

# INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATES/DEPENDENTS

## ABOUT THE GROUP HEALTH PLAN – AUTHORIZATION FORM

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### WHAT IS HIPAA AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?

Congress has passed a law called HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act) which restricts who can access certain health information. The information covered by this law is called Protected Health Information (PHI).

There are times, however, when you may want others to have your health information.

These are the main instances in which HIPAA may affect you:

- If you want your Personnel Manager or Benefit Counselor to call the Benefits Department for information about your medical coverage, you will have to give them authorization to speak on your behalf by completing and returning an Authorization Form. If you are present when the Personnel Representative makes the call, you do not have to complete an Authorization.
- If you have received an "Explanation of Benefits" after 4/14/2003 with the Designation of Personal Representatives Statement printed on it and have not objected, we will assume that you want us to speak to your spouse about your benefits. If you are a dependent and have not objected, we will assume that you want us to speak to your acting parents about your benefits.

If you disagree, please call Customer Service at (800) 452-6199.

- If you want a friend or other family member to have access to your Protected Health Information, you will have to complete and return an Authorization Form granting them permission to have this access.
- You do not need to authorize the Associates' Medical Plan to release information to health care providers, such as hospitals and doctors, for routine purposes of treatment, payment, or healthcare administration.

In addition you need to know:

- No one but you can complete your Authorization Form.
- Personnel Managers and Benefit Counselors cannot complete an Authorization Form for any associate, other than themselves.

### TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Authorization (also called a Release): Gives written permission to release Protected Health Information for non-routine purposes beyond treatment, payment, and healthcare administration.
- Participant: Includes associates and covered dependents who are enrolled in the Tyson Associates' Medical Plan.
- Protected Health Information (PHI): Generally any health-related information that could identify a particular individual's personal information.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Authorizations remain in effect for one (1) year from the date of your signature.
- If you do not receive a response within 45 days, you may assume the request has been granted.

You may return your completed Authorization Form by MAIL, FAX, or by SCAN-SENDING it through EMAIL. You do not need to return this page.

### MAIL TO

BlueAdvantage National Accounts  
P.O. Box 1460  
Little Rock, AR 72203

FAX to the Attention of the BANA Customer Service at (501) 378-2325.  
SCAN-SEND to TysonServiceTeamBlueAdvClms@arkbluecross.com

# GROUP HEALTH PLAN – AUTHORIZATION

## Participant Release Of Protected Health Information

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Name of Associate Carrying Medical Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number of Associate Carrying Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

Participant (This is the Person whose Protected Health Information will be released) \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

### AUTHORIZATION (This is who will receive the participant's Protected Health Information)

**I authorize the Associates' Medical Plan and its business associates to release Protected Health Information to the people, group, or organization listed below:**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
*(person, group, organization other than self)* *(person)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*(person, group, or organization address needed for verification purposes)*

I authorize the Plan to release: (only mark one)

All my Protected Health Information, **OR**  All my Protected Health Information **except:**

If you have marked **except**, list the information (treatment for the dates of service, diagnosis(es)/condition(s), and/or treatment by the following provider(s) name/address) that you do not want released: *(Attach additional pages if necessary.)*

### REASON FOR REQUEST

You may check the box below that states "At participant's request" or you may specify below the reasons you are authorizing the Plan to share your Protected Health Information.

At the participant's request  Other reasons (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE

I understand that:

- This authorization is valid for one (1) year from the date of my signature.
- I have the right to cancel this authorization at any time by completing a Cancellation of Authorization Form.
- The Associates' Medical Plan may have already released my health information (due to an earlier authorization). If so, that release of information is proper and is not affected by a Cancellation of Authorization.
- If the person or entity that I authorize to receive my health information is not required to comply with the federal privacy regulations, these regulations will no longer protect my information.

I understand that payment of my claims does not depend upon my signing this form. I understand that if I do not sign this form, the authorization will be invalid.

Participant's Signature (This is the Person whose Protected Health Information will be released) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are authorizing the release of your own information, you are finished and it is not necessary to complete the below.**

If you have completed this form as a legally recognized representative of the participant, it is necessary to complete the following:

Name of Representative (please print your name) \_\_\_\_\_

State your relationship to the participant (that allows you to act on their behalf ) \_\_\_\_\_

Sign this form on behalf of the participant Representative's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the Associates' Medical Plan will obtain a valid, signed authorization from a Plan participant prior to using or releasing the participant's Protected Health Information, unless the Plan participant's authorization is not legally required by law.

*If you do not receive a response regarding this form within 45 days, you may assume that this request has been granted.*