**Letter about Your Right to Make a Fast Complaint**

**<Date of Letter>**

[*Insert Member name*]

Member Health Plan ID:

Service/item this letter is about:

[*Insert additional field(s) as needed, when required by state, such as provider or Member Medicaid ID*]

<Plan name> is called “our plan” or “we” in this letter. We are a health plan that contracts with Medicare and Medicaid [*Replace with state-specific term for Medicaid, if applicable*] to provide coverage for both programs. Our plan coordinates your Medicare and Medicaid [*Replace with state-specific term for Medicaid, if applicable*] services and your doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, and other health care providers.

[*Insert one of the following sets of paragraphs as applicable:*]

[**Our plan needs more time to make a decision about your <request** *or* **appeal> for the <service** *or***item> listed above.** We may need up to **14 additional calendar days** to give you a decision.

If you disagree with our plan’s decision to take more time to give you a decision, **you or your <doctor** *or***health care provider> can make a fast complaint.**

* You may need a faster decision because of a health or medical reason.
* If you need a faster decision, ask your <doctor or health care provider> to send us information about your health or medical reason.
* When you make a fast complaint, our plan must give you a decision on your fast complaint **within 24 hours**.
* If our plan agrees you need a faster decision, we’ll make a decision about your <request *or* appeal> sooner.]

*or*

[**Our plan reviewed your <request for a <service** *or***item> listed above** *or***appeal for a <service** *or***item> listed above>, and we don’t think a fast <decision** *or***appeal> is needed because** [*Insert a concise explanation for the plan’s decision****.*** *Write the explanation in plain language and give, at a minimum, a basic explanation of the reasoning behind the action in the simplest language possible without losing meaning.*].Our plan will make a decision about your <request *or* appeal> **by [*Insert specific decision deadline date in month, date, year format – 30 calendar days from date that the request or appeal was made. Insert deadline date in bold text*].**

If you disagree with our plan’s decision that you don’t need a fast <decision *or* appeal>, **you or your <doctor** *or* **health care provider> can make a fast complaint.**

* You may need a faster decision because of a health or medical reason.
* If you need a faster decision, ask your <doctor or health care provider> to send us information about your health or medical reason.
* When you make a fast complaint, our plan must give you a decision on your fast complaint **within 24 hours**.
* If our plan agrees you need a faster decision, we’ll make a decision about your <request *or* appeal> sooner.]

**How to make a fast complaint**

Contact our plan as soon as possible to make a fast complaint. Usually, **calling our plan’s Member Services is the first step** for making a fast complaint because **we** **must respond to a fast complaint within 24 hours.**

* If you make your fast complaint by phone, our plan may call you and follow up with a written response.
* To make a fast complaint by phone, you or someone you have named as your representative to act on your behalf (such as a relative, friend, or lawyer) may call <Plan phone number for complaints> (TTY: <TTY number>) *or* Member Services at <toll-free plan Member Services phone number> (TTY: <toll-free TTY number>), <days and hours of operation>.

You always have the right to make a fast complaint in writing if you don’t want to call our plan’s Member Services.

* To put your complaint in writing, you or your representative can mail us at <plan mailing address>.
* If you make your fast complaint in writing, our plan will send you a written response.

You also have the right to ask for a written response from our plan when you call to make a fast complaint.

**Get help and more information**

* **<Plan name> Member Services:** Call <toll-free plan Member Services phone number> (TTY: <toll-free TTY number>), <days and hours of operation>. You can also visit <plan website>.
* [*If the state uses an Ombudsman or other member support program, insert the following language, with state-specific information here:* ***<*Name of program office>:** Call <phone number> (TTY: <TTY number>). <Name of program office> can answer questions if you have a problem with your appeal. They can also help you understand what to do next. They aren’t connected with our plan or with any insurance company or health plan. Their services are free.]
* ***<*Name of State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office*>*:** Call <phone number> (TTY: <TTY number>). <Name of SHIP program> counselors can help you with Medicare issues, including how to make a fast complaint. <Name of SHIP program> isn’t connected with any insurance company or health plan. Their services are free.
* **Medicare:** Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048). Or, visit [Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).
* **<Medicaid/state Medicaid program name>:** Call <phone number> (TTY: <TTY number>).
* **Medicare Rights Center:** Call 1-800-333-4114, or visit [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org/).
* **Eldercare Locator:** Call 1-800-677-1116, or visit [www.eldercare.acl.gov](http://www.eldercare.acl.gov) to find help in your community.
* [*If applicable, insert other state or local aging/disability resources contact information.*]

You can get this document for free in other formats, such as large print, braille, or audio. Call <toll-free phone and TTY numbers, days and hours of operation>. The call is free.

[*Plans are subject to the notice requirements under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. For more information, visit* <http://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557>.]