



VEBA PLAN SUMMARY POSTRETIREMENT HEALTH CARE SAVINGS ARRANGEMENT

Your governmental employer or former governmental employer (“Employer”) has adopted the Minnesota Service Cooperatives VEBA Plan to provide health reimbursement arrangements for retirees, their Spouses and Dependents. The VEBA Plan permits retirees to pay Eligible Health Expenses from individual accounts. Your VEBA Plan account is funded entirely with Employer contributions.

This Summary describes the VEBA Plan’s provisions as of the Effective Date, and answers important questions about it. Keep this Summary, and refer to it to answer important questions about the VEBA Plan.

What does “VEBA” stand for?

“VEBA” is short for “voluntary employees’ beneficiary association.” If you are part of a group of employees represented by a labor union, you are a member of the VEBA if provided for in a collective bargaining agreement between the union and your Employer. If you are not represented by a labor union, you are a member of the VEBA if provided for in a personnel policy of your Employer.

The VEBA has been organized as a trust designed to be exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”). As used in this Summary, the term “VEBA Plan” includes not only the trust, but also the health reimbursement arrangements that are funded through the trust. Additional eligibility rules may apply in order for you to participate in the health reimbursement arrangement.

INTRODUCTION

When you become eligible for the VEBA Plan, your Employer will make one or more contributions to an individual account in your name. The timing and amount of contributions will be determined under your collective bargaining agreement or personnel policy. You are not entitled to choose between taxable cash compensation and contributions to VEBA Plan. Your VEBA Plan account has the following additional features:

- Your account is funded entirely with Employer contributions.
- Your account may only be used for Eligible Health Expenses for you or your Dependents.
- You may only access your account following your Retirement Date. “Retirement Date” means the date on which you terminate from public service. For this purpose, termination from public service includes the following:
 - 1) termination of employment;
 - 2) retirement;
 - 3) when you become totally disabled or die; and

- 4) the commencement of a medical leave of absence as determined by collective bargaining agreements or personnel policies of the Employer.
- The Retirement Date may vary among employees of your Employer if provided for in collective bargaining agreements or personnel policies.
 - You may direct the investment of your account in mutual funds that represent a broad range of risk and return.

Your Employer may offer one or more of the VEBA coverage options listed below, and the definition of “Eligible Health Expenses” will vary depending on which of the VEBA coverage options are offered. If more than one option is offered, the definition of Eligible Health Expenses will vary depending upon which VEBA coverage option you choose prior to the beginning of the Plan Year.

- *General-Purpose VEBA Option.* For purposes of this Option, “Eligible Health Expenses” means medical care expenses incurred by you or your Dependents (including your Spouse) that are related to the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease, sickness or injury.
- *Limited-Purpose VEBA Option.* Employees who choose this Options may be eligible to contribute to a health savings account (an “HSA”) if they are also covered by a high deductible health plan (with the meaning of Section 223 of the Code) and they do not have any disqualifying coverage. For purposes of this Option, “Eligible Health Expenses” means expenses incurred by you or your Dependents (including your Spouse) for medical care expenses that are related to the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease, sickness or injury; provided, however, that such expense is limited to one or more of the following categories of coverage, as determined by your Employer: vision care, dental care, preventive care (as defined in Section 223(c) of the Code), or Eligible Health Expenses incurred after you satisfied the applicable minimum deductible for a high deductible health plan (as defined in Section 223(c) of the Code).
- *Employee-Plus-Children VEBA Option.* Employees may choose this option if their spouse wishes to remain eligible to contribute to an HSA. For purposes of this Option, “Eligible Health Expenses” means expenses incurred by you or your child who is your Dependent (but not by your Spouse) for medical care expenses that are related to the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease, sickness or injury.

If your Employer offers VEBA coverage options in addition to the General-Purpose VEBA Option, and you fail to elect any of the VEBA Options listed above during the open enrollment period before the beginning of a Plan Year, you will be deemed to have elected the General-Purpose VEBA Option for the duration of that Plan Year.

The VEBA Plan offers you more choices than are available through traditional health insurance:

- You may use your VEBA Plan funds for any Eligible Health Expense, many of which are not covered under traditional health insurance or coverage under Medicare Parts A, B or D.

- You may use your VEBA Plan funds to pay insurance premiums after retirement under your Employer’s major medical plan (if you are eligible for and elect to continue coverage under your Employer’s plan), under Medicare Parts B or D, and under Medicare supplemental insurance;
- You may use your VEBA Plan funds to pay for physicians and specialists without obtaining a referral, and whether or not they belong to a particular network.
- You may use your VEBA Plan funds to pay for prescription and many over-the-counter drugs, whether or not they are name-brand or generic.
- You may preserve your health care fund many years, if you use your VEBA Plan funds wisely.

Tips for conserving your VEBA Plan funds

1. If you remain covered under a major medical plan of your Employer after your Retirement Date, take advantage of discounts that may be available for covered services:
 - Your Employer has pooled its purchasing power with other employers to obtain discounts from physicians and hospitals, and for prescription drugs.
 - While you are a member in your Employer’s plan, discounts will be passed through to your VEBA Plan account if the service is a covered benefit under the major medical plan.
2. Use generic drugs rather than “name brand” drugs advertised on T.V.
3. Invest in preventive care.

IMPORTANT: READ NEXT PARAGRAPHS CAREFULLY

This VEBA Plan Summary is a summary only. It does not alter the VEBA Plan, and the actual text of the underlying plan and trust documents control in all instances. If there is an inconsistency between the contents of this Summary and the contents of the plan and trust, your rights under the VEBA Plan shall be determined under the plan and trust and not under this Summary. The plan and trust may be reviewed during regular business hours at your Employer’s main office, or at the office of the Service Cooperative of which your Employer is a member.

This Summary may not alter the terms of other employee benefit plans, or of any collective bargaining agreement, personnel policy, or insurance contract. This Summary is limited to the VEBA Plan, and it does not create, expand, or reduce any right you may have to coverage after retirement under your Employer’s major medical plan.

HOW TO USE YOUR VEBA PLAN ACCOUNT

Your Employer will contribute an amount to your VEBA account to use for the reimbursement of Eligible Health Expenses after your Retirement Date. Contributions are determined by collective bargaining agreement or personnel policies.

This Summary will use examples based on hypothetical Employer contributions. *Actual contributions to your VEBA Plan account will vary.* Refer to the collective bargaining agreements or personnel policies of the Employer for information on contributions to your VEBA Plan account.

This Summary will also use examples based on a hypothetical major medical plan offered to retirees by your Employer. *Actual deductibles, co-pays, and co-insurance in your major medical plan will vary.* If you are eligible for major medical coverage in retirement, refer to the *Comprehensive Major Medical Health Plan Summary Plan Description* for information on deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance, out-of-pocket-maximums, and other important features. If you are pooled with active employees under a high deductible health plan after retirement, your annual deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums will increase with inflation.

Here is an example of a VEBA Plan account in action:

Mary's employer offers a major medical plan for retirees with a \$500 annual deductible for family coverage, and a \$250 annual deductible for single coverage. The Plan pays for the first \$250 in preventive care expense without a deductible. The premium cost for remaining in the Employer's plan after retirement is \$500 per month.

Mary retires at age 64. Pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, 100% of her accumulated sick pay on her Retirement Date is contributed to her VEBA Plan account. Her sick pay on her retirement date is \$20,000.

Mary's Eligible Health Expenses in the Year after retirement are as follows:

	<u>Amount of expense</u>
Health insurance premiums	\$6,000
Checkup treated as preventive care	\$200
Doctor visits during flu season	\$500
Knee surgery	\$10,000
Eyeglasses	\$200

- Health insurance premiums may be deducted from Mary's VEBA Plan account if she submits a claim form and the premium notice to the Claims Administrator.
- The first \$200 for preventive care is paid entirely by the major medical plan, without any reduction to Mary's VEBA Plan account. This is because the major medical plan covers up to \$250 per year in preventive care expenses on a first-dollar basis.
- The next \$500 for doctor visits is paid from Mary's VEBA Plan account. Although covered by her Employer's major medical plan, they fall within the \$500 deductible. After payment of this amount, the deductible under the Plan falls to zero (\$0.00).
- After obtaining all necessary approvals, Mary undergoes the knee surgery by a network physician for the cost of \$10,000. Because she has met the deductible for the year, 100% of this amount is paid for by insurance (Mary's major medical plan covers 100% of the cost for covered services provided by network physicians).

- The final \$200 is paid from Mary’s VEBA Plan account. Although eyeglasses are Eligible Health Expenses under the VEBA Plan, they are not covered expenses under the major medical plan.
- Mary’s account earns investment income of \$600 (a return of approximately 3% on \$20,000).

At the end of the year, Mary has a total of \$13,900 in her account, determined as follows:

Starting balance:	\$20,000
Less: insurance premiums	(\$6,000)
Less: annual deductible	(\$500)
Less: cost of eyeglasses	<u>(\$200)</u>
Subtotal	\$13,300
Plus: investment returns	<u>600</u>
Total	\$13,900

Mary enrolls in Medicare in Year 2. She drops coverage under her Employer’s major medical plan, enrolls in Medicare Parts B and D, and purchases supplementary coverage.

For the balance of Mary’s retirement, or until her VEBA Plan account is depleted, she may use her VEBA Plan account to pay insurance premiums under Medicare Parts B and D, and for Medicare supplemental insurance. She may also obtain reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, including prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs. Mary’s Spouse and Dependent children, if any, may also be reimbursed for Eligible Health Expenses from her VEBA account.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible?

Eligibility for participation in the VEBA Plan is determined under your collective bargaining agreement or personnel policy. Once you have established a VEBA Plan account, you will remain eligible to participate for as long as you have a positive balance in your account.

How to enroll

You and your Dependents will be enrolled in the VEBA Plan through your Employer if you meet the eligibility requirements above. You will be asked to complete a beneficiary designation form.

“Dependents” under the VEBA Plan

The term “Dependents” includes your Spouse (unless you have elected the Employee-Plus-Children VEBA Option) and your Dependent children to age 19, and children attending post-secondary education on a full-time basis to age 24. Other Dependents include children who are older than the limiting age but who are handicapped and certain grandchildren. The term Dependent also includes Dependents of your Dependent, and married Dependents

filing jointly. If both you and your Spouse are employees of the Employer, and either or both maintain an account under the VEBA Plan, either or both of you may be reimbursed from the other's account for Eligible Health Expenses (unless either or both have elected the Employee-Plus-Children VEBA Option).

Adding new Dependents

The rules for adding new Dependents are described in the *Comprehensive Major Medical Health Plan Summary Plan Description* and in the plan document for the VEBA Plan. In general, newborn children are covered as of the date of birth. Other Dependents, including new Spouses, stepchildren, and children placed for adoption, are generally covered on the date your Employer receives an application for coverage.

Your Employer's major medical plan may exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions for limited periods. The VEBA Plan does not exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions.

When coverage begins

Your coverage under the VEBA Plan will begin on your Retirement Date. Your Retirement date means the date on which you terminate public service. This includes the following:

- 1) termination of employment;
- 2) retirement;
- 3) the date you become disabled;
- 4) a medical leave of absence with a duration (or expected duration) of six months or longer; and
- 5) a leave of absence with a duration (or expected duration) of one year or longer.

The Retirement Date may vary if provided for in collective bargaining agreements or personnel policies.

YOUR VEBA PLAN AND OTHER BENEFITS

Negotiated discounts

If you are covered under your Employer's major medical plan during retirement, discounts that have been negotiated with providers for covered benefits will apply to covered benefits that are reimbursed by your VEBA Plan.

For example, assume you have elected single coverage under your Employer's major medical plan. Also assume that the plan has a \$2,000 annual deductible, and you incur medical expenses for outpatient surgery.

If you use a network physician, the cost of the surgery is \$1,000. This amount is automatically deducted from your VEBA Plan account using the crossover administration feature.

If you use an out-of-network physician, the cost of the surgery is \$1,500. You must pay this amount out-of-pocket and submit a claim for reimbursement (crossover will not apply).

If you are not covered by your Employer's major medical plan, Eligible Health Expenses that are paid through the VEBA Plan account will not be eligible for negotiated discounts. Nor will discounts be available for Dependents if you have elected single coverage under your Employer's major medical plan.

What is "Crossover"?

Crossover refers to the automatic payment of medical expenses from your VEBA Plan account and your Employer's major medical plan. If you elect crossover administration, for example, and you incur an expense at the doctor's office, the expense will be paid in the following steps:

Step 1: Invoice is sent to Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota, who serves as the claims administrator for your major medical plan;

Step 2: Any amount not paid by the major medical plan is sent to SelectAccount (MII Life, Incorporated) who serves as claims administrator for the VEBA Plan;

Step 3: SelectAccount (MII Life, Incorporated) deducts the expense from your VEBA Plan account; and

Step 4: You are responsible for any unpaid balance.

Crossover permits expenses to be paid automatically to you from your VEBA Plan account. You may also request that SelectAccount (MII Life, Incorporated) pay other insurance premiums, such as Medicare Part B, directly from your account. If you do not elect crossover or make a direct payment request, you will be required to pay these expenses out-of-pocket and submit separate reimbursement forms to the VEBA Plan.

Suspending Your VEBA Plan to Gain Health Savings Account Eligibility

If permitted under collective bargaining agreements or personnel policies of your Employer, you (or your surviving Dependent) may elect, before the beginning of the plan year, to forgo the payment or reimbursement of Eligible Health Expenses incurred during the plan year so that you (or your surviving Dependent) may contribute to a Health Savings Account. The option of forgoing the payment or reimbursement of Eligible Health Expenses is available only to you (or your surviving Dependents) if you (or your surviving Dependents) are covered by a high deductible health plan within the meaning of Code Section 223(c)(2). If you choose to suspend your VEBA Plan, you will be required to elect the Limited-Purpose VEBA Option, and such suspension shall not apply to reimbursement of claims for dental or vision expenses, preventive care expenses or expenses incurred after satisfaction of the deductible under the Employer's high deductible health plan and preventive care ("Excepted Medical Expenses"). Eligible Health Expenses incurred during the suspended plan year (other than the Excepted Medical Expenses it otherwise allowed to be paid or reimbursed by the VEBA Plan), cannot be paid or reimbursed by the VEBA Plan currently or later (i.e., after the VEBA plan year ends). However, your Employer may continue to make contributions to your account during the suspension period and these amounts will be available for the payment or reimbursement of the Excepted Medical Expenses incurred during the suspension period as well as Eligible Health Expenses incurred in later VEBA plan years in which no suspension is in effect.

CONSUMER PRIVACY

By your participation in this arrangement, you and your Dependents have agreed to allow all health care providers to give the Claims Administrator information on medical care they provide to you or your Dependents. The Claims Administrator will keep all such information strictly confidential. If a health care provider requires specific authorization to release records, you or your Dependents agree to provide this authorization. The failure of you or your Dependents to provide authorization or requested information may result in denial of your claim.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Questions?

The Claims Administrator's customer service staff is available to answer your questions about your benefits and claims payments.

Monday through Friday: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM CST

Hours are subject to change without prior notice.

Customer Service Telephone Number

(651) 662-5065 or toll free at 1-800-859-2144

SelectAccount (MII Life, Incorporated Website)

<http://www.selectaccount.com>

Claims Administrator's Mailing Address

Claim forms, claim review requests, and written inquiries may be mailed to the address below:

MII Life Incorporated d/b/a SelectAccount
Attn: VEBA Administration
P.O. Box 64193
St. Paul, MN 55164-0193

Claims Administrator's Fax Number

(651) 662-7247

Trustee's Contact Information

MG Trust Company
700 17th Street
Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Account Termination

Your coverage will terminate on the date your account balance reaches zero, or on the date the VEBA Plan determines your account has been abandoned.

Former Dependents

The account balance you have accumulated while you have Dependents will continue to be available to former Dependents for reimbursement of Eligible Health Expenses after divorce or loss of Dependent status. Your former Dependent may also elect continuation coverage with regard to the right to receive future Employer contributions.

Benefits following death

On your death, your Spouse and other eligible Dependents will continue to have access to your VEBA Plan account. They may be reimbursed for Eligible Health Expenses you incurred before your death, and for Eligible Health Expenses they incur following your death.

If you die without a Spouse or other eligible Dependent, your VEBA Plan account will revert to the VEBA. For collectively bargained groups, and unless otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement, any amounts that revert to the VEBA Plan upon death will be allocated uniformly to the accounts of members in the VEBA who are current or retired employees of the Employer, and who are current or retired members of the same collective bargaining unit. For nonunion employees, and unless otherwise provided for in a personnel policy, any such amounts will be allocated uniformly to members of the VEBA who are current or retired employees of the Employer.

CONTINUATION COVERAGE

Employees who retire are eligible to remain in the Plan until their accounts are depleted. If you are a Spouse or Dependent of a participant, you may be eligible to continue the reimbursement of Eligible Expenses from the participant's account as described below.

Qualifying Event	Who May Continue	Maximum Continuation Period
Divorce	Former Spouse and any Dependent children who lose coverage	Earlier of: 1. enrollment date in other group coverage, or 2. date coverage would otherwise end.
Death of employee	Surviving Spouse and Dependent children	Earlier of: 1. enrollment date in other group coverage, or 2. date coverage would otherwise end if the employee had lived.
Dependent child loses eligibility	Dependent child	Earliest of: 1. 36 months from the date of losing eligibility, 2. enrollment date in other group coverage, or 3. date coverage would otherwise end.

Notification

Qualified beneficiaries¹ must notify the Employer within 60 days of a qualifying event, such as divorce that would result in a loss of coverage for a Dependent. Qualified beneficiaries that wish to continue coverage must notify the Employer in writing. The Employer must notify qualified beneficiaries of the option to continue coverage within 10 days of receiving notice of a qualifying event.

Qualified beneficiaries have 60 days to choose to continue, starting with the date of the notice of continuation or the date coverage ended, whichever is later. Failure to choose continuation within the required time period will render the qualified beneficiary ineligible to choose continuation at a later date. Qualified beneficiaries have 45 days from the date of choosing continuation to pay the first continuation charges, except that surviving Dependents of a deceased employee have 90 days to pay the first continuation charges. After this initial grace period, qualified beneficiaries must pay charges monthly in advance to the Employer to maintain coverage in force.

Charges for Continuation

Charges for continuation coverage will be equal to the annual Employer contribution, if any, plus a two (2) percent administration fee. The Employer may waive charges for Spouses and Dependents of retired participants, at its election. All charges are paid directly to the Employer. The Employer will provide qualified beneficiaries, upon request, written verification of the cost of continuation coverage at the time of eligibility or at any time during the continuation period.

Special Continuation Rules in the Event of Divorce or a Dependent Child Losing Eligibility

A qualified beneficiary can only elect to continue the coverage that existed before the qualifying event. This means that, for example, upon a qualifying event of divorce, your former spouse losing coverage will continue to have access to the Account Balance that existed as of the date of the qualifying event until that Account Balance is depleted by the former spouse and/or retiree.

Special Rule for Preexisting Conditions

If qualified beneficiaries obtain other group coverage that excludes benefits for preexisting conditions, they may choose to remain on continuation coverage for a preexisting condition until the date continuation would otherwise end or until the preexisting clause of the new plan is met, whichever occurs first. This Plan is primary and determines benefits first for the preexisting condition. The Plan is not primary for any other condition. For a newborn child born during continuation, the other group coverage plan is primary starting on the date of birth.

¹ A qualified beneficiary is any individual covered under the VEBA Plan on the day before the qualifying event, as well as a child who is born to or placed for adoption with the covered retiree during the period of continuation coverage.

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

In general, your VEBA Plan account will only reimburse you for medical expenses that are not paid or reimbursable from any other source, including Medicare. Notwithstanding this rule, if you or your Dependents are in the first 30 months of Medicare eligibility or entitlement due to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), you or your Dependents will be treated as if you are not yet eligible for Medicare under this rule since Medicare must be your secondary insurance for those first 30 months (unless you or your Dependents were entitled to Medicare due to age or disability on a primary basis at the time of ESRD-based Medicare eligibility).

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

Except as limited by any collective bargaining agreement, and subject to the terms of the Trust, Employer shall have the right to terminate, suspend, withdraw, amend or modify this Plan, upon mutual agreement with the Minnesota Service Cooperative VEBA Committee, in whole or in part at any time. The Minnesota Service Cooperative VEBA Committee has the right to amend the Plan for the law changes at any time.

PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

Your Employer is the Plan administrator. The Plan administrator is responsible for selecting VEBA Plan benefits, rights and features among an array of options made available through the VEBA Committee, and for adopting personnel policies and/or entering into collective bargaining agreements that do not discriminate with respect to VEBA eligibility or contributions. Except to the extent that it delegates Plan responsibilities to the Claims Administrator, Employer shall have full discretionary authority to make any and all factual and legal determinations necessary to determine eligibility for benefits or the amount of any benefits. Except to the extent reserved to the VEBA Committee, your Employer shall also have full discretionary authority to construe the terms of the Plan. This discretion includes, but is not limited to, the authority to make any rules, regulations, statements, or computations that your Employer deems necessary to administer the Plan.

CLAIMS AND APPEALS

You should submit claims for reimbursement under the VEBA Plan to the Claims Administrator. Each claim for benefits that is not submitted directly by a medical care provider shall contain a written statement containing the following information:

- 1) the person or persons on whose behalf Eligible Health Expenses have been incurred;
- 2) the nature of the expenses so incurred;
- 3) the date the expense is incurred;
- 4) the name of the service provider
- 5) the amount of the requested reimbursement; and
- 6) a statement that such expenses have not otherwise been paid through insurance or reimbursed from any other source, and that reimbursement will not be sought from any other source

All claims must be submitted within 18 months after they were incurred or they will be denied as untimely. If the Claims Administrator determines that your claim should be reimbursed, such payment will be made from the VEBA Plan's trust.

If you disagree with the action the Claims Administrator has taken on your claim, the Claims Administrator will review the resolution of your claim using the process outlined below. You may request an external review of the final determination the Claims Administrator makes about your request after you have exhausted the Claims Administrator's appeal process. You may contact the Commissioner of Commerce at any time by calling 1-800-657-3602 or 651-296-4026.

Initial Review

If you disagree with the action the Claims Administrator has taken on your claim, call the Claims Administrator for an explanation of the claim's resolution at the number provided in the "Customer Service" section. The Claims Administrator will try to review the resolution of your claim within 10 days.

Appeals

If you are not satisfied with the Claims Administrator's explanation of the claim's resolution, you may request that your claim be reviewed. You may submit your request for review in writing, or you may request a form that will include all the necessary information to file your written request for review. If you need assistance, the Claims Administrator will complete the form and mail it to you for your signature. The Claims Administrator will notify you within 10 days that it has received your written request for review. Within 30 days of receiving your written request and all necessary information, the Claims Administrator will notify you in writing of its determination and the reasons for the determination. If the Claims Administrator is unable to make a determination within 30 days due to circumstances outside its control, the Claims Administrator may take up to 14 additional days to make a determination. If the Claims Administrator takes more than 30 days to make a determination, the Claims Administrator will inform you in advance of the reasons for the extension.

If you disagree with the action the Claims Administrator has taken on your written request for review, you may appeal the determination in writing and request either a hearing or a written reconsideration. If you request a hearing, you and any person you choose may present testimony or other information. The Claims Administrator will provide you written notice of its determination and all key findings within 45 days after the Claims Administrator receives your written request for a hearing. If you request a written reconsideration, you may provide the Claims Administrator with any additional information you believe is necessary. The Claims Administrator will provide you written notice of its determination and all key findings within 30 days after the Claims Administrator receives your request for a written reconsideration. You are entitled to examine all pertinent documents and to submit issues and comments in writing. If you request, the Claims Administrator will provide you a complete summary of the appeal decision.

External Review

If your appeal concerns a covered health care service or claim and you disagree with the Claims Administrator's appeal determination, you or anyone you authorize to act on your behalf, may submit the appeal determination to external review. The state of Minnesota has contracted with an independent organization to conduct the external review of your appeal. This independent organization meets the state's requirements to conduct external review of health-related disputes. Your written request for external review must be submitted to the Commissioner of Commerce along with a filing fee of \$25. The commissioner may waive the fee in cases of financial hardship.

You may request external review by contacting the Department of Commerce at:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Attention Enforcement Division
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

The external review organization will notify you and the Claims Administrator that it has received your request for external review. Within 10 business days of receiving notice from the external review organization, you and the Claims Administrator must provide the external review organization any information to be considered. Both you and the Claims Administrator will be able to present a statement of facts and arguments. You may be assisted or represented by any person of your choice at your expense. The external review organization will send written notice of its decision to you, the Claims Administrator, and the commissioner within 40 days of receiving the request for external review. The external review organization's decision is binding on the Claims Administrator, but not binding on you.

ELIGIBLE HEALTH EXPENSES

You may be reimbursed from your VEBA Plan account for medical care expenses that are related to the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease, sickness or injury. Eligible Health Expenses that will be reimbursed from your VEBA Plan account include the following:

Abortion	The amount paid by you or your Dependents for a legal abortion is eligible for reimbursement.
Acupuncture	The amount paid by you or your Dependents for acupuncture is eligible for reimbursement.
Alcoholism	Payments made by you or your Dependents to a treatment center for alcoholics or drug addicts are eligible for reimbursement. This includes meals and lodging provided by the center during medical treatment.
Ambulance	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for ambulance service are eligible for reimbursement.
Artificial limb	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for an artificial limb are eligible for reimbursement.
Birth control pills	Expenses paid by you or your Dependents for birth control pills prescribed by a doctor are eligible for reimbursement.

Braille books and magazines

The cost of Braille books and magazines paid for and used by a blind or visually handicapped participant that is more than the price for regular books and magazines is eligible for reimbursement.

Capital expenses

Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for special equipment installed in your home or for improvements, if the main reason is for medical care, are eligible for reimbursement. Permanent improvements that increase the value of the property may be partly eligible for reimbursement. The amount paid for the improvement is reduced by the increase in the value of the property. The rest is eligible for reimbursement. If the value of the property is not increased by the improvement, the entire cost is eligible for reimbursement.

Certain capital expenses generally do not increase the value of a personal residence and may generally be eligible for reimbursement in full. Expenses made for the primary purpose of accommodating a personal residence to the handicapped condition of you or your Dependents are eligible for reimbursement.

These expenses include, but are not limited to, the following items.

- Constructing entrance or exit ramps to the residence.
- Widening doorways at entrances or exits to the residence
- Widening or otherwise modifying hallways and interior doorways.
- Installing railing, support bars, or other modifications to bathrooms.
- Lowering of or making other modifications to kitchen cabinets and equipment.
- Altering the location of or otherwise modifying electrical outlets and fixtures.
- Installing porch lifts and other forms of lifts. Generally, this does not include elevators, because they may add to the fair market value of the residence, and any reimbursement would have to be decreased to that extent.
- Modifying fire alarms, smoke detectors, and other warning systems.
- Modifying stairways.
- Adding handrails or grab bars anywhere in the house.
- Modifying hardware on doors.
- Modifying areas in front entrance and exit doorways.
- Grading of ground to provide access to the residence.

If expenses similar to those listed above are incurred to adapt a personal residence to the handicapped condition of you or your Dependents, the full expenses are eligible for reimbursement, provided the expenses do not increase the fair market value of your residence. Only reasonable costs incurred to accommodate a personal residence to the handicapped condition are considered to be incurred for the purpose of medical care or are directly related to medical care for these purposes. Additional costs attributable to personal motivations, such as for architectural or aesthetic reasons, are **not** eligible for reimbursement.

Car

Special equipment. The cost paid by you or your Dependents of special hand controls and other special equipment installed in a car for the use of a handicapped person is eligible for reimbursement.

Special Design. The amount by which the cost of a car specially designed to hold a wheelchair is more than the cost of a regular car is eligible for reimbursement.

Cost of operation. The cost of operating a specially equipped car is *not* eligible for reimbursement, except as discussed under **Transportation**.

Chiropractors	Fees paid by you or your Dependents to a chiropractor for medical care are eligible for reimbursement.												
Christian Science practitioners	Fees paid to Christian Science practitioners are eligible for reimbursement.												
Contact lenses	See Eyeglasses .												
Cosmetic surgery	The amounts paid by you or your Dependents for cosmetic surgery or similar procedures directed at improving an individual's appearance are <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement unless the surgery or procedure is necessary to ameliorate a deformity arising from a congenital abnormality, a personal injury resulting from an accident or trauma, or a disfiguring disease.												
Crutches	The amount paid by you or your Dependents to buy or rent crutches is eligible for reimbursement.												
Dancing lessons, swimming lessons, etc.	The cost of dancing lessons, swimming lessons, etc. for you or your Dependent is <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement, even if they are recommended by a doctor for the general improvement of the health of such person.												
Dental treatment	The amounts paid by you or your Dependents for dental treatment are eligible for reimbursement. This includes fees paid to dentists for X-rays, fillings, braces, extractions, dentures, etc.												
Diaper service	<i>Not</i> eligible for reimbursement.												
Doctor's fees	Fees paid by you or your Dependents to doctors are eligible for reimbursement. This includes, but is not limited to, fees to: <table><tr><td>anesthesiologists</td><td>ophthalmologists</td></tr><tr><td>chiropodists</td><td>osteopaths</td></tr><tr><td>dermatologists</td><td>pediatricians</td></tr><tr><td>gynecologists</td><td>podiatrists</td></tr><tr><td>neurologists</td><td>psychiatrists</td></tr><tr><td>obstetricians</td><td>surgeons</td></tr></table>	anesthesiologists	ophthalmologists	chiropodists	osteopaths	dermatologists	pediatricians	gynecologists	podiatrists	neurologists	psychiatrists	obstetricians	surgeons
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Drugs	See Medicines .												
Drug addiction	See Alcoholism .												
Electrolysis or hair removal	See Cosmetic Surgery .												
Eyeglasses	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for eyeglasses and contact lenses needed for medical reasons are eligible for reimbursement. Fees paid by you or your Dependents for eye examinations are also eligible for reimbursement.												

Fertility Enhancement	The cost of the following procedures to overcome the inability to have children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures such as <i>in vitro</i> fertilization (including temporary storage of eggs or sperm). • Surgery, including an operation to reverse a prior sterilization procedure.
Founder's fee	See Lifetime care - advance payments .
Funeral expenses	<i>Not</i> eligible for reimbursement.
Group medical insurance	See Insurance - premiums, policies, and plans .
Guide Dog	The cost paid by you or your Dependents for a guide dog for the blind or deaf is eligible for reimbursement. The cost of a dog or other animal trained to assist persons with other physical disabilities is also eligible for reimbursement. Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for the care of the dog are also eligible for reimbursement.
Hair transplant	See Cosmetic Surgery .
Handicapped persons	See Schools, special .
Health club dues	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for health club dues, YMCA dues, or steam baths for general health or to relieve physical or mental discomfort not related to a particular medical condition are <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement.
Hearing aids	The costs paid by you or your Dependents of a hearing aid and the batteries purchased to operate it are eligible for reimbursement.
Hospital Services	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for hospital services are eligible for reimbursement. Also see Lodging .
Household help	The cost paid by you or your Dependents for household help, even if a doctor recommends it because the individual is physically unable to do housework is <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement. However, see Nursing services .
Insurance premiums, policies, and plans	The cost paid by you or your Dependents for health insurance premiums, policies or plans are eligible for reimbursement. This includes amounts for retiree coverage, continuation coverage (including continuation coverage under COBRA), Medicare Part B coverage, and eligible long-term care premiums. You are <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement of health insurance premiums you pay on a pre-tax basis for coverage under your Employer's group health plan. Nor may you be reimbursed for premiums paid by your Spouse on a pre-tax basis for coverage under a group health plan of your Spouse's employer.
Laboratory fees	The amounts paid by you or your Dependents for laboratory fees that are part of medical care are eligible for reimbursement.
Laetrile	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for laetrile prescribed by a doctor and purchased and used in a location where the sale and use are legal are eligible for reimbursement.

Laser Eye Surgery	Amounts paid for radial keratotomy or other eye surgery are eligible for reimbursement if the procedures are done primarily to promote the correct function of the eye.
Lead-based paint removal	<p>The cost paid by you or your Dependents of removing lead-based paints from surfaces in your home to prevent a child who has or had lead poisoning from eating the paint is eligible for reimbursement. These surfaces must be in poor repair (peeling or cracking) or within the child's reach. The cost of repainting the scraped area is <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement.</p> <p>If, instead of removing the paint, the area is covered with wallboard or paneling, these items would be treated as capital expenses. See Capital expenses. The cost of painting the wallboard is <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement.</p>
Learning disability	Tuition fees paid by you or your Dependents to a special school for a child who has severe learning disabilities caused by a mental or physical handicap, including nervous system disorders, are eligible for reimbursement. A doctor must recommend that the child attend the school. See Schools, special .
Learning disabilities (cont.)	Tutoring fees paid by you or your Dependents on a doctor's recommendation for the child's tutoring by a teacher who is specially trained and qualified to work with children who have severe learning disabilities are also eligible for reimbursement
Legal fees	Legal fees paid by you or your Dependents to authorize treatment for mental illness are eligible for reimbursement. However, if part of the legal fee includes, for example, a guardianship or estate management fee, that part is <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement.
Lifetime care - advance payments	<i>Not</i> eligible for reimbursement.
Lodging	<p>The costs paid by you or your Dependents of meals and lodging at a hospital or similar institution if the main reason for being there is to receive medical care are eligible for reimbursement. See Nursing home.</p> <p>The cost paid by you or your Dependents of lodging (not provided in a hospital or similar institution) while away from home is eligible for reimbursement if all of the following requirements are met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lodging is primarily for and essential to medical care; • Medical care is provided by a doctor in a licensed hospital or in a medical care facility related to, or the equivalent of, a licensed hospital; • The lodging is not lavish or extravagant under the circumstances; and • There is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the travel away from home. <p>The amount eligible for reimbursement cannot exceed \$50 for each night for each person. Lodging is included for a person for whom transportation expenses are a medical expense because that person is traveling with the person receiving the medical care. For example, if a parent is traveling with a sick child, up to \$100 per night is included as a medical expense for lodging (meals are not deductible).</p>

The cost of meals and lodging while away from home for medical treatment that is not received at a medical facility, or for the relief of a specific condition, even if the trip is made on the advice of a doctor is **not** eligible for reimbursement.

Maternity clothes *Not* eligible for reimbursement.

Meals See **Lodging**.

Medical conferences Amounts paid for admission and transportation to a medical conference are eligible for reimbursement if the medical conference concerns the chronic illness of the participant, the participant's Spouse, or the participant's Dependent. The costs of the medical conference must be primarily for and necessary to the medical care of you or your Dependents. The majority of time at the conference must be spent attending sessions on medical information. The cost of meals and lodging while attending the conference is **not** reimbursable as a medical expense.

Medical information plan Amounts paid by you or your Dependents to a plan that keeps medical information so that it can be retrieved from a computer data bank for medical care are eligible for reimbursement.

Medicines Amounts paid by a participant, Spouse or Dependent for medicines and drugs that require a prescription, or for insulin are eligible for reimbursement. A prescribed drug is one that requires a prescription by a doctor for its use by an individual.

Amounts paid by a participant, Spouse or Dependent for non-prescription medicines and drugs used to alleviate or treat personal injuries or sickness are also eligible for reimbursement. Examples of such non-prescription drugs include antacid, allergy medicines, pain relievers, and cold treatment medicines. Examples of items that are **not** medicines and drugs and are therefore **not** eligible for reimbursement include toiletries (such as toothpaste), cosmetics (such as face creams) and dietary supplements (such as vitamins).

Amounts paid for controlled substances (such as marijuana, laetrile, etc.) in violation of federal law are **not** reimbursable. Also see **Laetrile**.

Mentally retarded, special home for The cost of keeping a mentally retarded Dependent in a special home, not the home of a relative, on the recommendation of a psychiatrist to help the person adjust from life in a mental hospital to community living is eligible for reimbursement.

Nursing home The cost of medical care paid by you or your Dependents, including meals and lodging, for him or herself in a nursing home or home for the aged, if the main reason for being there is to get medical care, is eligible for reimbursement.

The cost of meals and lodging if the reason for being in the home is personal or family is **not** eligible for reimbursement. Only the part of the cost that is for medical or nursing care is eligible for reimbursement.

Nursing services Wages and other amounts paid by you or your Dependents for nursing services are eligible for reimbursement. Services need not be performed by a nurse as long as the services are of a kind generally performed by a nurse. This includes services connected with caring for the patient's condition, such as giving

medication or changing dressings, as well as the bathing and grooming of the patient.

Some or all of the amounts paid by you or your Dependents for an attendant's meals are eligible for reimbursement. To find the cost of the attendant's food, divide the food expense among the household members. If additional amounts had to be paid for household upkeep because of the attendant, the extra amounts are eligible for reimbursement. This includes extra rent paid by you or your Dependents because he or she moved to a larger apartment to provide space for the attendant, or the extra cost of utilities for the attendant. If the attendant also provides personal and household services, these amounts must be divided between the time spent in performing household and personal services and the time spent for nursing services. Only the amount spent for nursing services is eligible for reimbursement.

Social security tax. Social security tax paid by you or your Dependents for a nurse, attendant, or other person who provides medical care is eligible for reimbursement.

Operations	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for legal operations are eligible for reimbursement.
Optometrist	See Eyeglasses .
Oxygen	Amounts paid for oxygen or oxygen equipment to relieve breathing problems caused by a medical condition are eligible for reimbursement.
Personal use items	The cost of an item ordinarily used for personal, living, and family purposes if it is used primarily to prevent or alleviate a physical or mental defect or illness is eligible for reimbursement. For example, a wig purchased upon the advice of a physician for the mental health of a patient who has lost all of his or her hair from disease can be included with medical expenses.
Prosthesis	See Artificial limb .
Psychiatric care	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for psychiatric care are eligible for reimbursement. This includes the cost of supporting a mentally ill Dependent at a specially equipped medical center where the Dependent receives medical care. See Psychoanalysis and Transportation .
Psychoanalysis	Payments made by you or your Dependents for psychoanalysis are eligible for reimbursement. Payments for psychoanalysis which is required as a part of training to be a psychoanalyst are <i>not</i> eligible for reimbursement.
Psychologist	Amounts paid by you or your Dependents to a psychologist for medical care are eligible for reimbursement.
Schools, special	Payments made by you or your Dependents to a special school for a mentally or physically handicapped person if the main reason for using the school is that it has resources for relieving the handicap are eligible for reimbursement. Expenses eligible for reimbursement include, for example, the cost of a school that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaches Braille to a blind child,

- Teaches lip reading to a deaf child, or
- Gives remedial language training to correct a condition caused by a birth defect.

The cost of meals, lodging, and ordinary education supplied by a special school can be included in medical expenses only if the main reason for the child being there is the resources the school has for relieving the mental or physical handicap.

The cost of sending a problem child to a special school for benefits the child may get from the course of study and the disciplinary methods are *not* eligible for reimbursement.

Smoking program Uncompensated amounts paid by taxpayers for participation in a smoking-cessation program and for prescribed drugs designed to alleviate nicotine withdrawal are expenses for medical care that are eligible for reimbursement. However, amounts paid for drugs (other than insulin) not requiring a prescription, such as nicotine gum and certain nicotine patches, are *not* eligible for reimbursement.

Sterilization The cost paid by you or your Dependents of a legal sterilization (a legally performed operation to make a person unable to have children) is eligible for reimbursement.

Surgery See **Operations**.

Telephone The cost and repair paid by you or your Dependents of special telephone equipment that lets a deaf person communicate over a regular telephone are eligible for reimbursement.

Television The cost paid by you or your Dependents of equipment that displays the audio part of television programs as subtitles for the deaf is eligible for reimbursement. This may be the cost of an adapter that attaches to a regular set. It also may be the excess cost of a specially equipped television over the cost of the same model regular television set.

Therapy Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for therapy received as medical treatment are eligible for reimbursement.

"Patterning" exercises. Payments made by you or your Dependents to an individual for giving "patterning" exercises to a mentally retarded child are eligible for reimbursement. These exercises consist mainly of coordinated physical manipulation of the child's arms and legs to imitate crawling and other normal movements.

Transplants Payments made by you or your Dependents for surgical, hospital, laboratory, and transportation expenses for a donor or a possible donor of a kidney or other organ are eligible for reimbursement.

Transportation Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for transportation primarily for and essential to medical care are eligible for reimbursement. Expenses eligible for reimbursement include:

- Bus, taxi, train, or plane fare, or ambulance service,

- Actual car expenses, such as gas and oil,
- Expenses for general repair, maintenance, depreciation, and insurance are **not** eligible for reimbursement,
- In lieu of actual gas and oil charges, you may claim 20¢ per mile for transportation expenses in 2007, 19¢ per mile beginning in 2008 and thereafter according to IRS announcements,
- Parking fees and tolls,
- Parent’s transportation expenses if a parent must go with a child who needs medical care,
- Transportation expenses of a nurse or other person who can give injections, medications, or other treatment required by a patient who is traveling to get medical care and is unable to travel alone, or
- Transportation expenses for regular visits to see a mentally ill Dependent, if these visits are recommended as a part of treatment.

Transportation (cont.)

The following expenses are **not** eligible for reimbursement.

- The transportation expenses to and from work of you or your Dependents, even if the condition requires an unusual means of transportation, or
- The transportation expenses of you or your Dependents if, for nonmedical reasons only, he or she chooses to travel to another city, such as a resort area, for an operation or other medical care prescribed by a doctor.

Trips

The cost paid by you or your Dependents of a trip or vacation taken for a change in environment, improvement of morale, or general improvement of health, even if the trip is made on the advice of a doctor, is **not** eligible for reimbursement.

Tuition fees

Charges paid by you or your Dependents for medical care that are included in the tuition fee of a college or private school if the charges are separately stated in the bill, or given to him or her by the school, are eligible for reimbursement. See **Learning disability** and **Schools, special**.

Vacation

See **Trips**.

Vasectomy

Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for a vasectomy are eligible for reimbursement. See also **Sterilization**.

Weight loss program

The cost paid by you or your Dependents for a weight loss program undertaken at a physician’s direction to treat an existing disease (such as heart disease) is eligible for reimbursement. However, a weight loss program to maintain general health is **not** eligible for reimbursement (even if a doctor advises the program).

Wheelchair

Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for an autoette or a manual or motorized wheelchair used mainly for the relief of sickness or disability, and not just to provide transportation to and from work, are eligible for reimbursement.

The cost of operating and keeping up the autoette or wheelchair is also eligible for reimbursement.

X-ray fees

Amounts paid by you or your Dependents for X-rays that received for medical reasons are eligible for reimbursement.