agreement with your terminated provider on the terms regarding your care in accordance with California law.

### **New Members:**

A New Member may have the right to the qualified benefit of completion of care with their non-participating provider for certain specified dental conditions. Please call the Plan at 1-888-703-6999 to see if you may be eligible for this benefit. You may request a copy of the Plan's Continuity of Care Policy. You must make a specific request to continue under the care of your current provider. We are not required to continue your care with that provider if you are not eligible under our policy or if we cannot reach agreement with your provider on the terms regarding your care in accordance with California law. This policy does not apply to new Members of an individual subscriber contract.

## **LIBERTY DENTAL PLAN MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Liberty Dental Plan Member Services provides toll-free customer service support Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on normal business days to assist members with simple inquiries and resolution of dissatisfactions. The hearing and speech impaired may use the California Relay Service's toll-free telephone numbers 1-800-735-2929 (TTY) or 1-888-877-5378 (TTY) to contact the department. Our toll-free number is (888) 703-6999.



## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

If you are dissatisfied with your selected Primary Care Dentist, personnel, facilities, specialty referral, preauthorization, claim, or the dental care you receive, grievances may be:

Sent in writing to Liberty Dental Plan, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Ana, CA, 92799-6110.

or

Liberty Dental Plan's Member Services Department facsimile at (949) 223-0011,

or

Contact a Liberty Dental Plan Member Services Representative at (888) 703-6999,

or

use our online grievance filing process by visiting [www.libertydentalplan.com](http://www.libertydentalplan.com).

Grievance Forms may be requested by contacting Liberty Dental Plan's Member Services Department at (888) 703-6999. Grievance Forms are also available on our website, [www.libertydentalplan.com](http://www.libertydentalplan.com).

Liberty Dental Plan's representatives will review the problem with you and take appropriate steps for a quick resolution. You will receive acknowledgement of your grievance within five (5) calendar days of receipt. Grievances will be resolved within 30 days.

The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans. If you have a grievance against your Health Plan, you should first telephone your Health Plan at **1-888-703-6999** and use your Health Plan's grievance process before contacting the Department. Utilizing this grievance procedure does not prohibit any potential legal rights or remedies that may be available to you. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your Health Plan, or a grievance that remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the Department for assistance. You may also be eligible for Independent Medical Review (IMR). If you are eligible for IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a Health Plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or

urgent medical services. The Department also has a toll-free telephone number (1-888-HMO-2219) and a TDD line (1-877-688-9891) for the hearing and speech impaired. The Department's Internet web site <http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov> has complaint forms, IMR application forms and instructions online.

If you are not satisfied with the resolution initially provided, you may request a review by Liberty Dental Plan's Quality Management Committee or Public Policy Committee. Your requests must be in writing with a detailed summary and should be directed to:

Liberty Dental Plan, Inc.  
Quality Management Committee  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Ana, CA 92799-6110

All levels of appeal will be completed within 30 days of receipt.

### **ARBITRATION**

If you, or one of your eligible dependents are not satisfied with the results of Liberty Dental Plan's complaint resolution process, and all the complaint resolution procedures have been exhausted, the matter can be submitted to arbitration for resolution. If you, or one of your eligible dependents, believe that some conduct arising from or relating to your participation as a Liberty Dental Plan member, including contract or medical liability, the matter shall be settled by arbitration. The arbitration will be conducted according to the American Arbitration Association rules and regulations in force at the time of the occurrence of the grievance (dispute or controversy).

### **PREPAYMENT FEES (PREMIUMS); CHANGES TO BENEFITS AND PREMIUMS**

Premiums are due to Liberty Dental Plan prior to the month of coverage. Liberty Dental Plan may change the covered benefits, co-payments, and premium rates from time to time. Liberty Dental Plan will not decrease the covered benefits or increase the premium rates during the term of the agreement without giving notice to you at least sixty (60) days before the proposed change.

### **TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

If premiums are not paid according to the agreement, termination will be effective on midnight of the last day of the month for which premiums were last received, subject to compliance with notice requirements accepted by Liberty Dental Plan.

If you terminate from the Plan while the contract between you and Liberty Dental Plan is in effect, your Primary Care or Specialty Dentist must complete any procedure in progress that was started before your termination, abiding by the terms and conditions of the Plan.

If you terminate coverage from the Plan after the start of orthodontic treatment, you will be responsible for any charges on any remaining orthodontic treatment.

If a subscriber permits any other person to use their member ID card to obtain services under this dental plan, or otherwise engages in fraud or deception in the use of the services or facilities of the plan or knowingly permits such fraud or deception by another, termination will be effective immediately upon notice from Liberty Dental Plan.

If an enrollee or subscriber's coverage is allegedly terminated based on their health status or requirements for health care services, a review may be requested by the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care. If the Director determines that a proper complaint exists under the provisions of this section, the Director shall notify the plan. Within 15 days after receipt of such notice, the plan shall either request a hearing or reinstate the enrollee or subscriber. A reinstatement shall be retroactive to time of cancellation or failure to renew and the plan shall be liable for the expenses incurred by the subscriber or enrollee for covered health care services from the date of cancellation or non-renewal to and including the date of reinstatement. You can contact the Department of Managed Health Care at (1-888-HMO-2219) or on a TDD line (1-877-688-9891) for the hearing and speech impaired. The Department's Internet web site is <http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov>.

## **MEMBER RIGHTS**

As a member, you have the right to:

- \* Be treated with respect, dignity and recognition of your need for privacy and confidentiality
- \* Express grievances and be informed of the grievance process
- \* Have access and availability to care
- \* Access your dental records
- \* Participate in decision-making regarding your course of treatment
- \* Be provided information regarding a provider
- \* Be provided information regarding the organization's services, benefits and specialty referral process.

Liberty Dental Plan Policies and Procedures for preserving the confidentiality of medical records is available and will be furnished to you upon request.

## **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a member, you have the responsibility to:

- \* Identify yourself to your selected dental office as a Liberty Dental Plan member
- \* Treat the Primary Care Dentist, office staff and Liberty Dental Plan staff with respect and courtesy
- \* Keep scheduled appointments or contact the dental office twenty-four (24) hours in advance to cancel an appointment
- \* Cooperate with the Primary Care Dentist in following a prescribed course of treatment
- \* Make co-payments at the time of service
- \* Notify Liberty Dental Plan of changes in family status
- \* Be aware of and follow the organization's guidelines in seeking dental care

### **Liberty Dental Plan of California, Inc.**

#### **Limitations**

1. Prophylaxis are covered once every six consecutive months.
2. Full Mouth X-rays are limited to once every 36 consecutive months.
3. Fluoride Treatments are covered once every 6 consecutive months, up to the 18<sup>th</sup> birth date.
4. Sealants are covered only on the first and second permanent molars and up to the 14<sup>th</sup> birth date.
5. Crowns, Jackets, Inlays and Onlays are benefits on the same tooth only once every five years, and consistent with professionally recognized standards of dental practice.
6. Replacement of existing Full and Partial Dentures are covered once per arch every 5 years, except when they cannot be made functional through relines or repairs.
7. Denture Relines are covered twice per year, and only when consistent with professionally recognized standards of dental practice.
8. Any routine dental services performed by a Primary Care Dentist or Specialist in an inpatient/outpatient hospital setting, under certain circumstances, will be considered for coverage.

### **Liberty Dental Plan of California, Inc.**

#### **Exclusions**

1. Any procedure not specifically listed as a Covered Benefit
2. Replacement of lost or stolen prosthetics or appliances including crowns, bridges, partial dentures, full dentures, and orthodontic appliances

3. Any treatment requested, or appliances made, which are either not necessary for maintaining or improving dental health, or are for cosmetic purposes unless otherwise covered as a benefit
4. Procedures considered experimental, treatment involving implants or pharmacological regimens (See “Independent Medical Review” on page 6)
5. Oral surgery requiring the setting of bone fractures or bone dislocations
6. Hospitalization
7. Out-patient services
8. Ambulance services
9. Durable Medical Equipment
10. Mental Health services
11. Chemical Dependency services
12. Home Health services
13. General anesthesia, analgesia, intravenous/intramuscular sedation or the services of an anesthesiologist
14. Treatment started before the member was eligible, or after the member was no longer eligible
15. Procedures, appliances, or restorations to correct congenital, developmental or medically induced dental disorder, including but not limited to: myofunctional(e.g. speech therapy), myoskeletal, or temporomandibular joint dysfunctions (e.g. adjustments/corrections to the facial bones) unless otherwise covered as an orthodontic benefit
16. Procedures which are determined not to be dentally necessary consistent with professionally recognized standards of dental practice
17. Treatment of malignancies, cysts, or neoplasms
18. Orthodontic treatment started prior to member’s effective date of coverage
19. Appliances needed to increase vertical dimension or restore occlusion
20. Any services performed outside of your assigned dental office, unless expressly authorized by Liberty Dental Plan, or unless as outlined and covered in “Emergency Dental Care” section

<p><b>Liberty Dental Plan of California, Inc.</b>  <b>Orthodontic Exclusions</b></p>
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1. Lost, stolen or broken appliances
2. Extractions for orthodontic purposes, (will not be applied if extraction is consistent with professionally recognized standards of dental practice or arises in the context of an emergency dental condition)
3. Temporomandibular joint syndrome (TMJ) surgical orthodontics
4. Myofunctional therapy
5. Treatment of cleft palate
6. Treatment of micrognathia
7. Treatment of macroglossia

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Co-payment:** Any amount charged to a member at the time of service for covered services. Fixed co-payment amounts are listed in the Schedule of Benefits.

**Dental Records:** Refers to diagnostic aid, intraoral and extra-oral radiographs, written treatment record including but not limited to progress notes, dental and periodontal chartings, treatment plans, consultation reports, or other written material relating to an individual's medical and dental history, diagnosis, condition, treatment, or evaluation.

**Dependent:** Any eligible member of a subscriber's family who is enrolled in Liberty Dental Plan.

**Emergency Dental Service:** Emergency Dental Service and care include (and are covered by Liberty Dental Plan) dental screening, examination, evaluation by dentist or dental specialist to determine if an emergency dental condition exists, and to provide care that would be acknowledged as within professionally recognized standards of care and in order to alleviate any emergency symptoms in a dental office. Medical emergencies are not covered by Liberty Dental Plan if the services are rendered in a hospital setting which are covered by a Medical Plan, or if Liberty Dental Plan determines the services were not dental in nature.

**Member:** Subscriber or eligible dependent(s) who are actually enrolled in the Plan.

**Non-Participating Provider:** A dentist that has no contract to provide services for the Plan.

**Primary Care Dentist:** A dentist affiliated with the Plan to provide services to covered members of the Plan. The Primary Care Dentist is responsible to provide or arrange for needed dental services.

**Plan:** Liberty Dental Plan of California, Inc.

**Provider:** A dentist providing services under contract with the Plan.

**Specialist:** Refers to Endodontists, Oral Surgeons, Orthodontists, Pediatric Dentists or Periodontists.

**Terminated Provider:** A dentist that formerly delivered services under contract that is no longer associated with the Plan.

## **ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS**

### **Are my cleanings covered?**

Yes. Liberty Dental Plan covers routine cleanings (prophylaxis) at your selected dental office once every 6 months. Some members may require more than a “routine” cleaning due to more involved dental needs. When more frequent cleanings or extensive treatment, such as root planing or scaling are required, your dentist may charge you in accordance with your dental plan.

### **What if I have a pre-existing condition?**

Most pre-existing conditions are covered. However, a procedure started prior to your coverage effective date will not be covered by the Plan.

### **Are there waiting period to be met?**

No. Once your enrollment becomes effective, simply make an appointment with your selected network dentist.

### **Does the Plan include dental specialists?**

Yes. Liberty Dental Plan has a contracted network of Dental Specialists. If specialty is deemed necessary by your Primary Care Dentist, you will be referred to a specialist after coordinating your needs with your Primary Care Dentist.

### **What if I have other dental coverage?**

Your Liberty Dental Plan network Primary Care Dentist will apply your reimbursement from any additional coverage you have to your co-payment if allowable by your other dental plan carrier. This may reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

### **How will I know what my co-payment will be?**

Refer to your Schedule of Benefits which lists all of the services covered under your plan. The co-payment schedule is listed by ADA code. If you have any question, ask your dentist before you receive services and/or call the Liberty Dental Plan Member Services Department.

### **Who do I call if I have a question?**

Should you have questions once you become a member, contact our Member Services Department.



## NEW MEMBER CONTINUATION OF CARE INFORMATION and PRIVACY STATEMENT

Dear New LIBERTY Dental Plan Member:

If you have been receiving care from a dental care provider, you may have a right to keep your dental care provider for a designated time period. Please contact LIBERTY Dental Plan's Member Services Department at (888) 703-6999, and if you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Managed Health Care, which protects HMO consumers. You can contact the Department of Managed Health Care by telephone at its toll-free number, 1-888-HMO-2219, or at a TDD number for the hearing impaired at 1-877-688-9891, or online at [www.hmohelp.ca.gov](http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov). You may also obtain a copy of LIBERTY Dental Plan's policy on continuation of care from our Member Services Department. This policy does not apply to a newly covered enrollee covered under an individual subscriber agreement.

You must make a specific request to continue under the care of your current provider. LIBERTY Dental Plan is not required to continue your care with that provider if you are not eligible under our policy or if we cannot reach an agreement with your provider on the terms regarding your care in accordance with California law.

### **Privacy Statement**

We protect the privacy of our members' health information as required by law, accreditation standards and our internal policies and procedures. This Notice explains our legal duties and your rights as well as our privacy practices.

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

We collect, use and disclose information provided by and about you for health care/dental payment and operations, or when we are otherwise permitted or required by law to do so.

For Payment: We may use and disclose information about you in managing your account or benefits, and paying claims for medical/dental care you receive through your plan. For example, we maintain information about your premium and



deductible payments. We may also provide information to a doctor/dentist's office to confirm your eligibility for benefits or we may ask a doctor/dentist for details about your treatment so that we may review and pay the claims for your dental care.

For Health/Dental Care Operations: We may use and disclose medical/dental information about you for our operations. For example, we may use information about you to review the quality of care and services you receive, or to evaluate a treatment plan that is being proposed for you.

We may contact you to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services. For example, when you or your dependents reach a certain age, we may notify you about additional programs or products for which you may become eligible, such as individual coverage.

We may, in the case of some group health plans, share limited health information with your employer or other organizations that help pay for your membership in the plan, in order to enroll you, or to permit the plan sponsor to perform plan administrative functions. Plan sponsors receiving this information are required, by law, to have safeguards in place to protect it from inappropriate uses.

As Permitted or Required by Law: Information about you may be used or disclosed to regulatory agencies, such as during audits, licensure or other proceedings; for administrative or judicial proceedings; to public health authorities; or to law enforcement officials, such as to comply with a court order or subpoena.

Authorization: Other uses and disclosures of protected health information will be made only with your written permission, unless otherwise permitted or required by law. You may revoke this authorization, at any time, in writing. We will then stop using your information. However, if we have already used your information based on your authorization, you cannot take back your agreement for those past situations.

## **Your Rights**

Under new regulations that will be effective in April 2003, you will have additional rights over your health/dental information. Under the new rules, you will have the right to:

- Request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your protected health/dental information. However, we are not required to agree to a requested restriction.
- Receive confidential communications of protected health/dental information, using reasonable alternative means or at an alternative address, if communications to your home address could endanger you.

- Inspect and copy protected health/dental information. To obtain a copy of such information, please send us a written request. You also have the right to amend the information if you believe it is incomplete or inaccurate. If we did not create the information, we will refer you to the source, such as your doctor/dentist.
- Receive an accounting of our disclosures of your medical information, except when those disclosures are made for treatment, payment or health care/dental operations, or the law otherwise restricts the accounting. We are not required to give you a list of disclosures made before April 14, 2003.
- If you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy upon request.

### **Complaints**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you have the right to file a complaint with us, and/or with the Federal Government. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

### **Copies and Changes**

You have the right to receive an additional copy of this notice at any time.

We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice. A revised notice will be effective for information we already have about you as well as any information we may receive in the future. We are required by law to comply with whatever privacy notice is currently in effect. We will communicate any changes to our notice through subscriber newsletters, direct mail or our website, [www.libertydentalplan.com](http://www.libertydentalplan.com).

### **Contact Information**

If you want to exercise your rights under this notice, or if you wish to communicate with us about privacy issues, or to file a complaint with us, please contact our Member Services Department at (888) 703-6999.



LIBERTY Dental Plan of California, Inc.

P.O. Box 26110

Santa Ana, CA 92799-6110

(888) 703-6999

