

# **Your Vision Benefits**

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# Your Vision Benefits

The Vision Care Plan (the Plan) is designed to provide you and your family with comprehensive vision care coverage. The Plan includes:

- Coverage that encourages regular exams and helps pay vision care services and supplies when needed.
- The freedom to use any licensed vision care provider you choose for the Plan. If you are a CWA-represented associate, under the Video Display Terminal–VDT–Eye Care Program, you must use an in-network vision care provider to receive benefits.
- The opportunity to reduce your share of expenses by using in-network vision care providers.

In addition, if you are an eligible CWA-represented associate who uses a computer and video display terminal (VDT) at work, the Plan includes automatic participation for you in the VDT Eye Care Program.

## ***About This SPD***

This document is the summary plan description (SPD) for the Verizon Vision Care Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates (including eligible CWA and IBEW employees of Verizon). The Verizon Vision Care Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates is a component plan of Verizon Plan 550. Plan 550 provides other benefits to eligible employees, as described under “Administrative Information, Plan Identification” in the “Additional Information” section. Vision benefits for Connected Solutions Inc. technicians are provided under a separate component plan of Verizon Plan 550. These benefits are described in a separate SPD.

The Plan is subject to federal law under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and its subsequent amendments. This document meets ERISA’s requirements for an SPD and is based on Plan provisions effective January 1, 2004, including legislative and administrative updates through December 31, 2006. It updates and replaces all previous SPDs and other descriptions of the benefits provided by the Plan. This SPD is part of this Plan.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information included in this SPD. Copies of Plan documents are available by contacting the Plan administrator in writing at the address provided in the “Administrative Information” subsection, within the “Additional Information” section.

This SPD is divided into the following major sections:

- **Participating in the Plan.** This section explains your eligibility, which of your dependents are eligible to be covered and when eligibility ends.
- **Your Coverage.** This section describes the vision coverage available to you. Refer to it when you need information about your coverage and benefits.
- **Continuing Coverage.** In some cases, you and/or your dependents can continue coverage even after your eligibility for the Plan ends.

- **What Is Not Covered.** This section lists services and supplies not covered under the Plan.
- **How to File a Claim.** This section provides information on when you need to file a claim to receive benefits.
- **Additional Information.** This section provides additional details about the administrative provisions of the Plan and your legal rights.
- **Glossary.** Certain terms used in this SPD are defined in the glossary.

***Important Note:***

Verizon and its claims and appeals administrators have the discretionary authority to interpret the terms of the Plan and this SPD and determine your eligibility for benefits under their terms.

**Verizon Benefits Center**

The Verizon Benefits Center offers a Web site called Your Benefits Resources™ (www.verizon.com/benefits) where you'll find tools to help you manage your benefits. The Web site makes finding information fast and easy as it guides you through your benefits transactions, including benefits renewal. In addition to enrolling on the site, you can:

- Hotlink to other provider sites.
- Review details about your healthcare, insurance and pension plans.
- Verify your Verizon elections that are on file at the Verizon Benefits Center.
- Select and update your beneficiary designations.
- Change the Your Benefits Resources password.
- Give yourself a helpful "hint" in case you forget your password.
- Calculate how much to contribute to your Flexible Reimbursement Plan health care and dependent care accounts.
- Model future pension benefits.

From time to time, additional tools will be added to Your Benefits Resources Web site to help you better manage your benefits.

Benefits representatives are available should you have questions about your benefits. To reach the Verizon Benefits Center, see your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone number. Via this toll-free telephone number, you also can connect with other Verizon benefit providers.

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## ***Changes to the Plan***

While Verizon expects to continue the Plan indefinitely, Verizon also reserves the right to amend, modify, suspend or terminate the Plan at any time, at its discretion, with or without advance notice to participants, subject to any duty to bargain collectively. The Plan may be amended by publication of any SPD, summary of material modification, enrollment materials or other communication relating to the Plan, as approved by Verizon.

Decisions regarding changes to, or termination of, benefits are made at the highest levels of management. Verizon employees below those levels do not know whether the Company will adopt any particular change and are not in a position to speculate about such changes. Unless and until changes formally are adopted and officially are announced, no one is authorized to assure that any particular change will or will not occur.

# Participating in the Plan

## ***Eligibility***

You are eligible for Plan coverage on the first day of the month in which you complete three months of net credited service if you are employed by a Verizon participating company and are a regular or term full-time or part-time CWA-represented or IBEW-represented Mid-Atlantic associate whose employment is covered by a collective bargaining agreement that provides for participation in the Plan.

“Associate,” as used throughout this summary plan description (SPD) includes any non-management employee.

“Service” means net credited service as defined by the Verizon Pension Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates.

You are not eligible to participate in the Plan if any one of the following applies:

- You are paid by a temporary staffing or placement agency or other vendor or third party.
- You are employed under the terms of a written agreement with the Company as an independent contractor or consultant.
- You are paid through accounts payable instead of the payroll system.
- You are a working retiree.

**Note:** If a court, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or any other enforcement authority or agency finds that an independent contractor or leased employee should be treated as a regular employee of a participating company, for example, for purposes of W-2 income reporting or tax withholding, such individual is nonetheless expressly excluded from the definition of eligible employee and is expressly ineligible for benefits under the Plan.

## **Eligible Dependents**

Dependents must be enrolled through Your Benefits Resources Web site or the Verizon Benefits Center to have coverage. You can enroll only your eligible Class I Dependents who meet the Plan’s definition for eligibility.

Dependent Class	Who They Are	Relationship
<b>Class I Dependents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your legal spouse (a legally separated spouse is not eligible)</li> <li>• Your unmarried children until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19, provided they receive more than 50% of their support from you. Children means children by birth, as well as legally adopted children or children placed for adoption, stepchildren who live in your home and children who live in your home and for whom you or your spouse is the legal guardian or has legal custody</li> <li>• Your unmarried children (as defined above) from age 19 through the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 25 and are full-time students at an accredited educational institution, provided they receive more than 50% of their support from you. Coverage lasts until the end of the month they no longer qualify as full-time students or, if earlier, the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 25</li> <li>• Your unmarried children (as defined above) of any age who are incapable of self-support and dependent on you for support due to physical or mental disability if the disability began before age 19 or before age 25 while a full-time student and they were covered continuously</li> <li>• Your same-sex domestic partner and his or her children who meet the Plan requirements for a same-sex domestic partner (and children of a same-sex domestic partner) may be eligible for coverage. For more information on eligibility requirements and tax implications, access Your Benefits Resources Web site or call the Verizon Benefits Center and speak with a representative</li> <li>• Your unmarried children (as defined above and including any age requirements) who are alternate recipients under an approved qualified medical child support order (QMCSO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse</li> <li>• Child</li> <li>• Full-Time Student</li> <li>• Disabled Child</li> <li>• Domestic Partner</li> <li>• Domestic Partner's Child</li> <li>• Child</li> </ul>

**Note:** Grandfathered Class II Dependents, Sponsored Parents and Sponsored Children are not eligible for coverage under the Plan.

### ***Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO)***

A QMCSO is a judgment from a state court or an order issued through an administrative process under state law that requires you to provide coverage for a dependent child under Verizon's healthcare plans, including vision. You may obtain a copy of the QMCSO administrative procedures, free of charge, from the Plan administrator in care of the Verizon Benefits Center. In any case, if subject to an order, you and each child will be notified about further procedures.

### ***If Your Spouse or Same-Sex Domestic Partner Is a Verizon Employee***

For vision coverage, if your spouse or same-sex domestic partner is employed by Verizon or affiliates, the following rules apply:

- Children can be covered by one Verizon parent or the other, but not by both.
- You can be covered as an employee or as a dependent under a Verizon-sponsored Vision Plan, but not as both. To be covered as a dependent under another plan, you must choose the waiver of coverage option under this Plan.
- Your spouse or same-sex domestic partner can be covered as an employee or as a dependent under a Verizon-sponsored Vision Plan, but not as both. To be covered as your dependent under this Plan, your spouse or same-sex domestic partner must be eligible for and must choose the waiver of coverage option under his or her plan. If he or she is not eligible to choose the waiver of coverage option under his or her plan, your spouse or same-sex domestic partner cannot be covered under your Plan.

## ***Enrolling for Coverage***

### **Initial Enrollment by Newly Hired Associates**

The following enrollment rules apply based on your work schedule:

- If you are a full-time associate or a part-time associate who is scheduled to work 25 or more hours a week, your vision coverage begins automatically on the first day of the month in which you attain three months of net credited service.
- If you are a part-time associate scheduled to work less than 25 hours a week who has been employed continuously by the Company since before January 1, 1981, you automatically were enrolled for vision coverage when you became eligible. Your coverage began on the first day of the month in which you attained three months of net credited service.
- If you are a part-time associate scheduled to work less than 25 hours a week who was employed by the Company after January 1, 1981, you can enroll after you complete three months of net credited service. You may elect to pay the required cost for coverage by contacting the Verizon Benefits Center. Otherwise, you will not have coverage.

- If you are changing from a management position to a full-time associate position or a part-time associate position for which you're scheduled to work 25 or more hours a week, your coverage begins automatically the first day of the month following the date your payroll changes for the change in position. If you are changing to a part-time associate position for which you are scheduled to work less than 25 hours a week, you must enroll to have coverage.
- If you change from a full-time associate to a part-time associate position, your coverage continues and any applicable payroll deductions automatically begin as soon as administratively possible. You also can drop vision coverage, due to your change in status, by calling the Verizon Benefits Center. See the "Changing Your Elections" section for more information.

Regardless of your employment status, you must access Your Benefits Resources Web site or call the Verizon Benefits Center to enroll any Class I Dependent you want included under your coverage. You can choose coverage for yourself plus one dependent or for yourself plus two or more dependents. You will need to provide each dependent's name, date of birth and Social Security number. If you enroll eligible dependents before the deadline shown on your Enrollment Worksheet, their coverage begins the same date as your coverage. Otherwise, coverage begins the first day of the month after you enroll them.

**Note:** Before your three-month enrollment date or if you change from a management position to an associate position, the Verizon Benefits Center will send you an Enrollment Worksheet with your vision coverage listed.

### ***How Do I Enroll or Make Changes?***

Access Your Benefits Resources Web site or call the Verizon Benefits Center at the telephone number listed on your Important Benefits Contacts insert. Your Benefits Resources is available 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to midnight, Eastern Time on Sunday. Benefits Center Representatives are available to help you from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

## ***Changing Your Elections***

### **Benefits Renewal**

Each year during the benefits renewal period, you will have an opportunity to change your elections. Elections made during the benefits renewal period take effect on the following January 1 and remain in effect through December 31 of that year, unless you change the election during the year due to a change in status.

### **Status Changes**

Between benefits renewal periods, you may be able to change your Vision Plan option and covered dependents if you or a dependent has a change in status that affects eligibility for coverage. An election change can be made due to a change in status if the election change is on account of and corresponds with a change in status that affects eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan. Elections made due to status changes remain in effect until you make a change during a benefits renewal period or due to another status change.

## **You Gain a New Dependent**

**If you gain a new, eligible dependent through marriage, acquisition of a same-sex domestic partner, birth, adoption or placement for adoption,** that person automatically is covered under your vision coverage option for 90 days after the event. If you want vision coverage to continue for the new dependent, you must call the Verizon Benefits Center to enroll that dependent in the Plan; otherwise, coverage will end for that dependent after 90 days.

- Your election will take effect on the date that you gained the new dependent if you make your election within 90 days of gaining the new dependent.
- Coverage will begin again for the new dependent on the first day of the month following your election, if you make your election more than 90 days after the event.

**Note:** If you disenroll a same-sex domestic partner, you must wait 60 days before you can enroll a new same-sex domestic partner.

**If you gain a new, eligible dependent as the result of a QMCSO,** you can enroll that dependent in the Plan by calling the Verizon Benefits Center. Your election will take effect on the date the QMCSO is approved by the Verizon Benefits Center.

**If you gain a new, eligible dependent as the result of an event other than those listed above—**for example, a dependent child age 23 starts attending school full-time after a period of ineligibility due to age—you can enroll that dependent in the Plan by calling the Verizon Benefits Center. Your election will take effect the first of the month following your election.

## ***You Lose a Dependent Through Death, Legal Separation, Divorce or Termination of a Same-Sex Domestic Partnership***

If you lose a dependent through death, legal separation, divorce or termination of a same-sex domestic partnership, coverage for that dependent ends on the last day of the month in which the event occurs. However, you must notify the Company by calling the Verizon Benefits Center to remove that dependent from your coverage; otherwise, you will continue to pay any required premiums.

## ***A Dependent Loses Eligibility***

If a dependent loses eligibility for or ceases to be a dependent under the Plan in situations other than those described above, the dependent's coverage will continue until the end of the month in which the event occurs that causes the dependent to lose eligibility. An exception occurs if the dependent is a child who loses eligibility because he or she reaches an age limit for coverage. In this case, the child's coverage will continue until December 31 of the year in which the age limit is reached. However, if a child reaches the age 25 limit and is a full-time student who graduates prior to December 31 of his or her 25th year or no longer maintains his or her full-time status, his or her coverage will terminate on the last day of the month in which he or she loses full-time student status.

When a dependent loses eligibility, you must notify the Company by calling the Verizon Benefits Center before the dependent's coverage ends.

If you do not notify Verizon, any claims incurred by your ineligible dependent will become your financial responsibility and furthermore if you do not disenroll your dependent within 60 days of when he or she becomes ineligible, he or she will lose the right to purchase continued healthcare coverage under COBRA. For more information on COBRA, see the "Continuing Coverage" section.

### ***Change of Union Affiliation***

If you change jobs and it results in a change of union affiliation, your vision coverage automatically will change to the coverage provided under your new union's collective bargaining agreement.

### ***Special Enrollment Rules***

If you or your dependents (including your spouse or same-sex domestic partner) waived vision coverage because of other vision insurance coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in the Plan if you later lose that other insurance due to:

- Loss of eligibility
- Termination of employer contributions for such coverage (however, special enrollment is not available if loss of coverage was due to your or your dependents failure to pay such coverage)
- Exhaustion of COBRA coverage.

If you enroll yourself or your dependents in the Plan:

- Within 31 days of losing the other coverage, your or your dependents' coverage will be effective retroactive to the date of the event
- After 31 days of losing the other coverage, your or your dependents' coverage will be effective the first day of the month following your enrollment.

In addition, if you gain a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, placement for adoption or acquisition of a same-sex domestic partner and his or her children, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. If you enroll:

- Within 31 days of the event, your or your dependents' coverage will be effective retroactive to the date of the event
- After 31 days following the event, your or your dependents' coverage will be effective the first day of the month following your enrollment.

### ***Cost of Coverage***

The Company pays the full cost of vision coverage for you and your enrolled Class I Dependents if you have at least three months of net credited service and are as follows:

- A regular or term full-time associate working at least 25 hours a week
- A regular or term part-time associate hired before January 1, 1981 and continuously employed by the Company since that date.

If you have not been employed continuously by the Company since before January 1, 1981 and you work at least 17 but less than 25 hours a week, the Company contributes 50 percent of the amount it contributes for full-time employees. In order to have coverage, you must enroll and agree to pay the other 50 percent of the cost by payroll deduction.

If you have not been employed continuously by the Company since before January 1, 1981 and you work less than 17 hours a week, you can enroll for coverage if you call the Verizon Benefits Center and agree to pay the full cost.

Note that all employee contributions are paid on an after-tax basis.

If you cover a same-sex domestic partner and his or her dependents who are not IRS tax dependents, Verizon is required by tax law to impute income to you based on the fair market value of the coverage provided to your same-sex domestic partner and his or her dependents.

## VDT Eye Care Program

If you are a CWA associate, use a VDT terminal and are eligible for the VDT Eye Care Program, the Company pays the full cost of your program coverage; there is no cost to you.

## When Participation Ends

This section explains when participation in the Plan ends for you and your dependents.

<p><b>Associate Coverage</b> An associate's coverage will end on the earliest date described below. You may be able to continue coverage under COBRA. For information on continuing coverage and COBRA, see the "Continuing Coverage" section.</p>	
<p><b>Leaves of Absence</b></p>	<p>In general, if you go on a leave of absence, your coverage continues in accordance with Company guidelines and as collectively bargained.</p>
<p><b>Leaves of Absence Under the Family and Medical Leave Act.</b></p>	<p>The Company complies with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). All leaves of absence qualifying under the FMLA will be administered in accordance with the terms of the FMLA. Coverage may be continued during approved leaves, as provided in Company policy and as collectively bargained. Call the Verizon Benefits Center for details.</p>
<p><b>Leaves of Absence Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.</b></p>	<p>All military leaves of absence qualifying under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) will be administered in accordance with the terms of USERRA.</p>
<p><b>Union Leaves of Absence.</b></p>	<p>Under a Union Leave of Absence, coverage may be continued according to your collective bargaining agreement.</p>

<p><b>Anticipated Disability Leaves of Absence, Care of Newborn Child (CNC) Leaves of Absence and Dependent Care Leaves of Absence.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under an Anticipated Disability Leave of Absence, a Care of Newborn Child Leave of Absence or a Dependent Care Leave of Absence, Verizon will pay the amount it normally does for your coverage. If you contribute to the cost of your vision coverage, however, you must continue making contributions during your leave. The Company will bill you monthly for these charges.</li> <li>• <b>If You Receive Short-Term Disability Benefits:</b> Your vision coverage will continue while you receive benefits from the Verizon Sickness and Accident Disability Benefit Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates if you pay any required contributions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education Leaves of Absence or Personal Leaves of Absence.</b></p>	<p>If you take an Education Leave of Absence or Personal Leave of Absence, coverage for you and eligible dependents will end on the last day of the month in which your leave begins.</p>
<p><b>Change in Employment Status</b></p>	<p>If your employment status changes from associate to management status, coverage under the Plan will end on the last day of the month in which you become a manager of Verizon or an affiliate of Verizon. You will have an opportunity to make an election into another plan.</p>
<p><b>Long-Term Disability (LTD)</b></p>	<p>If you are receiving long-term disability benefits, coverage under the Plan will end on the last day of the month in which you qualify to begin long-term disability.</p>
<p><b>Cancellation of Coverage</b></p>	<p>If you cancel coverage due to a change in status, your coverage will end on the last day of the month in which you elect to cancel coverage.</p>
<p><b>Failure to Submit Payment (if Required)</b></p>	<p>If you are required to make a payment, and it is not received on time, coverage will end on the first day of the month for which it is not received.</p>
<p><b>End of Employment</b></p>	<p>Coverage under the Plan will end on the last day of the month in which your employment ends for any reason not specified in this section.</p>
<p><b>Plan Termination</b></p>	<p>Although the Company does not intend to terminate the Plan, were the Plan to be terminated, all coverage would end on the date of termination.</p>
<p><b>Dependent Coverage</b> A dependent's coverage will end on the earliest date described below. Your dependent may be able to continue coverage under COBRA. See the "Continuing Coverage" section.</p>	
<p><b>Associate's Coverage Ends</b></p>	<p>If the associate's coverage ends for any reason except when the associate dies, coverage for all dependents also will end at the same time.</p>
<p><b>Associate Dies</b></p>	<p>When the associate dies, coverage for all dependents will end on the last day of the month in which the associate dies.</p>

### **Dependent Ceases to Meet the Class I Eligibility Requirements**

A dependent's coverage will end on the earlier of either the date the dependent is covered as an employee under any Company-sponsored vision plan or the last day of the month in which the dependent no longer qualifies as a dependent under the Plan, subject to the following:

- Coverage for your spouse ends on the last day of the month in which he or she becomes legally separated or divorced from you.
- Coverage for a same-sex domestic partner ends on the day he or she fails to meet the definition of a same-sex domestic partner.
- Coverage for a child ends on the last day of the calendar year in which he or she reaches age 19 (if not a full-time student), or the last day of the month in which the child is married, if earlier.
- Coverage for a stepchild ends on the last day of the month in which he or she no longer lives with you or otherwise fails to meet the definition of an eligible dependent.
- Coverage for a full-time student ends on the earlier of the last day of the calendar year in which the student reaches age 25 or the last day of the month in which he or she no longer qualifies as a full-time student.
- Coverage for a disabled child ends on the last day of the month in which he or she no longer meets the definition of a disabled child.
- Coverage for a child under a QMCSO ends on the date the associate no longer is required to provide coverage for this child or, if earlier, the date the child no longer would be eligible for coverage
- Coverage for a child of a same-sex domestic partner ends on the last day of the calendar Plan year in which the child reaches age 19 or age 25 (if a full-time student), as applicable, or the last day of the month in which the child otherwise fails to meet the definition of a child of a partner (or the partner no longer meets the definition of a same-sex domestic partner.)

### **Notify the Verizon Benefits Center If a Dependent Is Ineligible**

It is your responsibility to notify the Verizon Benefits Center within 90 days if your dependents no longer meet eligibility requirements. Otherwise, any claims incurred by an ineligible dependent become your financial responsibility. Furthermore, if you do not disenroll your dependents within 60 days of when they become ineligible, they will lose the right to purchase continued health care benefits under COBRA.

Periodically, you may be asked to provide proof of your dependents' eligibility. If such proof is not provided, those dependents will lose their eligibility for the Plan, effective retroactively as of the date determined by the Plan administrator. The Company may require that you reimburse the amount of any claims paid by the Plan on behalf of an ineligible dependent.

## **Certificate of Creditable Coverage**

When any person's coverage under the Plan ends for any reason, including the end of COBRA continuation coverage, the Company will send that person a Certificate of Creditable Coverage, **free of charge**, as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). This certificate may help the person receive coverage under another plan. Specifically, this certificate may help reduce or eliminate exclusionary periods of coverage for pre-existing conditions under the plan. Without evidence of creditable coverage, you may be subject to a pre-existing condition exclusion for 12 months (18 months for late enrollees) after your enrollment date in your coverage. You also will be provided with a certificate, free of charge, when you become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, when your COBRA continuation coverage ceases, if you request it before losing coverage, or if you request it up to 24 months after losing coverage. To request a certificate, access Your Benefits Resources Web site or call the Verizon Benefits Center.

## **Continuation of Coverage Under COBRA**

In some instances, a person whose eligibility for coverage under this Plan ends still may be able to continue coverage in accordance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) and its subsequent amendments. See the "Continuing Coverage" section for more information.

# Your Coverage

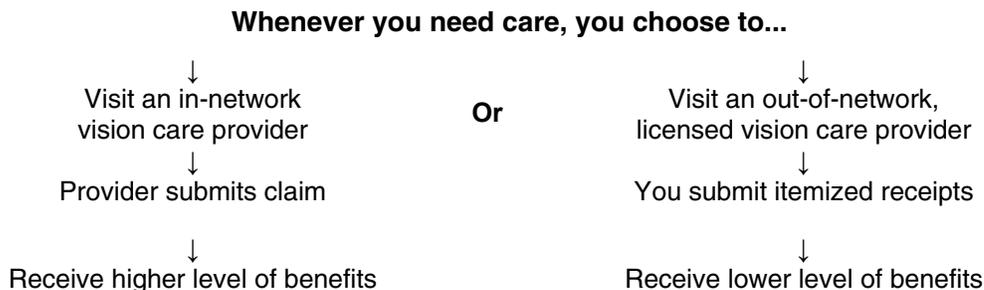
The Plan provides comprehensive coverage to meet your vision care needs. The Plan includes a network of vision care providers who have contracted with the administrators to provide services to Plan participants.

The Video Display Terminal (VDT) Eye Care Program covers certain eligible expenses at 100 percent when you are a CWA-represented associate who uses a VDT terminal at work and you use an in-network provider who participates in the VDT Eye Care Program. There is no coverage if services are received from an out of network provider.

## Vision Care Plan

When you need care, you can visit any vision care provider. When you use an in-network provider, you pay the applicable copayment for services (see the chart below and contact the appropriate claims administrator [see “Claims Regarding Scope/Amount of Benefits Under the Plan” in the “Additional Information” section] for more information). If you receive covered services and supplies from an out-of-network provider, you pay the charges and then are reimbursed up to the maximum benefit amount.

The chart below illustrates your choices under the Plan.



A list of in-network vision care providers can be obtained by calling your claims administrator at the telephone number listed on your Important Benefits Contacts insert. The claims administrators also have Internet sites where you can get information about in-network vision care providers online.

## How Benefits Are Determined

Covered services and supplies are available once every benefit period (see below) from either an in-network provider or an out-of-network provider. The benefit period begins on the date of your vision exam or the date that your lenses and/or frames or contacts are ordered, as applicable.

- If you receive covered services from an in-network provider, you pay the applicable copayment for services. See the chart in the “Plan Benefits” section and contact the appropriate claims administrator (as outlined in the “Additional Information” section) for more information.
- If you receive benefits from an out-of-network provider, you pay the charges when you receive the service or supply. You then must submit your itemized receipts to the claims administrator for reimbursement up to the maximum benefit amount. Your reimbursement will not exceed the actual charges. You are responsible for the portion of any charges above the maximum benefit amount.

## Plan Benefits

If you are an IBEW-represented associate, for you and each of your enrolled dependents, the following benefits are covered either in network or out-of-network once every 24 months.

If you are a CWA-represented associate, for you and each of your enrolled dependents, the following benefits are covered either in network or out-of-network once every second calendar year.

Plan Service or Supply	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Vision examination</b>	You pay \$10 copay	Plan pays up to \$25
Pair of prescription contact lenses <sup>1</sup>  <i>or</i>  Pair of prescription eyeglasses (lenses and frames) <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single vision lenses</li> <li>• Bifocal lenses</li> <li>• Trifocal lenses</li> <li>• Lenticular lenses for those who have had cataracts removed surgically</li> <li>• Eyeglass frames<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	You pay \$25 copay plus the cost of any non-covered options   You pay \$25 copay plus the cost of any non-covered options	Plan pays up to \$110    Plan pays up to \$25 Plan pays up to \$40 Plan pays up to \$60 Plan pays up to \$100  Plan pays up to \$30

<sup>1</sup>Benefits are limited to either one pair of prescription contact lenses or an annual supply of disposable contact lenses and one pair of frames or one pair of prescription eyeglass lenses with frames.

<sup>2</sup>If you choose a frame not included in your claims administrator's covered selection, you are responsible for any additional cost over the specified allowance.

## Additional Information for CWA-Represented Associates

If you are a CWA-represented associate, Plan coverage for you and your covered dependents also includes:

- A \$25 copayment for your new lenses and Fashion or Designer level eyeglass frames from the Davis Vision "Tower Collection." If you select the Premier level frame from the Davis Vision "Tower Collection," you pay an additional \$25. If you prefer, you instead can choose to take a \$40 wholesale credit and apply it to the cost of any other non-Davis Vision "Tower Collection" eyeglass frame from the in-network provider's private selection.
- A free membership and access to Lens 123, a mail-order replacement contact lens service you can use to purchase replacement contact lenses at discounted costs.
- Discounts on lens and frame enhancements from in-network vision care providers (see below). Contact your claims administrator for further detail on benefits and available discounts.

Enhancement	Discounted Cost
Premier frames	\$25
Ultraviolet coating	\$10
Polaroid lenses	\$60
High-index lenses	\$55
Transitions lenses	
• Single vision	\$60
• Multifocal	\$70

- Additional vision programs and benefits through in-network providers, such as:
  - Plastic or glass single vision, bifocal or trifocal lenses
  - Glass grey #3 prescription lenses
  - Oversized lenses
  - Post cataract (lenticular) lenses
  - Fashion, sun or gradient-tinted plastic lenses
  - Supershield (scratch protective) coating on plastic lenses
  - Designer frames
  - PGX (sun sensitive) glass lenses
  - Blended invisible bifocals
  - Progressive addition lenses; if patient is unable to adapt to progressives, bifocals will be provided
  - Reflection free coating
  - Polycarbonate lenses.

**Lens 123**

For more information on Lens 123, call the telephone number listed on your Important Benefits Contacts insert.

### ***Additional Information for IBEW-Represented Associates***

If you are an IBEW-represented associate, Plan coverage for you and your covered dependents also includes:

- A 20 percent discount on non-covered pairs of prescription glasses (lenses and a frame). Service must be received within 12 months from the same in-network provider who provided your last covered eye exam.
- A 15 percent discount off the cost of your contact lens exam (fitting and evaluation) when you receive contact lens service from VSP. (This discount does not apply to the contact lenses.)

### ***Waiver of Vision Coverage***

The waiver of coverage option is available to full-time CWA- and IBEW-represented associates who are covered as dependents under another Verizon-sponsored Vision Plan.

Part-time CWA- and IBEW-represented associates who do not receive the full Company subsidy for vision coverage can waive coverage for any reason. Part-time associates who receive the full Company subsidy can waive coverage only if they are covered as dependents under another Verizon-sponsored Vision Plan.

When you waive coverage for a calendar year, it will remain in effect for each subsequent year, unless you enroll in vision coverage during the benefits renewal period or if you have a change in status (see “Changing Your Elections” in the “Participation” section) that allows you to elect coverage before the benefits renewal period.

### ***VDT Eye Care Program For CWA-Represented Associates***

The VDT Eye Care Program pays the full cost of a VDT vision examination and one pair of prescription eyeglasses when they are prescribed by an in-network provider.

If eyeglasses are prescribed, you can select your frames from among a group that has been established for CWA-represented associates. If you choose a frame that is not included in that group, you will be required to pay the additional cost. Single, bifocal, trifocal or lenticular lenses are provided at no cost to you. You are responsible for the cost of any non-covered options.

In addition to your routine eye exam, you are entitled to the following benefits every two years:

- A VDT vision examination by an in-network provider
- A pair of prescription eyeglasses, as deemed necessary by your in-network provider and your VDT vision exam.

All services must be received from an in-network provider and can be received at the same time as your routine eye exam.

You may return broken eyewear to the original provider within one year of dispensing in order to be repaired or replaced. Additional eye exams related to replacement eyeglasses are not covered.

**Note:** There is no coverage under this program if you use an out of network provider. Also, your dependents are not eligible for coverage under this program.

### **In-Network Providers**

For information on VDT Eye Care Program in-network providers in your area, call the claims administrator (see your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone number).

# Continuing Coverage

Generally, your coverage or a dependent's coverage will end when your eligibility or a dependent's eligibility for the Plan ends. In some circumstances, however, coverage can be continued for a period of time if you agree to pay the cost.

## ***Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA)***

Assuming you have met the applicable service requirements, FMLA allows you to:

- Take up to 12 work weeks of leave each calendar year for specified family and medical reasons.
- Be restored to your former position or an equivalent position and pay when you return to work.

## **Benefits coverage while on FMLA leave**

Vision coverage remains in effect while you are on FMLA leave. Verizon reserves the right to require you to pay for these benefits and to change its FMLA policy in the future.

A newly acquired dependent is eligible for coverage while your coverage is continued during FMLA leave.

## **State family and medical leave laws**

Verizon's FMLA policy must comply with any state law that provides greater family or medical leave rights than those provided under its FMLA policy. If your leave qualifies under FMLA and under a state law, you will receive the greater benefit.

## ***If Verizon changes benefits***

If Verizon offers new benefits or changes its benefits while you are on leave, you are eligible for the new or changed benefits but your contributions – or payroll deductions – for these benefits may increase.

## ***Coverage Continuation Rights Under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985***

A federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), offers you the opportunity to continue coverage.

For additional information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, contact the Verizon Benefits Center.

## **What Is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

COBRA coverage is a temporary continuation of Plan coverage when it otherwise would end because of a life event, known as a "COBRA qualifying event." (Specific qualifying events are listed later in this section.)

After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage is offered to each “qualified beneficiary.” You, your spouse and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Qualified beneficiaries also include any children born to you or placed for adoption with you during the COBRA continuation period.

Qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for it.

### ***COBRA Qualified Beneficiaries***

- **Employees.** You are eligible for COBRA continuation if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of one of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced.
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

- **Spouse of employee.** Your spouse is eligible for COBRA continuation if he or she loses coverage under the Plan because of one of the following qualifying events:

- You die.
- Your hours of employment are reduced.
- Your employment ends for any reason other than gross misconduct.
- You become divorced.

- **Dependent children.** Dependent children are eligible for COBRA continuation if they lose coverage under the Plan because of one of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies.
- The parent-employee’s hours of employment are reduced.
- The parent-employee’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct.
- The parents become divorced.
- The child loses eligibility for coverage as a “dependent child” under the Plan.

Although not entitled to legal rights under COBRA, Verizon offers same-sex domestic partners and children of same-sex domestic partners continuation coverage, as outlined in this section<sup>1</sup>. For this purpose, a same-sex domestic partner will be offered coverage “like” a spouse’s coverage, and a child of a same-sex domestic partner will be offered coverage “like” a child of an employee.

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<sup>1</sup> A child of a same-sex domestic partner can be a qualified beneficiary if he or she also is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax dependent of the employee.

## **When COBRA Coverage Is Available**

The Plan offers COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Verizon Benefits Center has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. (See your Important Benefits Contacts insert for contact information.)

### ***Notification of Qualifying Events***

When the qualifying event is the end of employment, reduction in hours of employment or death of the employee, **Verizon will notify** the Verizon Benefits Center (the COBRA administrator) of the qualifying event.

For other qualifying events (divorce of the employee and spouse or a dependent child losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), **you or the qualified beneficiary must notify** the Verizon Benefits Center within 60 days after the qualifying event.

## **How COBRA Coverage Is Offered**

After the Verizon Benefits Center receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage is offered to each qualified beneficiary.

The Verizon Benefits Center provides a COBRA enrollment notice by mail within 14 days after receiving notice of the qualifying event and each qualified beneficiary has an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. It is critical that you (or anyone who may become a qualified beneficiary) maintain a current address with the Verizon Benefits Center to ensure that you receive a COBRA enrollment notice following a qualifying event.

## **How Long COBRA Coverage Lasts**

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. It lasts for up to a total of 36 months when the qualifying event is:

- The death of the employee.
- Your divorce.
- A dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child.

COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for up to a total of 18 months when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment. This 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended in two ways:

- **Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage.** If a qualified beneficiary covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Verizon Benefits Center in a timely fashion, you and all other qualified beneficiaries may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months, if all of the following conditions are met:
  - Your COBRA qualifying event was a termination of employment or reduction in hours.
  - The disability started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and lasts at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage.
  - A copy of the Notice of Award from the Social Security Administration is provided to the Verizon Benefits Center within 60 days of receipt of the notice and before the end of the initial 18 months of COBRA coverage.
  - An increased premium of 150% of the monthly cost of coverage is paid, beginning with the 19th month of coverage.
- **Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage.** If another qualifying event occurs during the first 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, your spouse and dependent children can receive up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan.

This extension may be available to your spouse and any dependent children receiving continuation coverage if you die or get divorced, or if your dependent child no longer is eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the event would have caused your spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

## COBRA Qualifying Events

	Maximum continuation period (months) for:		
Qualifying event	You	Spouse	Covered child
You lose coverage because of reduced work hours or taking unpaid leave, other than leave under the FMLA	18	18	18
You terminate employment for any reason (except gross misconduct)	18	18	18
You or your dependent is disabled – as defined by the Social Security Act – at the time of the qualifying event or during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage	29 (Initial 18 months, plus additional 11 months)	29 (Initial 18 months, plus additional 11 months)	29 (Initial 18 months, plus additional 11 months)
Your covered child no longer qualifies as a dependent	N/A	N/A	36
You die	N/A	36	36
You and your spouse divorce	N/A	36	36

You and your eligible dependents have 60 days from the date coverage ends due to a qualifying event or from the date of your COBRA notice, whichever is later, to elect continued participation under COBRA.

If you are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) or Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) and did not elect COBRA continuation coverage during the COBRA election period that applied to your loss of coverage due to your separation from employment, then you may have an additional COBRA election period. You may elect COBRA continuation coverage during the 60-day period that starts on the first day of the month that you become a TAA- or ATAA-eligible individual. Your election for COBRA continuation coverage must not be made later than six months after the date of the TAA/ATAA-related loss of coverage (the date that you lost coverage due to your separation from employment that gives rise to you being a TAA- or ATAA-eligible individual).

## What COBRA Coverage Costs

COBRA participants must pay monthly premiums for coverage.

Premiums are based on the full cost per covered person set at the beginning of the year, plus 2% for administrative costs. Dependents making separate elections are charged the same rate as a single employee.

Payment is due at enrollment, but there is a 45-day grace period from the date you mail your enrollment form to make the initial payment. The initial payment includes coverage for the current month, plus any previous month(s).

Ongoing monthly payments are due on the first of each month, but there is a 30-day grace period (for example, June payment is due June 1, but will be accepted if postmarked by June 30).

The Trade Act of 2002 created a new tax credit for certain individuals who become eligible for trade adjustment assistance and for certain retired employees who are receiving pension payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (eligible individuals). Under the new tax provisions, eligible individuals can either take a tax credit or get advance payment of 65% of premiums paid for qualified health insurance, including continuation coverage. If you have questions about these new tax provisions, you may call the Health Coverage Tax Credit Customer Contact Center toll-free at 1-866-628-4282. TTD/TTY callers may call toll-free at 1-866-626-4282. More information about the Trade Act also is available at [www.doleta.gov/tradeact](http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact).

If you or your dependent elects COBRA continuation coverage:

- You or your dependent can keep the same level of coverage you had as an active employee or choose a lower level of coverage.
- Your or your dependent's coverage is effective as of the date of the qualifying event. However, if you waive COBRA coverage and then revoke the waiver within the 60-day election period, your elected coverage begins on the date you revoke your waiver.
- You or your dependent may change your coverage:
  - During your benefits renewal period.
  - If you have a qualified change in status.
  - If you have a change in circumstance recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Verizon.
- You may enroll any newly eligible spouse or child under the Plan rules.

## **When COBRA Coverage Ends**

COBRA coverage ends before the maximum continuation period if one of the following occurs:

- You or any of your covered dependents become covered under another plan not offered by Verizon, provided the plan does not have a legally valid pre-existing condition exclusion or limitation affecting the qualified beneficiary. If it does, Verizon COBRA coverage for that pre-existing condition continues as long as you pay the premium.
- You or your covered dependent fails to make contributions by the due date as required.
- Verizon stops providing any vision benefits to any employee.

Continuation coverage also may be terminated for any reason the Plan would terminate coverage of a participant or beneficiary not receiving continuation coverage (such as fraud).

## **If You Have Questions**

For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit the EBSA Web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

Addresses and telephone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's Web site.

# What Is Not Covered

The Plan does not cover the following expenses for you or a covered dependent:

- More than one vision exam in a benefit period (see “Plan Benefits“ in the “Your Coverage” section for more information)
- More than one pair of lenses and frames **or** one pair of contact lenses/a one-year supply of disposable contact lenses in a benefit period (see “Plan Benefits” in the “Your Coverage” section for more information); this exclusion does not apply to VDT eyeglasses, which are provided to eligible associates in addition to Plan eyeglasses according to program provisions
- The portion of the charge for frames that is over the applicable allowance
- The extra charge for blended, coated, scratch-coated, dyed, oversized, photochromic, progressive multifocal, laminated, anti reflective, ultraviolet-protected or tinted lenses or for other cosmetic extras except as covered specifically (CWA associates, see “Additional Information for CWA-Represented Associates” in the “Plan Benefits” section for more information)
- Colored contact lenses for CWA-represented associates
- Non-prescription colored contact lenses for IBEW-represented associates
- Contact lens insurance and cleaning kits
- Drugs or other medication
- Any medical or surgical eye treatment; however, some special or uncommon treatments may be covered by your medical plan
- Special or unusual treatment, such as orthoptics, vision training, subnormal vision aids, aniseikonic lenses or tonography; however, some special or uncommon treatments may be covered by your medical plan
- Two pairs of eyeglasses instead of bifocal lenses
- Services or supplies not prescribed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist, and lenses that do not require a prescription
- Services or supplies that are experimental (any procedure or lens that is not used universally or accepted by the vision care profession)
- Safety glasses or goggles

- Services or supplies that are provided or ordered prior to the coverage effective date
- Services or supplies provided after the coverage end date
- Replacement of lost or broken lenses and frames furnished under the Plan, except at the normal intervals when covered services or supplies are available otherwise
- Plano lenses
- Any eye exam or any corrective eye wear required by the Company or an affiliate as a condition of employment
- VDT services or supplies obtained from an out-of-network provider or not covered specifically under the Plan
- Services or supplies covered under any federal or state “no-fault” motor vehicle insurance, regardless of whether you assert your rights properly under the motor vehicle insurance contract
- Services or supplies for which you recover the cost by legal action, insurance proceeds or settlement from a third party whose negligent or wrongful actions have caused or are alleged to have caused your injury that needs vision treatment or from the third party’s insurer
- Services or supplies provided by any local, state or federal government agency, except as otherwise required by federal law
- Services or supplies that are furnished, paid for or otherwise provided for treatment of a disability connected with military service or past or present service in the armed forces of a government, unless payment is required by law
- Services or supplies covered under any other Plan of Verizon or an affiliate
- Services or supplies for a condition covered under Workers’ Compensation laws or for any other occupational condition, ailment, injury or disease occurring on the job for all employees and dependents if:
  - The covered person’s employer provides reimbursement for such charges or makes a settlement for such charges
  - The covered person fails to assert his or her rights to receive employer reimbursement.

The Plan has the right to recover or place a lien on any benefits if Workers’ Compensation provides benefits for the same condition.

# How to File a Claim

In order to receive benefits, you or your vision care provider will need to submit a claim form to the claims administrator.

## ***When Claims Are Required***

### **Vision Care Plan**

If you receive covered services or supplies from an in-network vision care provider, your provider files a claim with the claims administrator. The claims administrator directly reimburses the provider according to Plan provisions. You pay the provider any required copayment and amount you owe (if any) for services or supplies that exceed Plan benefits.

If you receive covered services or supplies from an out-of-network vision care provider, you must submit itemized receipts to the claims administrator. Some providers may accept assignment of benefits; if so, the claims administrator will pay the provider directly for covered expenses up to the Plan limits. You are responsible for payment of any amounts over the Plan limits. You should submit itemized receipts as soon as you incur services, and must submit them within 15 months of receipt of the covered services or supplies.

### ***VDT Eye Care Program***

If you receive covered services or supplies from an in-network Video Display Terminal (VDT) care provider, your provider files a claim with the claims administrator. The claims administrator directly reimburses the provider according to program provisions. You pay the provider any amount you owe (if any) for services or supplies that exceed program benefits. If you receive covered services or supplies from an out-of-network provider, the program pays no benefits.

## ***Coordination of Benefits***

### **How Coordination Works**

If you or your eligible dependent is covered by more than one vision plan, special rules apply for determining who pays benefits first (the primary plan) and how benefits are determined when another plan is secondary (pays benefits after the primary plan). This section describes these rules.

The coordination of benefits (COB) feature eliminates duplicate payments for the same service when you or your dependents are covered by more than one vision plan. When benefits coordinate, one plan will pay benefits first (the primary plan), another plan will pay benefits second (the secondary plan) and so on.

When the Plan is primary, it pays benefits up to the limits described in this summary plan description (SPD).

When the Plan is secondary, the claims administrator subtracts the primary plan's payment from the actual charge. The Plan will pay the difference as a secondary payment but not more than it would have paid as the primary plan. As a result, the total amount you receive from both plans never will exceed 100% of the actual charge.

## Priority of Payment

Under the Plan's COB provisions, the order of payment is as follows:

- A plan that covers a patient as an active, inactive or former employee pays before a plan that covers the patient as a dependent.
- For a dependent child, Verizon uses the "birthday rule." This means that if a child is covered by both parents' group vision coverage, the parent whose birthday falls first during the calendar year pays benefits first. So, if the mother's birthday is April 27 and the father's birthday is October 23, the mother's plan pays benefits first. The parent's age has no effect on whose plan pays benefits first. If, however, the plan covering the parent who is not a Plan participant does not use the birthday rule, that plan (not the Verizon Plan) pays benefits first.
- In the case of a divorce or separation, the plan of the parent with court-ordered financial responsibility for the dependent child pays benefits for the child first. If there is no court order establishing financial responsibility or if both parents have joint legal custody, the plan of the parent with physical custody of the child pays first. If the court order provides they have joint physical custody, the birthday rule will apply.

**Note:** If both parents elect coverage under a Verizon-sponsored vision plan, their child can be covered under only one parent's plan.

When the previous rules do not establish an order of benefit determination, the plan that covers the person as an active employee is the primary plan and the plan that covers the person as an inactive or former employee is the secondary plan. If this rule does not establish an order of benefit determination, the plan that has covered the person for the longer period of time is the primary plan and the plan that has covered the person for the shorter period of time is the secondary plan.

A plan that does not have COB is considered the primary plan.

For active associates and covered persons eligible for Medicare, the Plan automatically still is the primary plan.

## ***Subrogation and Third-Party Reimbursement***

If you recover any charges for covered expenses from a third party (for example, as a result of a lawsuit from an automobile accident), the Plan's provision for subrogation and reimbursement takes effect. Under these procedures, the claims administrator's subrogation vendor tries to recover money that has been paid (or should be paid) on behalf of a third party (the other driver, in this example) whose negligence or wrongful actions caused illness or injury to a Plan participant. In this example of a car accident, should the Plan provide benefits because of your accident, the Plan has the right to recover the amount of those benefits from the negligent person or by obtaining a reimbursement from that person's insurance company—or from you if settlement amounts have been paid to you by the negligent person or his or her insurer.

You can contact the subrogation vendor directly with questions. See your Important Benefits Contacts insert for contact information.

The subrogation and reimbursement provisions also mean that if you make a liability claim against a third party after you have received benefits from the Plan, you must include the amount of those benefits as part of the damages you claim. If the claim proceeds to a settlement or judgment in your favor, you must reimburse the Plan for the benefits you received. You and your dependents must grant a lien to the Plan and you and your dependents must assign to the Plan any benefits received under any insurance policies or other coverages. As a condition of eligibility for benefits, you and your dependents must agree to cooperate with the claims administrator's subrogation vendor in carrying out the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights. Cooperation means you must respond promptly and fully with inquiries from the claims administrator's subrogation vendor and take what action the claims administrator's subrogation vendor requests to help recover the value of benefits provided under the Plan. If you don't, any amounts which could have been recovered through subrogation may be deducted from future Plan payments. In any case, Verizon will require payment from you only for amounts recovered that are net of your legal costs related to the action.

The covered person must sign any documents requested by the Plan to enable the Plan to exercise its rights under this provision.

The Plan is not responsible for your legal costs.

### ***Right of Recovery***

If, for any reason, the Plan pays a benefit that is larger than the amount allowed, the claims administrator has a right to recover the excess amount from the person or agency who received it. The person receiving benefits must produce any instruments or papers necessary to ensure this right of recovery.

# Additional Information

## ***Claims and Appeals Procedures***

The authority and discretion to designate each of the claims and appeals administrators is granted to the Verizon Employee Benefits Committee (VEBC), and the Verizon Claims Review Committee (VCRC), and to the individuals who chair each of these committees.

At the time of publication of this summary plan description (SPD), there are several claims and appeals administrators for the Plan:

### **Claims Regarding Eligibility to Participate in the Plan**

At this time, for eligibility-related claims, the claims and appeals administrator is the VCRC, which can be reached at the following address:

Verizon Claims Review Committee  
c/o Verizon Claims Review Unit  
P.O. Box 1438  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069 1438

Claims should be directed to the Verizon Claims Review Unit, whereas appeals should be directed to the Verizon Claims Review Committee c/o the Verizon Claims Review Unit. In either case, the P.O. Box is 1438.

### **Claims Regarding Scope/Amount of Benefits Under the Plan**

At this time, for benefit-related claims, the VCRC has delegated its authority to finally determine claims to the following claims and appeals administrators who have discretionary authority to determine claims and appeals for Plan benefits. Your administrator depends on the bargaining agreement that covers you:

<b>Bargaining Agreement</b>	<b>Claims and Appeals Administrator</b>
CWA	Davis Vision, Inc.
IBEW	Vision Service Plan (VSP)

The addresses of the claims and appeals administrators for the Plan are listed under “Claims and Appeals Administrators” in the “Administrative Information” section. If you have a claim or appeal, you should contact the appropriate claims and appeals administrator for the type of claim or appeal you have.

The claims and appeals administrators have discretionary authority to:

- Interpret the Plan based on its provisions and applicable law and make factual determinations about claims arising under the Plan
- Determine whether a claimant is eligible for benefits
- Decide the amount, form and timing of benefits
- Resolve any other matter under the Plan that is raised by a participant or a beneficiary, or that is identified by either the claims or appeals administrator.

The claims and appeals administrators have sole discretionary authority to decide claims under the Plan and review and resolve any appeal of a denied claim. In case of an appeal, the claims and appeals administrators' decisions are final and binding on all parties to the full extent permitted under applicable law, unless the participant or beneficiary later proves that a claims or appeals administrator's decision was an abuse of administrator discretion.

## If a Benefit Is Denied

Disagreements about benefit eligibility or benefit amounts can arise.

The following information applies for "group health" or "health" claims. "Group health" or "health" refers to medical options – including mental health and substance abuse care, prescription drugs and vision care – and dental options. The steps that you or your authorized representative is required to take to file a group health claim or appeal are outlined in the following chart. The steps vary slightly depending on the type of claim involved.

First, you must determine what type of claim you have:

- **Post-service.** A claim for reimbursement of medical services already received. This is the most common type of claim.
- **Pre-service.** A claim for a benefit for which coverage review is required by the plan.
- **Concurrent care.** A claim for ongoing treatment over a period of time or a number of treatments. For example, if you have been authorized to receive seven treatments from a therapist and during the treatment your therapist suggests 10 treatments, your claim is a concurrent care claim. Some concurrent care claims also are urgent care claims.
- **Urgent care.** A claim for health care or treatment that, if the longer time frames for nonurgent care were applied, the delay could: (1) seriously jeopardize the health of the claimant or his or her ability to regain maximum function; or (2) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition, would subject the claimant to severe pain that could not be managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.

Second, you must determine whether you have an "eligibility" claim or a "benefit" claim.

An eligibility claim is a claim to participate in a plan or option or to change an election to participate during the year. A benefit claim is a claim for a particular benefit under a plan. It will typically include your initial request for benefits.

The following chart applies to **vision** claims.

	Special rules			
	Post-service claim	Pre-service claim	Concurrent care claim	Urgent care claim
<b>Step 1</b>				
<p><b>How to file a claim</b>            To file an <b>eligibility</b> claim, request a Claim Initiation Form from the Verizon Benefits Center at 1-877-4VzBens. You (or your authorized representative) must return the form to the Verizon Claims Review Unit at the address on the form.</p> <p>To file a <b>benefit</b> claim, you (or your authorized representative) should write to your group health plan administrator. To obtain contact information for your plan, you should refer to the telephone number and/or Web site shown on the back of your ID card or the health plan comparison charts available on Your Benefits Resources Web site.</p> <p>You must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the benefits for which you're applying,</li> <li>• The reason(s) for the request, and</li> <li>• Relevant documentation.</li> </ul> <p>To file an urgent care claim, you should call the Verizon Benefits Center at 1-877-4VzBens or your health plan. In addition, you must state that you're filing an urgent care claim.</p>				
<p><b>What happens if you don't follow procedure</b>            If you misdirect your claim, but provide sufficient information to an individual who is responsible for Verizon benefits administration, you will be notified of the proper procedure within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> of receipt of the claim.</p>	<p>Not applicable. Response time frame does not begin until claim is properly filed.</p>	<p>5 days</p>	<p>Not applicable. Response time frame does not begin until the claim is properly filed. If the claim involves urgent care, 24 hours.</p>	<p>24 hours</p>
<p><b>When you will be notified of the claim decision</b>            You will be notified of the decision within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> of the Verizon Benefits Center's receipt of your Claim Initiation Form or the health plan's receipt of your claim.</p>	<p>30 days</p> <p>This period may be extended for 15 days. You will be notified within the initial 30-day period.</p>	<p>15 days</p> <p>This period may be extended for an additional 15 days. You will be notified within the initial 15-day period.</p>	<p>A time period sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination of coverage to allow you to appeal and obtain a response to that appeal before your coverage is reduced or terminated</p> <p>For concurrent care that is urgent, within 24 hours (provided that you submitted a claim at least 24 hours in advance of the reduction or termination of coverage); otherwise, within 72 hours</p>	<p>72 hours</p>

	Special rules			
	Post-service claim	Pre-service claim	Concurrent care claim	Urgent care claim
<p><b>Failure to provide sufficient information procedure</b> If you fail to provide sufficient information, the claim may be decided based on the information provided. However, the Verizon Claims Review Unit or health plan may notify you within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> that additional information is needed.</p>	30 days	15 days	Decision will be based on information provided, unless the concurrent care claim involves urgent care; see urgent care time frame	24 hours
You will have to provide the additional information within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> . Otherwise, the claim will be decided based on information originally provided.	45 days	45 days		48 hours
If you provide additional information, you will be notified of the decision by the Verizon Claims Review Unit or the health plan administrator within <b>(see columns to the right)</b>	The time period <b>remaining</b> for the initial claim	The time period <b>remaining</b> for the initial claim		48 hours
<p><b>How you will be notified of the claim decision</b> If your claim is approved, the Verizon Claims Review Unit or health plan generally will notify you by telephone</p> <p>If your claim is <b>denied</b>, in whole or in part, the Claims Review Unit or the health plan will notify you in writing, except for urgent care. Your denial notice will contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specific reason(s) for the denial,</li> <li>• The plan provisions on which the denial was based,</li> <li>• Any additional material or information you may need to submit to complete the claim,</li> <li>• Any internal procedures or clinical information on which the denial was based, and</li> <li>• The plan's appeal procedures.</li> </ul> <p>If your urgent care claim is denied, the health plan will notify you via telephone. Within 3 days of this oral denial, you will receive a written denial notice, as explained under the general procedure. The denial notice also will explain the expedited review process.</p>				
<b>Step 2</b>				
<p><b>About appeals and the claims fiduciary</b> Before you can bring <b>any</b> action at law or at equity to recover plan benefits, you <b>must</b> exhaust this process. Specifically, you must file an appeal or appeals, as explained in this Step 2, and the appeal(s) must be finally decided by the claims fiduciary.</p> <p>The Claims Review Committee is the claims fiduciary for all eligibility claims. The Claims Review Committee has delegated its authority to finally determine claims to the health plans for benefit claims. The vast majority of health plans have accepted the responsibility of being the claims fiduciary. If your health plan has not accepted this responsibility, you will be notified in your claim denial notice, which will indicate that you should appeal to the Claims Review Committee.</p> <p>The claims fiduciary is authorized to finally determine appeals and interpret the terms of the plan in its sole discretion. All decisions by the claims fiduciary are final and binding on all parties.</p>				

	Special rules			
	Post-service claim	Pre-service claim	Concurrent care claim	Urgent care claim
<p><b>How to file an appeal</b> If your claim is denied and you want to appeal it, you must file your appeal within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> from the date you receive notice of your denied claim. You may request access to all documents relating to your appeal. If you have an appeal for <b>eligibility</b> (i.e., you wrote to the Verizon Claims Review Unit at Step 1), write to the address specified on your claim denial notice.</p> <p>If you have an appeal for <b>benefits</b> (i.e., you wrote to your health plan as explained at Step 1), write to the contact identified by your health plan administrator in your claim denial notice.</p> <p>You should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of your claim denial notice,</li> <li>• The reason(s) for the appeal, and</li> <li>• Relevant documentation.</li> </ul> <p>The individual/committee (and any medical expert) reviewing your appeal will be independent from the individual/committee who reviewed your claim. In addition, if your appeal involves a medical judgment, the Claims Review Committee or the health plan administrator will consult with a healthcare professional who has appropriate relevant experience.</p> <p>Upon request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are entitled to learn the identity of such an expert.</li> <li>• You are entitled to copies of any healthcare professional's report.</li> <li>• You will be provided with any documents used by the plan to come to the determination of your case.</li> </ul>	180 days	180 days	Within a reasonable period of time, considering the time period scheduled for reduction or termination of benefits	180 days  You may orally file your appeal with the Verizon Claims Review Unit or the contact identified by your health plan administrator. At the time your claim is denied, the Verizon Claims Review Unit or your health plan administrator will give you instructions about how to file your appeal. You must identify that you are appealing an urgent care claim.

	Special rules			
	Post-service claim	Pre-service claim	Concurrent care claim	Urgent care claim
<p><b>When you will be notified of the appeal decision</b></p> <p>You will be notified of the decision within <b>(see columns to the right)</b> of the Claims Review Committee's or the health plan's receipt of your appeal</p>	<p><b>Eligibility appeals:</b> 60 days</p> <p><b>Benefit appeals:</b><sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 days, if health plan provides 1 level of mandatory appeal</li> <li>• 30 days, if health plan provides 2 levels of mandatory appeal</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligibility appeals:</b> 30 days</p> <p><b>Benefit appeals:</b><sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 days, if health plan provides 1 level of mandatory appeal</li> <li>• 15 days, if health plan provides 2 levels of mandatory appeal</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligibility and benefit appeals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before a reduction or termination of benefits would occur</li> <li>• If the concurrent claim involves urgent care, 72 hours<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligibility and benefit appeals:</b> 72 hours<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><b>How you will be notified of the appeal decision</b></p> <p>If your appeal is approved, the Claims Review Committee or the health plan will notify you in writing</p> <p>If your appeal is <b>denied</b>, in whole or in part, the Claims Review Committee or the health plan will notify you in writing. Your denial notice will contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specific reason(s) for the denial,</li> <li>• A statement regarding the documents to which you are entitled,</li> <li>• An explanation of the voluntary appeal procedures, if any,</li> <li>• Any internal procedures or clinical information on which the denial was based,</li> <li>• The plan provisions on which the denial was based, and</li> <li>• The following statement: "You and your plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your State insurance regulatory agency."</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Step 3</b></p> <p><b>How to proceed if necessary</b></p> <p>If you had an <b>eligibility</b> appeal that was denied by the Claims Review Committee, Verizon will not review your matter again, unless new facts are presented. You have a right to bring a civil action.</p> <p>If you had a <b>benefit</b> appeal that was denied by a group health plan administrator that offers 1 mandatory level of appeal, the group health plan administrator will not review your matter again, unless new facts are presented. You have a right to bring a civil action.</p> <p>If you had a <b>benefit</b> appeal that was denied by a group health plan administrator that offers 2 mandatory levels of appeal, you may appeal to the health plan a second time. You must submit your second appeal within 180 days from the date that you received the denial of your first appeal. In addition, your health plan will provide you with an independent medical review, upon request, in conjunction with this second and final appeal.</p>				

<sup>1</sup>If your health plan provides more than one level of appeal, the response time frame is shorter, as noted above. A few Verizon health plans offer a voluntary level of appeal. You are not required to file this voluntary appeal before filing a civil action; however, you may find it helpful. The health plan will provide you with information regarding its voluntary appeal, if it applies. A voluntary appeal is not subject to the same time frames as mandatory appeals.

<sup>2</sup>If your health plan provides two mandatory appeals, both appeals must occur within the 72-hour time frame.

The following provision applies if the health plan provides 2 levels of mandatory appeal:				
<p><b>When you will be notified of the second and final appeal decision</b></p> <p>You will receive a response within (<b>see columns to the right</b>) of the health plan administrator's receipt of your second and final appeal. If this appeal is denied, the health plan administrator will not review your matter again, unless new facts are presented. You have a right to bring a civil action.</p>	30 days	15 days	Time period remaining from your first appeal. Of course, the clock stops while you are preparing your second appeal.	Time period remaining from your first appeal. Of course, the clock stops while you are preparing your second appeal.

## ***Your Rights Under ERISA***

As a participant in the Plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and its subsequent amendments. ERISA provides that all Plan participants shall be entitled to the following:

### **Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

- Examine, without charge at the Plan administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- Obtain, upon written request to the Plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description (SPD). The administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan administrator is required by law to furnish you with a copy of this summary annual report.

### **Continue Group Health Plan Coverage**

- Continue healthcare coverage for yourself, your spouse or dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or your dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review your summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on your COBRA continuation coverage rights.
- Reduction or elimination of exclusionary periods of coverage for pre-existing conditions under your group health plan, if you have creditable coverage from another plan. You should be provided a Certificate of Creditable Coverage, free of charge, from your group health plan or health insurance issuer when you lose coverage under the plan, when you become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, when your COBRA continuation coverage ceases, if you request it before losing coverage, or if you request it up to 24 months after losing coverage. Without evidence of creditable coverage, you may be subject to a pre-existing condition exclusion for 12 months (18 months for late enrollees) after your enrollment date in your coverage.

## **Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries**

In addition to creating rights for Plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the persons who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate your Plan, called “fiduciaries” of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other Plan participants and beneficiaries.

No one, including your employer, your union or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

## **Enforce Your Rights**

If your claim for a benefit is denied or ignored in whole or in part, you have the right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights.

For instance, if you request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan administrator.

If you have a claim for benefits that is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan’s decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court.

If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan’s money or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees (for example, if it finds your claim to be frivolous).

## **Assistance With Your Questions**

If you have any questions about your Plan, you should contact the Plan administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory; or write to:

Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

You also may obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publication hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## ***HIPAA Privacy Rights***

The HIPAA Privacy Rule applies to “Protected Health Information,” which is defined as any written, oral or electronic health information that meets the following three requirements:

- The information is created or received by a healthcare provider, a Verizon health plan or Verizon.
- The information includes specific identifiers that identify you or could be used to identify you.
- The information relates to one of the following:
  - Providing healthcare to you.
  - Your past, present or future physical or mental condition.
  - The past, present or future payment for your healthcare.

The Notice of Privacy Practices for the Verizon health plans contains a complete explanation of your rights under the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The notice describes how Protected Health Information may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to that information. The following is a summary of those uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information and your rights with respect to Protected Health Information:

- The Verizon health plans may use or disclose your Protected Health Information for purposes of conducting healthcare operations or paying your healthcare claims.
- The Verizon health plans may use or disclose your Protected Health Information to tell you about treatment alternatives, or to provide you with information about other health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.
- The Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information to Verizon, as sponsor of the Verizon health plans, to assist Verizon in the performance of plan administrative functions. The Verizon health plans also may provide summary health information to Verizon, as plan sponsor, so that Verizon may obtain premium bids or modify, amend or terminate the Verizon health plans. Summary health information does not directly identify you, but summarizes claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced. Finally, the Verizon health plans may disclose your enrollment and disenrollment information to Verizon as plan sponsor.
- The Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information when required to do so by any federal, state or local law, and when permitted to do so under the circumstances set out in the Verizon Notice of Privacy Practices.
- The Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information to a law enforcement official for certain law enforcement purposes. For example, the Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information pursuant to a law requiring the reporting of certain types of wounds or other physical injuries.

- The Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information to healthcare providers to assist them in connection with their treatment or payment activities. In addition, the Verizon health plans may disclose your Protected Health Information to other entities subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule to assist them with their payment activities or certain of their healthcare operations. For example, the Verizon health plans might disclose your Protected Health Information to a healthcare provider when needed by the provider to render treatment to you.
- Other than as permitted or required by law, the Verizon health plans will not use or disclose your Protected Health Information without your written authorization. If you authorize a Verizon health plan to use or disclose your Protected Health Information, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time. If you revoke the authorization, the Verizon health plan no longer will use or disclose your Protected Health Information for the reasons covered by your written authorization. Your revocation will not affect any uses or disclosures a Verizon health plan already has made prior to the date the Verizon health plan receives notice of the revocation.

In general, you have the following rights regarding the Protected Health Information retained by a Verizon health plan:

- You have the right to request that a Verizon health plan restrict uses and disclosures of your Protected Health Information to carry out payment or healthcare operations.
- You have the right to request that a Verizon health plan communicate with you in a certain way if you feel that the disclosure of your Protected Health Information could endanger you.
- You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your Protected Health Information.
- If you believe that Protected Health Information a Verizon health plan has about you is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to request a correction.
- You have a right to request a list of disclosures made by a Verizon health plan of your Protected Health Information, other than those disclosures for which an accounting is not required.
- You have a right to request and receive a paper copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices for the Verizon health plans, even if you have received this notice previously or agreed to receive this notice electronically.

For more information regarding these rights and the privacy policies of the Verizon health plans, please review the Notice of Privacy Practices for the Verizon health plans. The Notice of Privacy Practices for the Verizon health plans is available on Your Benefits Resources Web site at [www.verizon.com/benefits](http://www.verizon.com/benefits). Select “View or Print HIPAA Privacy Notice” in the “Learn More” section on the Benefits Overview page of the Benefits Manual. You may view the notice on the Web site and/or print a paper copy from the Web site.

You also may request a paper copy of the notice by calling the Verizon Benefits Center at 1-877-4VzBens. Have your social security number and Benefits Center password available. Listen to the main menu to make your selection and then follow the prompts to reach a representative. Benefits Center representatives are available from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

## ***Administrative Information***

Administrative information about the Plan is provided in this section.

### **Important Telephone Numbers**

You can connect to the Verizon Benefits Center and other Verizon benefit providers by calling 1-877-4VzBens. If you prefer, you can call the benefit providers directly via the telephone numbers shown on your Important Benefits Contacts insert.

### **Plan Sponsor/Employer**

The Plan sponsor/employer is:

Verizon Communications Inc.  
One Verizon Way  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

### **Plan Administrator**

The Plan administrator is:

Chairperson of the VEBC  
c/o Verizon Benefits Center  
100 Half Day Road  
P.O. Box 1457  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-1457

Telephone number: 1-877-4VzBens and follow the instructions to reach the Verizon Benefits Center.

You may communicate to the Plan administrator in writing at the address above. But, for questions about Plan benefits, you should contact the Verizon Benefits Center. The Verizon Benefits Center administers enrollment and handles participant questions, requests and certain benefits claims, but is not the Plan administrator. Claims relating to the scope and amount of benefits under the Plan are administered by the administrators listed under "Claims Regarding Scope/Amount of Benefits Under the Plan" in the "Additional Information" section.

The Plan administrator or a person designated by the administrator has the full and final discretionary authority to publish the Plan document and benefit Plan communications, to prepare reports and make filings for the Plan and to otherwise oversee the administration of the Plan. However, most of your day-to-day questions can be answered by the Plan's benefits administrator or a Benefits Center Representative.

Do not send any benefit claims to the Plan administrator or to the Verizon legal department. Instead, submit them to the claims administrator for the Plan (see the "Additional Information" section for more information).

## **Benefits Administrators**

The benefits administrators have authority and responsibility to perform daily administration of benefits under the Plan.

- Davis Vision, Inc. is the benefits administrator for CWA-represented associates. (See below for the address for the benefits administrator.)
- Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the benefits administrator for IBEW-represented associates. (See below for the address for the benefits administrator.)

See Your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone numbers for the benefits administrators.

## **Claims and Appeals Administrators**

The claims administrators have the authority to make final determinations regarding claims for benefits. The claims administrators are authorized to determine eligibility for benefits and interpret the terms of the Plan in its sole discretion, and all decisions by the claims administrators are final and binding on all parties.

There are several claims and appeals administrators for the Plan.

### ***Verizon Claims Review Committee (VCRC)***

The VCRC is responsible for enrollment and eligibility claims. The VCRC can be reached at the following address:

Verizon Claims Review Committee  
c/o Verizon Benefits Center  
100 Half Day Road  
P.O. Box 1438  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-1438

See your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone number.

### ***Davis Vision, Inc.***

For CWA-represented Plan participants, Davis Vision, Inc. is the benefits administrator responsible for authorizing benefit payments, considering appeals, resolving questions, obtaining records, filing reports and the distribution of information to Plan participants. Davis Vision, Inc. can be reached at the following address:

Davis Vision, Inc.  
150 Express Street  
Plainview, NY 11803

See your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone number.

### ***Vision Service Plan (VSP)***

For IBEW-represented Plan participants, VSP is the benefits administrator responsible for authorizing benefit payments, considering appeals, resolving questions, obtaining records, filing reports and the distribution of information to Plan participants. VSP can be reached at the following address:

Vision Service Plan  
3333 Quality Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

See your Important Benefits Contacts insert for the telephone number.

### ***Qualified Medical Child Support Orders (QMCSOs)***

The Verizon Benefits Center is responsible for the administration of QMCSOs. The Verizon Benefits Center can be reached at the following address:

Verizon Benefits Center  
100 Half Day Road  
P.O. Box 1457  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-1457

You also can call the Verizon Benefits Center at 1-877-4VzBens.

### **Plan Funding**

The Vision Plan is not financed by an insurance company, nor are benefits guaranteed under a contract of insurance. The claims and appeals administrators listed under the “Additional Information” section do not insure or guarantee Plan benefits. The Company pays all claims out of the general assets of the Company.

### **Plan Identification**

Vision coverage is provided through the Verizon Vision Care Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates, which is a component plan of Verizon Plan 550. It is a welfare plan, listed with the Department of Labor under two numbers: The Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 23-2259884 and the Plan Number (PN) is 550.

In addition to the benefits described in this SPD, Verizon Plan 550 provides other benefits to Mid-Atlantic associate employees of Verizon (including Connected Solutions Inc. technicians). Vision benefits for Connected Solutions Inc. technicians are provided under the Connected Solutions Vision Care Plan. Medical benefits are provided under the component plans referred to as the Verizon Managed Care Network and Medical Expense Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates and the Connected Solutions Managed Care Health Plan. Dental benefits are provided under the component plan referred to as the Verizon Dental Expense Plan for Mid-Atlantic Associates. Medical and dental benefits are described in separate SPDs.

### **Plan Year**

Plan records are kept on a Plan-year basis, which is the same as the calendar-year basis.

## **Agent for Service of Legal Process**

The agent for service of legal process is the Plan administrator. Legal process must be served in writing to the Plan administrator at the address stated above for the Plan administrator.

In addition, a copy of the legal process involving this Plan must be delivered to:

Verizon Legal Department  
Employee Benefits Group  
Verizon Communications Inc.  
One Verizon Way  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

## **Collective Bargaining Agreements**

The terms of your benefits may also be governed by a collective bargaining agreement between Verizon and your union. You and your beneficiaries may review the collective bargaining agreement at your location and you also can request a copy by writing to the plan administrator.

## **Official Plan Document**

This SPD is part of the official Plan documents.

## ***Participating Companies***

The following is a list of participating companies as of January 1, 2007. The list may change from time to time.

- Verizon Advanced Data Inc.
- Verizon Delaware Inc.
- Verizon Maryland Inc.
- Verizon New Jersey Inc.
- Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.
- Verizon Services Corp.
- Verizon Virginia Inc.
- Verizon Washington D.C. Inc.
- Verizon West Virginia Inc.
- Verizon Avenue, Inc.
- Verizon Corporate Services Corp.

# Glossary

## C

### **COBRA**

A federal law (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 and its subsequent amendments) allowing continuation of Plan coverage for a period of time at the participant's expense if a participant loses Plan coverage because of certain qualifying events.

### **Covered Person**

Any employee and his or her dependents enrolled in the Plan, or any eligible individual who has elected coverage under COBRA.

### **Covered Services**

The services, treatments or supplies identified as payable in the official Plan document.

## I

### **Imputed Income**

If you cover an individual who is not an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax dependent, Verizon will report income for you that reflects the value of the coverage for that individual for tax reporting purposes. This is known as imputed income.

### **Domestic partners and their children**

You must contact the Verizon Benefits Center and indicate that your same-sex domestic partner and his or her children are your IRS tax dependents. Otherwise, Verizon automatically imputes income for you.

### **All other dependents**

Verizon assumes all dependents you cover, other than a same-sex domestic partner and his or her children, are IRS tax dependents. You must contact the Verizon Benefits Center if this assumption is incorrect.

### **In-Network Provider**

- Vision Care Plan: An ophthalmologist, optometrist or optician who has contracted with the claims administrator to participate in the network and who has agreed to accept payment directly from the administrator for covered services, except for applicable member copayments.
- VDT Eye Care Program: An ophthalmologist, optometrist or optician who has signed an agreement with the program administrator to participate in the network and who has agreed to accept payment directly for covered services.

## ***IRS tax dependent***

An IRS tax dependent is a U.S. citizen or resident who is a “qualifying child” or a “qualifying relative.”

A “qualifying child” generally is a person who:

- Is under the age of 19 (or 24 in the case of a student) or is permanently and totally disabled.
- Is your child, grandchild, brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister or niece or nephew.
- Does not provide over one-half of his or her own support for the calendar year.
- Lives with you for more than one-half of the calendar year.

If a person does not meet the definition of “qualifying child,” he or she might be an IRS tax dependent by satisfying the “qualifying relative” requirements.

A “qualifying relative” generally is a person who:

- Is not your qualifying child or any other taxpayer’s qualifying child during the calendar year.
- Receives over one-half of his or her support from you for the calendar year.
- Is “related to you” or “lives with you for the entire calendar year as a member of your household.”

## **Examples**

Your 25-year-old child might be your IRS tax dependent if he or she is a U.S. citizen or resident and receives over one-half of his or her support from you. Even though your child does not meet the definition of “qualifying child,” he or she meets the definition of “qualifying relative.”

Your same-sex domestic partner might be your IRS tax dependent if he or she is a U.S. citizen or resident, receives over one-half of his or her support from you, and lives with you for the entire calendar year as a member of your household. Even though a domestic partner is not a “relative” in the traditional sense, he or she may meet the definition of “qualifying relative.”

Your same-sex domestic partner’s child typically will not be your IRS tax dependent, unless the domestic partner also is your tax dependent.

## ***L***

### ***Legally Separated***

An employee and his or her spouse legally are separated if they do not live together and if they have a signed document or a legal proceeding, such as a separation agreement, that indicates that the employee or his or her spouse intends to live separately.

## ***Lenses***

- Single vision lenses: Standard lenses that provide a single focal length
- Bifocal lenses: Lenses that have two focal lengths, one for close focus and one for distant focus
- Lenticular lenses: Lenses for people who have had cataracts removed surgically
- Trifocal lenses: Lenses that have three focal lengths for close, intermediate and distant focus.

## ***Licensed Vision Care Provider***

A medically licensed vision care provider, such as an ophthalmologist, optician or optometrist.

## ***O***

### ***Out-of-Network Provider***

A licensed vision care provider who is not affiliated with the Plan network or the Video Display Terminal (VDT) Eye Care Program network.

## ***P***

### ***Participating Company***

Verizon or any corporation or partnership which is an affiliate of Verizon that has elected to participate in the Plan.

## ***S***

### ***Same-Sex Domestic Partner***

To qualify as a Class I Dependent, your same-sex domestic partner must meet all of the following criteria:

- Is an adult of the same sex as you
- Is not married to anyone else
- Is not the domestic partner of anyone else
- Is your only domestic partner and intends to remain so indefinitely
- Is not related to you by blood that would prevent marriage under the law
- Lives with you in the same permanent residence
- Is jointly responsible, along with you, for one another's welfare and for basic living expenses
- Is at least 18 years old and competent to contract under the law.

In addition, if you disenroll your partner, you must wait 60 days before enrolling a new partner.

You must agree to notify the Verizon Benefits Center if your partner no longer meets the criteria listed above.

## ***Spouse***

Your spouse is a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife, pursuant to a legal union, under the laws of the state in which you live.

The definition of spouse specified in this document is consistent with the definition under the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The Plan uses this definition, even if state or local laws define spouse differently.

## ***T***

### ***Term Associate***

A term associate is an associate whose employment is intended to last more than six months and not more than 30 months. A term associate's employment ends upon completion of the specific project for which he or she is hired.

## ***V***

### ***VDT***

Any electronic video screen data presentation machine commonly called a Video Display Terminal (VDT) or Cathode Ray Tube (CRT). A VDT or CRT does not include hand-held processing devices, self contained personal computers, memory typewriters, televisions, cash registers, calculators or oscilloscopes.

## ***W***

### ***Working Retiree***

A former associate employee of a participating company (other than Verizon Delaware Inc., Verizon Pennsylvania Inc. or Verizon Directory Services) who was represented by CWA immediately prior to leaving the Company and:

- Who retired on a service pension or who elected a service pension cashout under the Verizon Pension Plan for Mid Atlantic Associates
- Who is reemployed by a participating company after 90 or more days of retirement
- Whose reemployment lasts 120 or fewer days in a calendar year.

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