

**DOMINION DENTAL SERVICES, INC.
AND DOMINION DENTAL SERVICES USA, INC.**

VIRGINIA DENTAL SPECIALIST AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, _____ (year), by and between _____ (hereinafter referred to as SPECIALIST) who is licensed to practice Dentistry in the State of Virginia and Dominion Dental Services, Inc. and Dominion Dental Services USA, Inc., both Virginia Corporations (hereinafter referred to collectively as PLAN). Whenever mentioned herein, the term SPECIALIST shall include all employees of SPECIALIST, all partners, dental associates, and all staff personnel under his direct supervision and/or control. The provisions of this Agreement are to be construed according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and the terms of any coverage contract, the terms of such coverage contract shall control.

WITNESSETH

- A. PLAN provides various individuals, health plans and groups with a wide range of dental care services to Subscribers and their eligible dependents participating in the PLAN.
- B. Each of the Subscribers has entered into contracts with PLAN by the terms of which contracts PLAN has agreed to provide such Subscribers with dental care.

It is specifically understood by the parties hereto that the said contracts contain varying provisions, and also that they may be modified prospectively from time to time. Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained and for other good and valuable consideration, it is agreed as follows:

AGREEMENT

- 1. **RENDITION OF CARE:** SPECIALIST agrees to render all necessary Specialty dental service to each of the Subscribers covered by PLAN, during his regular office hours, subject to prior appointments; provided, however that SPECIALIST shall have the right within the framework of professional ethics to reject any patient seeking his professional services. If SPECIALIST rejects any Subscriber patient, that patient will have the right to choose another participating SPECIALIST. In such case, copies of all dental records will be transferred on request of Subscriber to the new participating SPECIALIST.
- 2. **ELIGIBILITY:** All determinations as to the eligibility of any person for benefits under Agreement, or the standing of any person with respect to membership in any Group entitled to benefits under this Agreement, shall be determined by the Group and PLAN before SPECIALIST renders any dental services.
- 3. **SERVICES NOT COVERED - FEES DUE DIRECTLY FROM SUBSCRIBER:** It is specifically understood and agreed that cases will arise where SPECIALIST will perform dental services for Subscribers which are not covered by the contract then in force; or which, under such contract, are required to be paid by the Subscriber personally, in whole or in part. In such cases, SPECIALIST agrees to look solely to the Subscriber for payment of such services.
- 4. **HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE:** SPECIALIST agrees that in no event, including, but not limited to nonpayment (i) by PLAN, a health carrier and intermediary organization, and/or (ii) due to PLAN insolvency or breach of this agreement, shall SPECIALIST bill, charge, collect a deposit from, seek compensation, remuneration or reimbursement from, or have any recourse against Subscribers or persons other than PLAN for services provided pursuant to this agreement. This provision shall not prohibit collection of any applicable copayments or deductibles billed in accordance with the terms of Subscriber agreement.

SPECIALIST further agrees that (1) this provision shall survive the termination of this agreement regardless of the cause giving rise to such termination and shall be construed to be for the benefit of PLAN's Subscribers and that (2) this provision supersedes any oral or written agreement to the contrary now existing or hereafter entered into between SPECIALIST and the Subscriber or persons acting on the Subscribers behalf.

- 5. **CHANGE IN TERMS AND BENEFITS:** It is specifically understood that the benefits, terms and conditions of the various agreements between the Subscribers, PLAN, and SPECIALIST may be changed from time to time during the term of the Agreement. PLAN agrees to notify SPECIALIST in writing of the nature and extent of such changes. Unless within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notifications, SPECIALIST notifies PLAN in writing that he declines to provide dental services to the Subscribers involved in accordance with the new agreements, SPECIALIST agrees to continue to perform dental services under the modified agreements, and this Agreement shall be deemed amended accordingly.
- 6. **SUBSTITUTES:** When SPECIALIST is on vacation or is to be absent for any extended period, he shall provide a substitute participating SPECIALIST.
- 7. **DURATION OF AGREEMENT:** This Agreement shall continue in effect for one year following the initial effective date of the Agreement, and thereafter until terminated by either party, effective ninety (90) days after written notice of intention to terminate is sent by registered or certified mail. PLAN may immediately terminate this Agreement at PLAN's discretion at any time due to fraud, patient abuse, incompetency, loss of licensed status, failure to satisfy and/or comply with any applicable credentialing or re-credentialing standards or requirements, or a determination by PLAN that SPECIALIST's continued participation in PLAN's provider network could result in harm to Subscriber (an "Immediately-Terminating Event"). Unless PLAN determines and advises otherwise, such termination shall have no effect upon the rights and obligations of the parties arising out of any transaction occurring prior to the effective date of such termination and any continuing obligations after termination as set forth herein. Upon the termination of this Agreement, except upon an Immediately-Terminating Event, SPECIALIST shall complete all work started prior to the termination. In the event that it is determined by PLAN that DENTIST is causing harm to patients, this Agreement may be terminated immediately, regardless of the amount and nature of outstanding work.

The resignation of a participating SPECIALIST shall not as to a Subscriber, whose contract is in force at the date of resignation, become effective until the end of such Subscriber's contract year.

- 8. **STANDARD OF CARE:** SPECIALIST agrees that he shall perform his obligations under this Agreement in accordance with high standards of competence, care and concern for the welfare and needs of the Subscribers, and in accordance with the "principles of ethics of the American Dental Association" and the dental practice laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. SPECIALIST will cooperate with PLAN Quality Assurance Program, Complaint Procedure, in maintaining medical histories, financial and utilization of services data, and other records pertaining to Subscribers as shall be requested by PLAN. It is understood that the records of Subscribers shall be treated as confidential so as to comply with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding the confidentiality of patient records.
- 9. **NON-EXCLUSIVE:** This agreement is not exclusive in any respect, and PLAN is entitled to enter into similar contracts with other SPECIALIST. SPECIALIST is entitled to enter into similar contracts with other parties, or with other groups not represented by PLAN, and to maintain his private practice.
- 10. **SPECIALIST-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP:** SPECIALIST shall maintain the Specialist-Patient relationship with Subscribers to PLAN, and shall be solely responsible to the patient for dental advice and treatment. It is expressly agreed between the parties that SPECIALIST is an independent contractor and that neither Subscriber nor PLAN shall have any dominion or control over SPECIALIST practice, the Specialist-Patient relationship, his personnel or facilities.

11. **MALPRACTICE:** SPECIALIST agrees to carry Malpractice Insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate; and SPECIALIST shall provide PLAN and/or Group covered hereunder with a "Certificate of Insurance" providing for ten (10) days notice of cancellation, as evidence of compliance with this paragraph.
12. **NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBER ON TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT:** In the event that this Agreement is terminated by either party, in accordance with the procedure set forth herein, SPECIALIST agrees that at the time the Subscriber seeks an appointment he will notify each Subscriber, prior to giving service, that the contract is no longer in effect.
13. **ASSIGNABILITY OF AGREEMENT:** This Agreement, being intended to secure the personal services of SPECIALIST and specialist associated with SPECIALIST shall not be assigned or transferred, without the written consent of PLAN.
14. **INDEMNIFICATION:** PLAN shall not be liable for any act or omission by SPECIALIST. In connection with or arising solely out of the negligent performance of dental services by SPECIALIST, SPECIALIST agrees to defend, indemnify and hold PLAN harmless from any claims, demands, liabilities, damages, or judgements against PLAN and its agents.
15. **SERVICES TO AFFILIATES:** SPECIALIST agrees to provide services to any affiliate of PLAN. The term "affiliate" shall mean an entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with PLAN. When PLAN notifies SPECIALIST that services shall be provided to an affiliate, SPECIALIST will be deemed to have a contract directly and exclusively with such affiliate for the benefits offered and/or administered by the affiliate. The affiliate will be solely and exclusively responsible for all of its products, services, and other obligations under the new contract. Any such new contract will be deemed to have the same terms as those in the current agreement with PLAN, except for differences identified to SPECIALIST by the affiliate.
16. **DENTAL RECORDS:** At PLAN'S reasonable request from time to time, SPECIALIST shall make available to PLAN or PLAN'S designee copies of dental records of Subscribers for review and/or copying. SPECIALIST agrees to obtain all proper releases from Subscribers needed under applicable federal and state law to comply with this request. PLAN agrees, and will require designee of PLAN to agree, not to disclose any patient identifying information obtained from the dental records of Subscribers. SPECIALIST shall retain all dental, financial, accounting, administrative and claim records of Subscribers for at least ten (10) years.
17. **PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY THE VIRGINIA ETHICS AND FAIRNESS IN CARRIER BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT:** *SPECIALIST is paid through Member Copayments and procedure supplements (under certain plans). PLAN does not have requirements for pre-certification or authorization of coverage decisions for medical necessity. Consequently, certain provisions under this subsection of the Agreement may not apply to services provided under the PLAN. These provisions are required to be included in this Agreement by Virginia law.*

- A. PLAN shall pay any claim within forty (40) days of receipt of the claim, except where the obligation of PLAN to pay a claim is not reasonably clear due to the existence of a reasonable basis supported by specific information available for review by the person submitting the claim that:
 - i. The claim is determined by PLAN not to be a clean claim due to a good faith determination or dispute regarding (i) the manner in which the claim form was completed or submitted, (ii) the eligibility of a person for coverage, (iii) the responsibility of another carrier for all or part of the claim, (iv) the amount of the claim or the amount currently due under the claim, (v) the benefits covered, or (vi) the manner in which services were accessed or provided; or
 - ii. The claim was submitted fraudulently.

PLAN shall maintain a written or electronic record of the date of receipt of a claim. The person submitting the claim shall be entitled to inspect such record on request and to rely on that record or on any other admissible evidence as proof of the fact of receipt of the claim, including without limitation electronic or facsimile confirmation of receipt of a claim.

- B. PLAN shall, within thirty (30) days after receipt of a claim, request electronically or in writing from the person submitting the claim the information and documentation that PLAN reasonably believes will be required to process and pay the claim or to determine if the claim is a clean claim. Upon receipt of the additional information requested under this subsection necessary to make the original claim a clean claim, PLAN shall make the payment of the claim in compliance with this section. PLAN may not refuse to pay a claim for health care services rendered pursuant to this Agreement which are covered benefits if PLAN fails timely to notify or attempt to notify the person submitting the claim of the matters identified above unless such failure was caused in material part by the person submitting the claim; however, nothing herein shall preclude PLAN from imposing a retroactive denial of payment of such a claim if permitted by this Agreement unless such retroactive denial of payment of the claim would violate subsection F hereof. Nothing in this subsection shall require PLAN to pay a claim which is not a clean claim.
- C. Any interest owing or accruing on a claim under §38.2-3407.1 or §38.2-4306.1 of the Code of Virginia, under this Agreement or under any other applicable law, shall, if not sooner paid or required to be paid, be paid, without necessity of demand, at the time the claim is paid or within sixty (60) days thereafter.
- D.
 - i. PLAN shall establish and implement reasonable policies to permit any SPECIALIST with which there is an Agreement (i) to confirm in advance during normal business hours by free telephone (1-888-681-5100) or electronic means if available whether the health care services to be provided are medically necessary and a covered benefit and (ii) to determine PLAN'S requirements applicable to SPECIALIST (or to the type of health care services which SPECIALIST has contracted to deliver under this Agreement) for (a) pre-certification or authorization of coverage decisions, (b) retroactive reconsideration of a certification or authorization of coverage decision or retroactive denial of a previously paid claim, (c) Specialist-specific payment and reimbursement methodology, coding levels and methodology, downcoding, and bundling of claims, and (d) other Specialist-specific, applicable claims processing and payment matters necessary to meet the terms and conditions of this Agreement, including determining whether a claim is a clean claim. Plan Specialty Care Guidelines will apply. If PLAN routinely, as a matter of policy, bundles or downcodes claims submitted by SPECIALIST, PLAN shall clearly disclose that practice in this Agreement. Further, PLAN shall either (i) disclose in this Agreement or on its website the specific bundling and downcoding policies that PLAN reasonably expects to be applied to the SPECIALIST or SPECIALIST'S services on a routine basis as a matter of policy or (ii) disclose in this Agreement a telephone (1-888-681-5100) or facsimile number or email address that SPECIALIST can use to request the specific bundling and downcoding policies that PLAN reasonably expects to be applied to SPECIALIST or SPECIALIST'S services on a routine basis as a matter of policy. If such request is made by or on behalf of SPECIALIST, PLAN shall provide SPECIALIST with such policies within 10 business days following the date the request is received.
 - ii. PLAN shall make available to SPECIALIST within ten (10) business days of receipt of a request, copies of or reasonable electronic access to all such policies which are applicable to the particular SPECIALIST or to particular health care services identified by SPECIALIST. In the event the provision of the entire policy would violate any applicable copyright law, PLAN may instead comply with this subsection by timely delivering to SPECIALIST a clear explanation of the policy as it applies to SPECIALIST and to any health care services identified by SPECIALIST.

- E. PLAN shall pay a claim if PLAN has previously authorized the health care service or has advised SPECIALIST or enrollee in advance of the provision of health care services that the health care services are medically necessary and a covered benefit, unless:
 - i. The documentation for the claim provided by the person submitting the claim clearly fails to support the claim as originally authorized; or
 - ii. PLAN's refusal is because (i) another payor is responsible for the payment, (ii) SPECIALIST has already been paid for the health care services identified on the claim, (iii) the claim was submitted fraudulently or the authorization was based in whole or material part on erroneous information provided to PLAN by SPECIALIST, enrollee, or other person not related to PLAN, or (iv) the person receiving the health care services was not eligible to receive them on the date of service and PLAN did not know, and with the exercise of reasonable care could not have known, of the person's eligibility status.
- F. PLAN may not impose any retroactive denial of a previously paid claim unless PLAN has provided the reason for the retroactive denial and (i) the original claim was submitted fraudulently, (ii) the original claim payment was incorrect because SPECIALIST was already paid for the health care services identified on the claim or the health care services identified on the claim were not delivered by SPECIALIST, or (iii) the time which has elapsed since the date of the payment of the original challenged claim does not exceed the lesser of (a) twelve (12) months or (b) the number of days within which PLAN requires under this Agreement that a claim be submitted by SPECIALIST following the date on which a health care service is provided. Effective July 1, 2000, PLAN shall notify SPECIALIST at least thirty (30) days in advance of any retroactive denial of a claim.
- G. Notwithstanding subsection F, PLAN may not impose any retroactive denial of payment or in any other way seek recovery or refund of a previously paid claim unless PLAN specifies in writing the specific claim or claims for which the retroactive denial is to be imposed or the recovery or refund is sought. The written communication shall also contain an explanation of why the claim is being retroactively adjusted.
- H. No Provider Agreement may fail to include or attach at the time it is presented to SPECIALIST for execution (i) the fee schedule, reimbursement policy or statement as to the manner in which claims will be calculated and paid which is applicable to SPECIALIST or to the range of health care services reasonably expected to be delivered by that type of SPECIALIST on a routine basis and (ii) all material addenda, schedules and exhibits thereto and any policies (including those referred to in subsection D hereof) applicable to SPECIALIST or to the health care services reasonably expected to be delivered by that type of SPECIALIST under this Agreement.
- I. No amendment to any Provider Agreement or to any addenda, schedule, exhibit or policy thereto (or new addenda, schedule, exhibit, or policy) applicable to SPECIALIST (or to the range of health care services reasonably expected to be delivered by that type of provider) shall be effective as to SPECIALIST, unless SPECIALIST has been provided with the applicable portion of the proposed amendment (or of the proposed new addenda, schedule, exhibit, or policy) at least 60 calendar days before the effective date and has failed to notify PLAN within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the documentation of SPECIALIST's intention to terminate the Agreement at the earliest date thereafter permitted under the Agreement.
- J. In the event that PLAN's provision of a policy required to be provided under subsection H or I would violate any applicable copyright law, PLAN may instead comply with this subsection by providing a clear, written explanation of the policy as it applies to SPECIALIST.
- K. PLAN shall establish, in writing, a claim payment dispute mechanism and shall make this information available to SPECIALIST.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures in duplicate this ____ day of _____, _____(year), at _____, (City/State)

SPECIALIST X _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

DOMINION DENTAL SERVICES, INC. and DOMINION DENTAL SERVICES USA, INC.

BY: _____

251 18th Street South, Suite 900

Arlington, Virginia 22202

ATTACHMENTS:

The following attachments are incorporated into, and made part of, this Agreement. Each such attachment is made available to SPECIALIST on PLAN's online provider portal at DominionProvider.com unless otherwise made available to SPECIALIST in hard copy form as set forth herein.

- Description of Benefits and Member Copayments for all Plans
- Fee Schedule (hard copy)
- Specialty Care Guidelines
- Complaint Procedures