

**NEBRASKA STATE PROGRAMS**  
**REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS APPENDIX**  
**DOWNSTREAM PROVIDER**

**THIS NEBRASKA STATE PROGRAMS REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS APPENDIX** (this “Appendix”) supplements and is made part of the provider agreement (the “Agreement”) between Ear Professionals International Corporation d/b/a EPIC Hearing Healthcare and d/b/a UnitedHealthcare Hearing (“Subcontractor”) and the provider named in the Agreement (“Provider”).

**SECTION 1**  
**APPLICABILITY**

This Appendix applies with respect to the provision of health care services that Provider provides directly to Covered Persons through Health Plan’s (as defined herein) products or benefit plans under the State’s Medicaid and/or CHIP program (the “State Program”) as governed by the State’s designated regulatory agencies. Provider has agreed to provide Covered Services to Covered Persons who receive their coverage pursuant to a contract between the State and Health Plan (the “State Contract” as defined herein). The State Contract and applicable State and federal law require that the provisions contained in this Appendix be part of the Agreement. In the event of a conflict between this Appendix and other appendices or any provision of the Agreement, the provisions of this Appendix shall control except with regard to benefit plans outside the scope of this Appendix or unless otherwise required by law. In the event Subcontractor and/or Health Plan is required to amend or supplement this Appendix as required or requested by the State to comply with federal or State regulations, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan will unilaterally initiate such additions, deletions or modifications.

**SECTION 2**  
**DEFINITIONS**

Unless otherwise defined in this Appendix, all capitalized terms shall be as defined in the Agreement. For purposes of this Appendix, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below; provided, however, in the event any definition set forth in this Appendix or the Agreement is inconsistent with any definitions under the applicable State Program, the definitions shall have the meaning set forth under the applicable State Program.

2.1 **Covered Person:** An individual who is currently enrolled with Health Plan for the provision of services under a State Program. A Covered Person may also be referred to as an Enrollee, Member or Customer under the Agreement.

2.2 **Covered Services:** Health care services or products for which a Covered Person is enrolled with Health Plan to receive coverage under the State Contract.

2.3 **Department:** The Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care (“MLTC”) of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”).

2.4 **State:** The State of Nebraska or its designated regulatory agencies.

2.5 **Health Plan:** An appropriately licensed entity that has entered into a contract with Subcontractor, either directly or indirectly, under which Subcontractor provides certain administrative services for Health Plan pursuant to the State Contract. For purposes of this Appendix, Health Plan refers to UnitedHealthcare of the Midlands, Inc.

2.6 **State Contract:** Health Plan's contract with Department for the purpose of providing and paying for Covered Services to Covered Persons enrolled in the State Program.

2.7 **State Program:** The Nebraska Medicaid Program. For purposes of this Appendix, State Program may refer to the State agency(ies) responsible for administering the applicable State Program.

### **SECTION 3 PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

The State Program, through contractual requirements and federal and State statutes and regulations, requires the Agreement to contain certain conditions that Subcontractor, Health Plan and Provider agree to undertake, which include the following:

3.1 **Definitions Related to the Provision of Covered Services.** Provider shall follow the applicable State Contract's requirements for the provision of Covered Services. Provider's decisions affecting the delivery of acute or chronic care services to Covered Persons shall be made on an individualized basis and in accordance with the following definitions:

(a) Emergency Medical Condition: A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in any of the following: (1) placing the health of the individual (or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy; (2) serious impairment to body functions; or (3) serious dysfunction of any body organ or part.

(b) Emergency Services: Covered inpatient and outpatient services furnished by a provider qualified to furnish those health services and that are needed to evaluate or stabilize an Emergency Medical Condition.

(c) Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity: Health care services and supplies that are medically appropriate and:

1. Necessary to meet the basic health needs of the member.
2. Rendered in the most cost-efficient manner and type of setting appropriate for the delivery of the covered service.

3. Consistent in type, frequency, and duration of treatment with scientifically-based guidelines of national medical, research, or health care coverage organizations or governmental agencies.
4. Consistent with the diagnosis of the condition.
5. Required for means other than convenience of the client or his/her physician.
6. No more intrusive or restrictive than necessary to provide a proper balance of safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.
7. Of demonstrated value.
8. No more intensive level of service than can be safely provided.

**3.2 Medicaid Eligibility.** Provider must be enrolled with the State as a Medicaid or CHIP provider, as applicable to participate in Health Plan's Medicaid or CHIP network. Upon notification from the State that Provider's enrollment has been denied or terminated, Subcontractor and Health Plan must terminate Provider immediately and will notify affected Covered Persons that Provider is no longer participating in the network. Subcontractor and Health Plan will exclude from its network any provider who is on the State's exclusion list or has been terminated or suspended from the Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP program in any state.

**3.3 Accessibility Standards.** Provider shall provide for timely access for Covered Person appointments in accordance with the appointment availability requirements established under the State Contract, as further described in the applicable provider manual.

**3.4 Hours of Operation; Appointments.** Provider shall offer hours of operation that are no less than the hours of operation offered to commercial beneficiaries or comparable to Medicaid fee-for-service if Provider serves only Medicaid beneficiaries. As applicable, Provider will make Covered Services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when medically necessary.

**3.5 Hold Harmless.** Except for any applicable cost-sharing requirements under the State Contract, Provider shall look solely to Subcontractor and Health Plan (as applicable) for payment of Covered Services provided to Covered Persons pursuant to the Agreement and the State Contract and hold the State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Covered Persons harmless in the event that Subcontractor and/or Health Plan cannot or will not pay for such Covered Services. In accordance with 42 CFR Part 447.15, as may be amended from time to time, the Covered Person is not liable to Provider for any services for which Subcontractor and Health Plan is liable and as specified under the State's relevant health insurance or managed care statutes, rules or administrative agency guidance. Provider shall not require any copayment or cost sharing for Covered Services provided under the Agreement unless expressly permitted under the State Contract. Provider shall also be prohibited from charging Covered Persons for missed appointments if such practice is prohibited under the State Contract or applicable law. Neither the State, the Department nor Covered Persons shall be in any manner liable for the debts and obligations of Subcontractor and/or Health Plan and under no circumstances shall

Subcontractor, Health Plan, or any providers used to deliver services covered under the terms of the State Contract, charge Covered Persons for Covered Services.

Provider agrees that Covered Persons shall not be held liable for, (i) the cost of Covered Services provided to a Covered Person for which the Department does not pay the Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, (ii) The cost of Covered Services provided to a Covered Person, for which the Department, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan does not pay the Provider that furnishes the services under a contractual, referral, or other arrangement, and (iii) Payments for Covered Services furnished under a contract, referral, or other arrangement to the extent that those payments are in excess of the amount that the Covered Person would owe if the Provider provided the services directly.

If the medical assistance services are not Covered Services, prior to providing the service, Provider shall inform the Covered Person of the non-covered service and have the Covered Person acknowledge the information. If the Covered Person still requests the service, Provider shall obtain such acknowledgement in writing prior to rendering the service. If Subcontractor and/or Health Plan determines a Covered Person was charged for Covered Services inappropriately, such payment may be recovered, as applicable.

This provision shall survive any termination of the Agreement, including breach of the Agreement due to insolvency.

**3.6 Indemnification.** To the extent applicable to Provider in performance of the Agreement, Provider shall indemnify, defend and hold the Department and its employees harmless from and against all injuries, deaths, losses, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgments, costs and expenses, including court costs and attorney fees, to the extent proximately caused by any negligent act or other intentional misconduct or omission of Provider, its agents, officers, employees or contractors arising from the Agreement. The Department may waive this requirement for public entities if Provider is a state agency or sub-unit as defined by the State or a public health entity with statutory immunity. This clause shall survive the termination of the Agreement for any reason, including breach due to insolvency.

**3.7 Provider Selection.** To the extent applicable to Provider in performance of the Agreement, Provider shall comply with 42 CFR 438.214, as may be amended from time to time, which includes, but is not limited to the selection and retention of providers, credentialing and recredentialing requirements and nondiscrimination. If Subcontractor and/or Health Plan delegates credentialing to Provider, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan will provide monitoring and oversight and Provider shall ensure that all licensed medical professionals are credentialed in accordance with Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's and the State Contract's credentialing requirements.

**3.8 Restrictions on Referrals.** Provider shall not make inappropriate referrals for designated health services to health care entities with which Provider or a member of Provider's family has a financial relationship, pursuant to federal anti-kickback and physician self-referral laws that prohibit such referrals.

3.9 **Subcontracts.** If Provider subcontracts or delegates any functions of the Agreement, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the subcontract or delegation must be in writing and include all of the requirements of this Appendix, applicable requirements of the State Contract, and applicable laws and regulations. Provider further agrees to promptly amend its agreements with such subcontractors, in the manner requested by Subcontractor or Health Plan, to meet any additional State Program requirements that may apply to the services.

3.10 **Records Retention.** As required under State or federal law or the State Contract, Provider shall maintain an adequate record keeping system for recording services, charges, dates and all other commonly accepted information elements for services rendered to Covered Persons. All financial records shall follow generally accepted accounting principles. Medical records and supporting management systems shall include all pertinent information related to the medical management of each Covered Person. Other records shall be maintained as necessary to clearly reflect all actions taken by Provider related to services provided under the State Contract. Provider shall retain all records including, as applicable, grievance and appeal records and any other records related to data, information, and documentation for a period of not less than 10 years from the close of the Agreement, or such other period as required by law. If records are under review or audit, they must be retained for a minimum of 10 years following resolution of such action. Prior approval for the disposal of records must be requested and approved by Subcontractor and/or Health Plan if the Agreement is continuous.

3.11 **Records Access.** Provider acknowledges and agrees that the State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other authorized federal and state personnel shall have complete access to all records pertaining to services provided to Covered Persons. Provider shall provide immediate access to facilities, records and supportive materials pertinent to the State Contract for State or Federal fraud investigators.

3.12 **Government Audit; Investigations.** Provider acknowledges and agrees that the State, CMS, the Office of Inspector General, the Comptroller General, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and their designees or their authorized representatives shall at any time, have the right to inspect, audit or otherwise evaluate the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness of services provided under the terms of the State Contract and any other applicable rules, including the right to inspect and audit any records or documents of Provider and its subcontractors, and the right to inspect the premises, physical facilities, and equipment where Medicaid-related activities or work is conducted. The right to audit under this section exists for 10 years from the end date of the State Contract or from the date of completion of any audit, whichever is later. There shall be no restrictions on the right of the State or federal government to conduct whatever inspections and audits are necessary to assure quality, appropriateness or timeliness of services provided pursuant to the State Contract and the reasonableness of their costs.

3.13 **Privacy; Confidentiality.** Provider understands that the use and disclosure of information concerning Covered Persons is restricted to purposes directly connected with the administration of the State Program and shall maintain the confidentiality of Covered Person's information and records as required by the State Contract and in federal and State law including, but not limited to, all applicable privacy, security and Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

("HIPAA"), Public Law 104-191, and associated implementing regulations, including but not limited to 45 CFR Parts 160, 162, 164, as applicable and as may be amended from time to time, and shall safeguard information about Covered Persons in accordance with applicable federal and State privacy laws and rules including but not limited to 42 CFR §438.224, 42 CFR Part 2, and 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart F; 42 CFR Part 434 and 42 CFR 438.6 (if applicable), as may be amended from time to time.

Access to member identifying information shall be limited by Provider to persons or agencies that require the information in order to perform their duties in accordance with this Agreement, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department and other individuals or entities as may be required. (See 42 CFR §431.300, et seq. and 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164.) Any other party shall be granted access to confidential information only after complying with the requirements of state and federal laws, including but not limited to HIPAA, and regulations pertaining to such access. Provider is responsible for knowing and understanding the confidentiality laws listed above as well as any other applicable laws. Nothing herein shall prohibit the disclosure of information in summary, statistical or other form that does not identify particular individuals, provided that de-identification of protected health information is performed in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Federal and State Medicaid regulations, and some other federal and State laws and regulations, including but not limited to those listed above, are often more stringent than the HIPAA regulations. Provider shall notify Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, as applicable, and the Department of any breach of confidential information related to Covered Persons within the time period required by applicable federal and State laws and regulations following actual knowledge of a breach, including any use or disclosure of confidential information, any breach of unsecured PHI, and any Security Incident (as defined in HIPAA regulations) and provide Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, and the Department with an investigation report within the time period required by applicable federal and State laws and regulations following the discovery. Provider shall work with Subcontractor and/or Health Plan and the Department to ensure that the breach has been mitigated and reporting requirements, if any, complied with.

**3.14 Compliance with Law.** Provider shall comply with all applicable federal and State laws and regulations, including but not limited to the following to the extent applicable to Provider in performance of the Agreement:

(a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (regarding education programs and activities); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act; section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and their implementing regulations, as may be amended from time to time.

(b) All relevant federal and State statutes, regulations and orders related to equal opportunity in employment, including but not limited to compliance with E.O. 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by E.O. 11375, "Amending Executive

Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity,” and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR part 60, “Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor.”

(c) If the Agreement is for an amount in excess of \$100,000, Provider shall comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq. Any violations shall be reported to DHHS and the appropriate Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**3.15 Physician Incentive Plans.** In the event Provider participates in a physician incentive plan (“PIP”) under the Agreement, Provider agrees that such PIPs must comply with 42 CFR 417.479, 42 CFR 438.3, 42 CFR 422.208, and 42 CFR 422.210, as may be amended from time to time. Subcontractor, Health Plan and Provider may not make a specific payment directly or indirectly under a PIP to a physician or physician group as an inducement to reduce or limit Medically Necessary services furnished to an individual Covered Person. PIPs must not contain provisions that provide incentives, monetary or otherwise, for the withholding of services that meet the definition of Medical Necessity.

**3.16 Lobbying.** Provider agrees to comply with the following requirements related to lobbying:

(a) Prohibition on Use of Federal Funds for Lobbying: By signing the Agreement, Provider certifies to the best of Provider’s knowledge and belief, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. Section 1352 and 45 CFR Part 93, as may be amended from time to time, that no federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person by or on Provider’s behalf for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the award of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(b) Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying: If any funds other than federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the award of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement and the value of the Agreement exceeds \$100,000, Provider shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions.

**3.17 Excluded Individuals and Entities.** By signing the Agreement, Provider certifies to the best of Provider’s knowledge and belief that neither it nor any of its employees, principals, nor any providers, subcontractors or consultants or persons with an ownership or controlling interest

in the Provider (an owner including the Provider himself or herself), or an agent or managing employee of the Provider, with whom Provider contracts and who are providing items or services that are significant and material to Provider's obligations under the Agreement is:

- (a) excluded from participation in federal health care programs under either Section 1128 or section 1128A of the Social Security Act; or
- (b) debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from participating in procurement activities under the Federal Acquisition Regulation or from participating in nonprocurement activities under regulations issued under Executive Order no. 12549 or under guidelines implementing Executive Order No. 12549; or an affiliate, as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, of such a person.

Provider acknowledges and agrees that payment will not be made for any items or Covered Services provided by an excluded individual pursuant to 42 CFR §1001.1901(b) and is obligated to screen all employees, contractors, and subcontractors for exclusion as required under applicable State and Federal laws. Additionally, Provider acknowledges that pursuant to 42 CFR §1003.102(a)(2) civil monetary penalties may be imposed against Provider if he or she employs or enters into contracts with excluded individuals or entities to provide items or Covered Services to Covered Persons under this Agreement. Provider agrees not to employ or subcontract with individuals or entities whose owner, those with a controlling interest, or managing employees are on a State or Federal exclusion list to provide items or Covered Services under this Agreement. Provider shall immediately report to Subcontractor and Health Plan any exclusion information discovered. Provider can search the HHS-OIG website, at no cost, by the names of any individuals or entities. The database is called LEIE and can be accessed at <http://www.oig.hhs.gov/fraud/exclusions.asp>. The GSA EPLS/SAM database can be accessed at <https://www.sam.gov>. Federal and State exclusion databases must be reviewed monthly to ensure that no employee or contractor has been excluded. Applicable state exclusion databases can be accessed through the State's Medicaid website. Subcontractor and/or Health Plan will terminate the Agreement immediately and exclude from its network any provider who has been terminated from Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP program in any state. Subcontractor and/or Health Plan may also terminate the Agreement if Provider's owners, agents, or managing employees are found to be excluded on a State or Federal exclusion list.

**3.18 Disclosure.** Provider must be screened and enrolled into the State's Medicaid or CHIP program, as applicable, and submit disclosures to the Department on ownership and control, significant business transactions, and persons convicted of crimes, including any required criminal background checks, in accordance with 42 CFR Part 455 Subparts B and E. Provider must submit information related to ownership and control of subcontractors or wholly owned suppliers within thirty-five (35) calendar days of a request for such information in accordance with 42 CFR 455.105. Additionally, Provider must cooperate with the Department for submission of fingerprints upon a request from the Department or CMS in accordance with 42 CFR 455.434.

In addition, Provider agrees to comply with the requirements specified in 42 CFR 438.214, 438.610, 455.104, 455.105, 455.106, and 1002.3, which include selection and retention of providers, credentialing and re-credentialing requirements, and nondiscrimination.

**3.19 Cultural Competency and Access.** Provider shall participate in Subcontractor's, Health Plan's and the State's efforts to promote the delivery of services in a culturally competent manner to all Covered Persons, including those with limited English proficiency, physical or mental disabilities and diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and shall provide interpreter services in a Covered Person's primary language and for the hearing impaired for all appointments and emergency services. Provider shall provide information to Covered Persons regarding treatment options and alternatives, as well as information on complaints and appeals, in a manner appropriate to the Covered Person's condition and ability to understand.

Provider shall provide physical access, reasonable accommodations, and accessible equipment for Covered Persons with physical or mental disabilities.

**3.20 Marketing.** As required under State or federal law or the applicable State Contract, any marketing materials developed and distributed by Provider as related to the performance of the Agreement must be submitted to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan to submit to the State Program for prior approval. Such marketing materials must comply with the requirements of the State Contract.

**3.21 Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention.** Provider shall cooperate fully with Subcontractor's and Health Plan's policies and procedures designed to protect program integrity and prevent and detect potential or suspected fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration and delivery of services under the State Contract and shall cooperate and assist the State Program and any other State or federal agency charged with the duty of preventing, identifying, investigating, sanctioning or prosecuting suspected fraud, waste, and abuse in state and/or federal health care programs.

In accordance with Subcontractor's and Health Plan's policies and the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), Provider shall have written policies for its employees, contractors or agents that: (a) provide detailed information about the federal False Claims Act (established under sections 3729 through 3733 of title 31, United States Code), including, if any entity makes or receives annual payments under the State Program of at least \$5,000,000, such entity must establish certain minimum written policies and information communicated through an employee handbook relating to the Federal False Claims Act in accordance with 42 CFR §438.600; (b) cite administrative remedies for false claims and statements (established under chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code) and whistleblower protections under federal and state laws; (c) reference state laws pertaining to civil or criminal penalties for false claims and statements; and (d) with respect to the role of such laws in preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse in federal health care programs (as defined in section 1128B(f)), include as part of such written policies, detailed provisions regarding Provider's policies and procedures for detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse. Provider agrees to train its staff on the aforesaid policies and procedures.

**3.22 Data; Reports.** Provider shall cooperate with and release to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan any information necessary for Subcontractor and/or Health Plan to perform its obligations under the State Contract to the extent applicable to Provider in performance of the Agreement, including the timely submission of reports and information required by Subcontractor and/or

Health Plan, in the format specified by Subcontractor, Health Plan and/or the State. Such reports shall include child health check-up reporting, if applicable, as well as complete and accurate encounter data in accordance with the requirements of Subcontractor, Health Plan and the State. Data must be provided at the frequency and level of detail specified by Subcontractor, Health Plan or the State. By submitting data to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, Provider represents and attests to Subcontractor, Health Plan and the State that the data is accurate, complete and truthful, and upon Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's request Provider shall certify in writing, that the data is accurate, complete, and truthful, based on Provider's best knowledge, information and belief.

**3.23 Encounter Data.** Provider agrees to cooperate with Subcontractor and/or Health Plan to comply with Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's obligation to prepare timely encounter data submissions, reports, and clinical information including, without limitation, child and adolescent health check-up reporting, EPSDT encounters, and cancer screening encounters, as applicable, and such other reporting regarding Covered Services as may be required under the State Contract. Encounter data must be provided within the timeframes specified and in a form that meets Subcontractor, Health Plan and State requirements. By submitting encounter data to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, Provider represents to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan that the data is accurate, complete and truthful, and upon Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's request Provider shall certify in writing, that the data is accurate, complete, and truthful, based on Provider's best knowledge, information and belief.

**3.24 Claims Information.** Provider shall promptly submit to Subcontractor or Health Plan, as applicable, the information needed to make payment and shall identify third party liability coverage, including Medicare and other insurance, and if applicable seek such third party liability payment before submitting claims to Subcontractor or Health Plan. Provider understands and agrees that each claim Provider submits to Subcontractor or Health Plan, constitutes a certification that the claim is true and accurate to the best of Provider's knowledge and belief and that the Covered Services are 1) Medically Necessary and 2) have been provided to the Covered Person prior to submitting the claim.

**3.25 Compliance with Medicaid Laws and Regulations.** Provider agrees to abide by the Medicaid laws, regulations and program instructions to the extent applicable to Provider in Provider's performance of the Agreement. Provider understands that payment of a claim by Subcontractor or Health Plan, or the State is conditioned upon the claim and the underlying transaction complying with such laws, regulations, and program instructions (including, but not limited to, federal requirements on fraud, waste and abuse, disclosure, debarment, termination and exclusion screening), and is conditioned on the Provider's compliance with all applicable conditions of participation in Medicaid. Provider understands and agrees that each claim the Provider submits to Subcontractor or Health Plan, constitutes a certification that the Provider has complied with all applicable Medicaid laws, regulations and program instructions in connection with such claims and the services provided therein. Provider's payment of a claim will be denied if Provider is terminated or excluded from participation in federal healthcare programs. Provider's payment of a claim may be temporarily suspended if the State or Subcontractor or Health Plan, provides notice that a credible allegation of fraud exists and there is a pending investigation. Provider's payment of a claim may also be temporarily suspended or adjusted if the Provider bills a claim with a code that does not match the service provided. Subcontractor

and/or Health Plan, performs coding edit procedures based primarily on National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) policies and other nationally recognized and validated policies. Provider agrees that it will provide medical records to Subcontractor or Health Plan, upon its request in order to determine appropriateness of coding. Provider may dispute any temporarily suspended or adjusted payment consistent with the terms of the Agreement.

**3.26 Insurance Requirements.** As applicable, Provider shall secure and maintain during the term of the Agreement insurance appropriate to the services to be performed under the Agreement.

**3.27 Licensure.** Provider represents that it is currently licensed and/or certified under applicable State and federal statutes and regulations and by the appropriate State licensing body or standard-setting agency, as applicable. Provider represents that it is in compliance with all applicable State and federal statutory and regulatory requirements of the Medicaid program and that it is eligible to participate in the Medicaid program. Provider represents that it does not have a Medicaid provider agreement with the Department that is terminated, suspended, denied, or not renewed as a result of any action of the Department, CMS, HHS, or the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the State's Attorney General. Provider shall maintain at all times throughout the term of the Agreement all necessary licenses, certifications, registrations and permits as are required to provide the health care services and/or other related activities delegated to Provider by Subcontractor or Health Plan, under the Agreement. If at any time during the term of the Agreement, Provider is not properly licensed as described in this Section, Provider shall discontinue providing services to Covered Persons. Claims for services performed during any period of noncompliance with these license requirements will be denied.

**3.28 Clinical Laboratory Improvements Act (CLIA) certification or waiver.** As applicable, if Provider performs any laboratory tests on human specimens for the purpose of diagnosis and/or treatment, Provider agrees to acquire and maintain the appropriate CLIA certification or waiver for the type of laboratory testing performed. Provider further agrees to provide a copy of the certification if requested by Subcontractor or Health Plan. A State authorized license or permit that meets the CLIA requirements may be substituted for the CLIA certificate pursuant to State law. Medicare and Medicaid programs require the applicable CLIA certification or waiver for the type of services performed as a condition of payment. Provider must include the appropriate CLIA certificate or waiver number on claims submitted for payment for laboratory services.

**3.29 Quality; Utilization Management.** Pursuant to any applicable provider manuals and related protocols, or as elsewhere specified under the Agreement, Provider agrees to cooperate with Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's, quality improvement and utilization review and management activities. This shall include, but not be limited to, participation in any internal and external quality assurance, utilization review, peer review, and grievance procedures established by Subcontractor or Health Plan, or as required under the State Contract to ensure that Covered Persons have due process for their complaints, grievances, appeals, fair hearings or requests for external review of adverse decisions made by Subcontractor, Health Plan, or Provider. Provider shall adhere to the quality assurance and utilization review standards of the State Program and shall monitor quality and initiate corrective action to improve quality consistent with the generally accepted level of care.

3.30 **Immediate Transfer.** Provider shall cooperate with Subcontractor and Health Plan in the event an immediate transfer to another primary care physician or Medicaid managed care contractor is warranted if the Covered Person's health or safety is in jeopardy, as may be required under law.

3.31 **Transition of Covered Persons.** In the event of transitioning Covered Persons from other Medicaid managed care contractors and their provider, Provider shall work with Subcontractor and/or Health Plan to ensure quality-driven health outcomes for such Covered Persons to the extent required by the State Contract or otherwise required by law.

3.32 **Continuity of Care.** Provider shall cooperate with Subcontractor and Health Plan and provide Covered Persons with continuity of treatment, including coordination of care to the extent required under law and according to the terms of the Agreement, in the event Provider's participation with Subcontractor terminates during the course of a Covered Person's treatment by Provider, except in the case of adverse reasons on the part of Provider.

3.33 **Advance Directives.** When applicable, Provider shall comply with the advance directives requirements for hospitals, nursing facilities, providers of home and health care and personal care services, hospices, and HMOs as specified in 42 CFR Part 49, subpart I, and 42 CFR § 417.436(d), 42 CFR § 422.128, and 42 CFR 438.3(i).

3.34 **National Provider ID (NPI).** If applicable, Provider shall obtain a National Provider Identification Number (NPI).

3.35 **Termination.** In the event of termination of the Agreement, Provider shall promptly supply to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, all information necessary for the reimbursement of any outstanding Medicaid claims. Provider must continue to see Covered Persons that are currently receiving treatment through the termination date, according to all terms and conditions specified in the Agreement.

3.36 **Report of Births.** A Provider that is a hospital agrees to report births of Covered Persons to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan within 24 hours of the birth. If the Covered Person makes a PCP selection during the hospital stay and one was not already identified, such Provider shall report this information to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan.

3.37 **Member Rights.** Provider must comply with any applicable Federal and State laws that pertain to member rights when furnishing Covered Services to Covered Persons.

3.38 **Telehealth.** Providers that provide telehealth must follow all applicable State and Federal regulations governing their practice and the Covered Services they provide.

3.39 **Immunizations.** Provider shall use vaccines available without charge under the Vaccine for Children program. This program provides vaccines to Medicaid children 18 years old and younger. Immunizations should be given in conjunction with EPSDT/well child visits or when other appropriate opportunities occur. Provider must report required immunization data to the Nebraska State Immunization Information System, administered by DHHS/Division of Public

Health. This requirement must be made a part of any contracts that Provider has with its providers.

**3.40 Emergency Services.** A Provider that is an attending emergency physician, or the Provider actually treating the Covered Person, is responsible for determining when the Covered Person is sufficiently stabilized for transfer or discharge, and that determination is binding on the Subcontractor and/or Health Plan.

**3.41 Covered Person Nondiscrimination.** Provider must take affirmative action so that Covered Persons are provided Covered Services without regard to payer source, race, color, creed, gender, religion, age, national origin (to include those with limited English proficiency), ancestry, marital status, sexual-orientation, genetic information, or physical or mental illnesses. Provider must take into account a Covered Person's literacy and culture when addressing them and their concerns, and must take reasonable steps to ensure subcontractors do the same. Violations of this requirement may result in a corrective action plan that could lead to sanctions or termination of the Agreement.

**3.42 Electronic Visit Verification (EVV).** Provider shall cooperate with State requirements for electronic visit verification for personal care services and home health services, as applicable.

**3.43 Health Records.** Provider agrees to cooperate with Subcontractor and/or Health Plan to maintain and share a health record of all services provided to a Covered Person, as appropriate and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and professional standards.

**3.44 Overpayment.** Provider shall report to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan when it has received an overpayment and will return the overpayment to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan within 60 calendar days after the date on which the overpayment was identified. Provider will notify Subcontractor and/or Health Plan in writing of the reason for the overpayment.

## **SECTION 4 SUBCONTRACTOR AND HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

**4.1 Prompt Payment.** Subcontractor and/or Health Plan, as applicable, shall pay Provider pursuant to the State Contract and applicable State and federal law and regulations, including but not limited to 42 CFR 447.46, 42 CFR 447.45(d)(2), 42 CFR 447.45(d)(3), 42 CFR 447.45(d)(5) and 42 CFR 447.45(d)(6), as applicable and as may be amended from time to time. If a third party liability exists, payment of claims shall be determined in accordance with federal and/or State third party liability law and the terms of the State Contract. Unless Subcontractor and/or Health Plan otherwise requests assistance from Provider, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan will be responsible for third party collections in accordance with the terms of the State Contract.

**4.2 No Incentives to Limit Medically Necessary Services.** Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall not structure compensation provided to individuals or entities that conduct utilization management and concurrent review activities so as to provide incentives for the individual or entity to deny, limit, or discontinue Medically Necessary services to any Covered Person.

4.3 **Provider Discrimination Prohibition.** Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall not discriminate with respect to participation, reimbursement, or indemnification of a provider who is acting within the scope of the provider's license or certification under applicable State law, solely on the basis of such license or certification. Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall not discriminate against Provider for serving high-risk Covered Persons or if Provider specializes in conditions requiring costly treatments. This provision shall not be construed as prohibiting Subcontractor and/or Health Plan from limiting a provider's participation to the extent necessary to meet the needs of Covered Persons. This provision also is not intended and shall not interfere with measures established by Subcontractor and/or Health Plan that are designed to maintain quality of care practice standards and control costs.

4.4 **Communications with Covered Persons.** Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall not prohibit or otherwise restrict Provider, when acting within the lawful scope of practice, from advising or advocating on behalf of a Covered Person for the following:

- (a) The Covered Person's health status, medical care, or treatment options, including any alternative treatment that may be self-administered;
- (b) Any information the Covered Person needs in order to decide among all relevant treatment options;
- (c) The risks, benefits, and consequences of treatment or non-treatment; or
- (d) The Covered Person's right to participate in decisions regarding his or her health care, including the right to refuse treatment, and to express preferences about future treatment decisions.

Subcontractor and/or Health Plan also shall not prohibit a Provider from advocating on behalf of a Covered Person in any grievance system, utilization review process, or individual authorization process to obtain necessary health care services.

4.5 **Termination, Revocation and Sanctions.** In addition to its termination rights under the Agreement, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall have the right to revoke any functions or activities Subcontractor and/or Health Plan delegates to Provider under the Agreement or impose other sanctions consistent with the State Contract if in Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's reasonable judgment Provider's performance under the Agreement is inadequate. Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall also have the right to suspend, deny, refuse to renew or terminate Provider in accordance with the terms of the State Contract and applicable law and regulation.

## **SECTION 5 OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

5.1 **Compliance with State Contract.** All tasks performed under the Agreement shall be performed in accordance with the requirements of the applicable State Contract and/or RFP, as set forth in this Appendix, applicable provider manuals, and protocols, policies and procedures that Subcontractor and/or Health Plan has provided or delivered to Provider. The applicable provisions of the State Contract are incorporated into the Agreement by reference. Nothing in

the Agreement relieves Subcontractor and/or Health Plan of its responsibility under the State Contract. If any provision of the Agreement is in conflict with provisions of the State Contract, the terms of the State Contract shall control and the terms of the Agreement in conflict with those of the State Contract will be considered waived. Subcontractor and Health Plan agree contractual differences with Provider shall be resolved via a process that is compliant with the State Contract, including guidelines on Provider grievance and appeals. Provider agrees to complete all applicable grievance and appeal processes before seeking other legal or administrative remedies under State or federal law. Nothing in the Agreement or this Appendix shall impact Provider's fair hearing rights as required by the State Contract or applicable State laws and regulations.

**5.2 Monitoring.** Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall perform ongoing monitoring (announced or unannounced) of services rendered by Provider under the Agreement and shall perform periodic formal reviews of Provider according to a schedule established by the State, consistent with industry standards or State managed care organization laws and regulations or requirements under the State Contract. As a result of such monitoring activities, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall identify to Provider any deficiencies or areas for improvement mandated under the State Contract and Provider and Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall take appropriate corrective action. Provider shall comply with any corrective action plan initiated by Subcontractor and/or Health Plan and/or required by the State Program. In addition, Provider shall monitor and report the quality of services delivered under the Agreement and initiate a plan of correction where necessary to improve quality of care, in accordance with that level of care which is recognized as acceptable professional practice in the respective community in which Subcontractor and/or Health Plan and Provider practice and/or the performance standards established under the State Contract.

**5.3 Enrollment.** The parties acknowledge and agree that the State Program is responsible for enrollment, reenrollment and disenrollment of Covered Persons.

**5.4 No Exclusivity.** Nothing in the Agreement or this Appendix shall be construed as prohibiting or penalizing Provider for contracting with a managed care organization other than Subcontractor and/or Health Plan or as prohibiting or penalizing Subcontractor and/or Health Plan for contracting with other providers.

**5.5 Delegation.** The parties agree that, prior to execution of the Agreement, Subcontractor and/or Health Plan evaluated Provider's ability to perform any duties delegated to Provider under the Agreement. Any delegated duties and reporting responsibilities shall be set forth in the Agreement or other written delegation agreement or addendum between the parties. Subcontractor and/or Health Plan shall have the right to revoke any functions or activities Subcontractor and/or Health Plan delegates to Provider under the Agreement if in Subcontractor's and/or Health Plan's reasonable judgment Provider's performance under the Agreement is inadequate.

**5.6 Health Care Acquired/Preventable Conditions.** Provider agrees that no payment shall be made for the provision of medical assistance for health care acquired conditions and other provider preventable conditions as may be identified by the State. As a condition of payment,

Provider shall identify and report to Subcontractor and/or Health Plan any provider preventable conditions in accordance with 42 CFR Part 438, including but not limited to 438.6(f)(2)(i).