

Dear Member:

Thank you for your request for information regarding Optima Health's Adverse Benefit Determination Appeals Process. Please refer to your member materials for a detailed description of the Plan's appeal procedures. Enclosed you will find the following information to help guide you should you choose to file an appeal.

- Appeal Request Form
- Designation Authorization Form (To designate someone such as a physician or family member to act on your behalf in filing an appeal)
- Authorization for Use or Disclosure of Medical Information (This is also called a Release of Information and is needed so the Plan can assist you in obtaining pertinent medical information from the practitioners or providers).

To initiate the Appeal Process, please submit your request in writing to:

**Optima Health  
APPEALS DEPARTMENT  
P.O. Box 62876  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2876  
OR  
Facsimile: (757) 687-6232  
Toll-free Facsimile: (866) 472-3920**

You or your authorized representatives have the right to submit written comments, documents records or any other information relevant to your case. If you have difficulty in obtaining this information, please contact the Appeals Department for assistance.

Relevant information includes:

- **The Appeal Request Form describing the services or procedures requested and an explanation of why you feel the Plan's decision was incorrect;**
- **Office notes from physicians that you have seen regarding the services or procedures in question;**
- **Medical Records from hospitals and other health care providers;**
- **Physician correspondence;**
- **Physical, occupational, or rehabilitative therapy notes;**
- **Copies of bills you have received;**
- **Any additional information you would like the Plan to consider in reviewing your appeal.**

**Upon the Plan's receipt of your written request, you will have ten (10) days to submit any additional medical information. Any documentation received after the 10<sup>th</sup> day may not be considered in your appeal review.**

Your continued satisfaction with the Plan is our primary concern. If you have any questions regarding your appeal, please contact the Appeals Department at (757) 687-6404.



## APPEAL INSTRUCTIONS

Upon receipt of the Appeal Form and any additional information submitted, your request will be reviewed by a person or persons not involved in the initial denial. The appeal review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by you or on your behalf relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial determination.

**Once your initial written request is received by the Plan, you will have ten (10) days to submit any additional information. Any documentation received after the 10<sup>th</sup> day may not be considered in your appeal review. New information may be submitted:**

**By mail:** Optima Health Appeals Department  
P.O. Box 62876  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2876

**In person:** Optima Health  
4417 Corporation Lane  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**By facsimile:** 757-687-6232  
1-866-472-3920

Your appeal will be reviewed and a decision made within 30 calendar days for pre-service claims and 60 days for post-service claims. For more details, please refer to the Appeals Procedure section of your member materials.

**Expedited Appeals** – You or your physician may request an expedited appeal where if the Plan were to use its normal appeal procedure for making a decision it would (1) seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Member or the ability of the Member to regain maximum function; or (2) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the Member’s medical condition would subject the Member to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim. If you believe you need an expedited appeal, please contact the Appeals Department at 757-687-6404. If your request does not qualify as an expedited appeal, the standard appeal process will apply.

### **SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have been unable to contact or obtain satisfaction from the Plan, you may contact the Virginia Department of Health, Center for Quality Health Care Services and Consumer Protection at 1-800-955-1819.

You may also contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration at 1-866-444-3272 or visit their website at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov).

The Managed Care Ombudsman is available to help Virginia Consumers who experience problems with, or have questions about managed care. The Managed Care Ombudsman can assist Members in understanding and exercising their rights of appeal of adverse decisions.

Write: Office of the Managed Care Ombudsman

Bureau of Insurance

P.O. Box 1157

Richmond, VA 23218

Telephone: Toll-Free: 1-877-310-6560

Richmond Metropolitan Area: 1-804-371-9032

E-Mail: [ombudsman@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:ombudsman@scc.virginia.gov)





## AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE & OBTAIN PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

PLEASE PRINT

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Month      Date      Full 4-Digit Year

Member ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize  **OPTIMA HEALTH** or  \_\_\_\_\_ to exchange information with:

Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Family \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Employer  EAP

Aftercare  Physician

Therapist  Referral Source

\_\_\_\_\_

For The Purpose of:  *Diagnosis, Treatment & Discharge Planning, Continuity of Care* OR  \_\_\_\_\_ (Be Specific)

### This authorization covers the following Protected Health Information (PHI)

To Be RELEASED	To Be OBTAINED
Dates of Service _____ to _____ <small>(INSERT DATES OF SERVICE FOR INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED)</small>	Dates of Service _____ to _____ <small>(INSERT DATES OF SERVICE FOR INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Claims Information	<input type="checkbox"/> List Information Being Requested:
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographics & Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

**NOTICE TO PARTY RECEIVING DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE INFORMATION:** This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by Federal confidentiality rules (42 CFR Part 2). The Federal rules prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains or as otherwise permitted by the 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose.

**PROHIBITION ON REDISCLOSURE:** The Federal rules restrict any use of the information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse member. This information is confidential and protected by Federal Law. Any further redisclosure is strictly prohibited unless patient provides specific written consent for the subsequent disclosure of this information. This authorization is subject to patient revocation at any time except to the extent that action has already been taken.

If not previously revoked, this consent will expire (check one):  30 days  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify Date or Event)

I voluntarily sign this authorization, and I understand that my health care will not be affected if I do not sign this form. I also understand that I have the right to receive a copy of this authorization. I also understand that I may revoke or modify this authorization at any time by written notification. I understand that my revocation or modification of this authorization will not affect any actions taken by the entity in reliance on this authorization before it receives my request for revocation or modification. I must sign my written request and include it with my complaint or appeal documentation.

Patient / Representative Signature	Patient / Representative PRINTED Name	Date (Month/Day/Year)
<b>IF NOT SIGNED BY PATIENT, AUTHORITY TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF PATIENT:</b>		
Witness Signature	Witness PRINTED Name	Date (Month/Day/Year)

**INCLUDE THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR COMPLAINT OR APPEAL DOCUMENTATION**

## Optima Health Alternative Language Options for Notices and other Written Information

**English:** This Notice has Important Information. This notice has important information about your application or coverage through Optima Health. Look for key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost. Call 1-855-687-6260.

### Amharic:

ይህ ማስታወቂያ ጠቃሚ መረጃ አለው። ይህ ማስታወቂያ ስለ ማመልከቻዎ ወይም በOptima Health በኩል ስለሚኖርዎት ሽፋን ጠቃሚ መረጃ አለው። በዚህ ማስታወቂያ ላይ ያሉትን ቁልፍ የሆኑ ቀናቶችን ያስተውሉ። የጤና ሽፋንዎን ለማስቀጠል ወይም ወጪዎችን ለማገዝ እንዲቻል በተወሰኑ የጊዜ ገደቦች እርምጃ መውሰድ ሊያስፈልግዎ ይችላል። በራስዎ ቋንቋ ያለምንም ክፍያ ይህን መረጃም ሆነ ድጋፍ የማግኘት መብት አለዎት። 1-855-687-6260 ይደውሉ።

### Arabic:

يحتوي هذا الإخطار على معلومات مهمة. يحتوي هذا الإخطار على معلومات مهمة تتعلق بطلبك أو ببرنامج التغطية الخاص بك لدى شركة التأمين الصحي Optima Health. ابحث عن التواريخ الرئيسية في هذا الإخطار، فقد تحتاج إلى اتخاذ أي إجراء قبل حلول المواعيد النهائية للحفاظ على برنامج التغطية الصحية أو الحصول على مساعدة في التكاليف. ولديك الحق في الحصول على هذه المعلومات والمساعدة بلغتك بدون أي تكلفة. يُرجى الاتصال 1-855-687-6260.

### Bengali/Bangla:

এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে রক্ষণ তথ্য রয়েছে। এই প্রজ্ঞাপনে Optima Health (অপ্টিমা হেলথ)–এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করা আপনার দরখাস্ত বা কভারেজের উপর ক্ষমপূর্ণ তথ্য রয়েছে। এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখ করা ক্ষমপূর্ণ তারিখসমূহ দেখে নিন। আপনার হেলথ কভারেজ বজায় রাখার জন্য বা খরচের বিষয়ে সহায়তা লাভের জন্য আপনাকে নিদিষ্ট সময়সীমার মধ্যে ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করতে হতে পারে। বিনা খরচে আপনার মাতৃভাষায় এই তথ্য এবং সহায়তা পাওয়ার অধিকার আপনার রয়েছে। কল 1-855-687-6260.

### Chinese (Mandarin):

该通知含有重要信息。本通知含有关于 Optima Health 申请或保险的重要信息。请仔细查看本通知中的关键日期。您需要在截止期之前采取相应的行动，从而保障您的保险继续有效，能够为您提供报销。您有权免费获取信息的中文版，并可以免费获取到相关的中文帮助。請撥電話 1-855-687-6260。

**French:** Cet avis a d'importantes informations. Cet avis a d'importantes informations sur votre demande ou la couverture par l'intermédiaire de Optima Health. Rechercher les dates clés dans le présent avis. Vous devrez peut-être prendre des mesures par certains délais pour maintenir votre couverture de santé ou d'aide avec les coûts. Vous avez le droit d'obtenir cette information et de l'aide dans votre langue à aucun coût. Appelez 1-855-687-6260.

**German:** Diese Benachrichtigung enthält wichtige Informationen. Diese Benachrichtigung enthält wichtige Informationen bezüglich Ihres Antrags auf Krankenversicherungsschutz durch Optima Health. Suchen Sie nach wichtigen Terminen in dieser Benachrichtigung. Sie könnten bis zu bestimmten Stichtagen handeln müssen, um Ihren Krankenversicherungsschutz oder Hilfe mit den Kosten zu behalten. Sie haben das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Rufen Sie an unter 1-855-687-6260.

### Hindi:

इस सूचना में महत्त्वपूर्ण जानकारी निहित है। इस सूचना में Optima Health के माध्यम से आपके आवेदन या कवरेज के बारे में महत्त्वपूर्ण जानकारी निहित है। इस सूचना में निहित महत्त्वपूर्ण तिथियों को देखें। आपको लागत के साथ अपने स्वास्थ्य का कवरेज रखने या सहायता के लिए निश्चित समय सीमा में कार्रवाई करने की जरूरत हो सकती है। आपके पास बिना किसी लागत के अपनी भाषा में इस जानकारी और सहायता को प्राप्त करने का अधिकार है। कॉल 1-855-687-6260

**Ibo:** Ọkwa a nwere Ozi Dị Mkpa. Ọkwa a nwere ozi dị mkpa maka akwụkwọ anamachọihe ma ọ bụ mkpuchi gị sitere na Optima Health (Ahụike Optima). Chọọ ụbọchị ndị dị mkpa n'ọkwa a. Ị nwere ike ime ihe tupu ụfọdụ ụbọchị iji dowe mkpuchi ahụike gị ma ọ bụ enyemaka n'ụgwọ. Ị nwere ike ikike inweta ozi na enyemaka a n'asụsụ gị na akwụghị ụgwọ ọ bụla. Kpọ 1-855-687-6260

