SummaCare[SM]

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB)

Description:
Coordination of benefits (COB) exists when you, as an enrollee, are also covered by another plan. COB is the process which determines which plan pays first.

Question and Answers:

Q. What is COB?

A. Coordination of Benefits (COB) is necessary when an individual has healthcare coverage from more than one source. COB refers to the process that determines which plan pays first, which pays second, and so on.

The Ohio Revised Code establishes the many rules about the order in which payments are made. The Plan or Policy that pays first is called the Primary plan. The Primary plan must pay benefits in accordance with its policy terms without regard to the possibility that another plan may cover some expenses. The plan or policy that pays after the Primary plan is called the Secondary plan. The Secondary plan may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all plans do not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense.

An example is provided below:

Service	Healthcare Plan	Amount Provider Charged	Allowed	Paid	Enrollee Responsibility
Office Visit	Primary Plan	$100.00	$80.00	$60.00	$20.00
Office Visit	Secondary Plan	$100.00	$80.00	$20.00	$00.00

Q. What are some common situations in determining the Primary plan?

Some common situations include, but are not limited to:

- The plan that covers a person as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired is the Primary plan.
- For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married, the primary plan is determined by the court decree in effect.

- For persons who receive health insurance coverage through COBRA or a similar state or federal right of continuation provision, they may also receive coverage under another plan as an employee, member, subscriber, retiree, or dependent of one of these individuals. In this instance, their COBRA coverage would be the Secondary plan and the other coverage would be considered the Primary plan.