

When used throughout this document “Company”, “Our”, “We”, or “Us” means:

United States Fire Insurance Company

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

When you submit a claim and that claim is denied, we will provide a written statement containing the reasons for the Adverse Determination. You have the right to request a review of any Company decision or action pertaining to our contractual relationship and to appeal any adverse claim determination we've made by filing a Grievance. These procedures have been developed to ensure a full investigation of a Grievance through a formal process.

DEFINITIONS

A “**Grievance**” is a written complaint requesting a change to a previous claim decision, claims payment, the handling or reimbursement of health care services, or other matters pertaining to your coverage and our contractual relationship.

An “**Adverse Determination**” is a determination by the Company or its designated utilization review organization that (i) a service, treatment, drug, or device, is experimental, investigational, specifically limited or excluded by your coverage; or (ii) a facility admission, the availability of care, continued stay or other health care services proposed or furnished have been reviewed and, based upon the information provided, does not meet the contractual requirements for medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness and therefore, the benefit coverage is denied, reduced or terminated in whole or in part.

INFORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

You, your authorized representative, or a provider acting on your behalf may submit an oral complaint to us within 60-days after an event that causes a dispute. Telephoning allows you to discuss your complaint or concerns and gives us the opportunity to immediately resolve the problem.

If we don't have all the information necessary to review your complaint, we will request any additional information within 5 business days of receiving your complaint. After we receive all the necessary information, we will provide you, your authorized representative, or a provider acting on your behalf with our written decision within 30-days after receiving the complaint and all necessary information.

If the problem cannot be resolved in this manner, you still have the right to submit a written request for the complaint to be reviewed through the Formal Grievance Procedure, as outlined below.

FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A formal Grievance may be submitted by you, your authorized representative, or in the event of an Adverse Determination, by a provider acting on your behalf.

If you file a formal Grievance, you will have the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information you feel are relevant to the Grievance, regardless of whether those materials were considered in the initial Adverse Determination.

First Level Review

Within 3 working business days after receiving the Grievance, we must acknowledge the Grievance and provide you, your authorized representative or a provider with the name, address, and telephone number of the coordinator handling the Grievance and information on how to submit written material. The person(s) who reviews the Grievance will not be the same person(s) who made the initial Adverse Determination. During the review, all information, documents, and other materials submitted relating to the claim will be considered, regardless of whether they were considered in making the previous claim decision. The Insured will not be allowed to attend, or have a representative attend, a First Level Review. The Insured may, however, submit written material for consideration by the reviewer(s).

Grievance

When the Grievance is based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, the review will be conducted by, or in consultation with, a medical doctor with appropriate training and expertise to evaluate the matter.

Following our review of your Grievance, we must issue a written decision to you and, if applicable, to your representative or provider, within 20-days after receiving the Grievance. The written decision must include:

- (1) The name(s), title(s) and professional qualifications of any person(s) participating in the First Level Review process.
- (2) A statement of the reviewer's understanding of the Grievance.
- (3) The specific reason(s) for the reviewer's decision in clear terms and the contractual basis or medical rationale used as the basis for the decision in sufficient detail for the Insured to respond further to our position.
- (4) A reference to the evidence or documentation used as the basis for the decision.
- (5) If the claim denial is based on medical necessity, experimental treatment or similar exclusion, instructions for requesting an explanation of the scientific or clinical rationale used to make the determination.
- (6) A statement advising you of your right to request a Second Level Review, if applicable, and a description of the procedure and timeframes for requesting a Second Level Review.

Second Level Review

The Second Level Review process is available if you are not satisfied with the outcome of the First level Review for an Adverse Determination. Within ten business days after receiving a request for a Second Level Review, we will advise you of the following:

- (1) the name, address, and telephone number of a person designated to coordinate the Grievance review for the Company;
- (2) a statement of your rights, including the right to:
 - attend the Second Level Review
 - present his/her case to the review panel;
 - submit supporting materials before and at the review meeting;
 - ask questions of any member of the review panel;
 - be assisted or represented by a person of his/her choice, including a provider, family member, employer representative, or attorney.
 - request and receive from us free of charge, copies of all relevant documents, records and other information that is not confidential or privileged that were considered in making the Adverse Determination.

We must convene a review panel and hold a review meeting within 45-days after receiving a request for a Second Level Review. We will notify you in writing of the meeting date at least 15-days prior to the date. The review meeting will be held during regular business hours at a location reasonable accessible to you. In cases where a face-to-face meeting is not practical for geographic reasons, we will offer you the opportunity to communicate with the review panel at our expense by conference call or other appropriate technology. Your right to a full review may not be conditioned on whether or not you appear at the meeting.

If you choose to be represented by an attorney, we may also be represented by an attorney. If we choose to have an attorney present to represent our interests, we will notify you at least 15 working days in advance of the review that an attorney will be present and that you may wish to obtain legal representation of your own.

The panel must be comprised of persons who:

- (1) were not previously involved in any matter giving rise to the Second Level Review;
- (2) are not employees of the Company or Utilization Review Organization; and
- (3) do not have a financial interest in the outcome of the review.

A person previously involved in the Grievance may appear before the panel to present information or answer questions.

All persons reviewing a Second Level Grievance involving a Utilization Review non-certification or a clinical issue will be providers who have appropriate expertise, including at least one clinical peer. If we use a clinical peer on an appeal of a Utilization Review non-certification or on a First Level Review, we may use one of our employees on the Second Level Review panel if the panel is comprised of 3 or more persons.

Grievance

We must issue a written decision to you and, if applicable, to your representative or provider, within 10 business days after completing the review meeting. The decision must include:

- (1) the name(s), title(s) and qualifying credentials of the members of the review panel;
- (2) a statement of the review panel's understanding of the nature of the Grievance and all pertinent facts;
- (3) the review panel's recommendation to the Company and the rationale behind the recommendation;
- (4) a description of, or reference to, the evidence or documentation considered by the review panel in making the recommendation;
- (5) in the review of a Utilization Review non-certification or other clinical matter, a written statement of the clinical rationale, including the clinical review criteria, that was used by the review panel to make the determination;
- (6) the rationale for the Company's decision if it differs from the review panel's recommendation;
- (7) a statement that the decision is the Company's final determination in the matter;
- (8) notice of the availability of the Commissioner's office for assistance, including the telephone number and address of the Commissioner's office.

EXPEDITED REVIEW

You are eligible for an expedited review when the timeframes for an Informal, formal First Level review or Second Level review would reasonably appear to seriously jeopardize your life or health, or your ability to regain maximum function. An expedited review is also available for all Grievances concerning an admission, availability of care, continued stay or health care service for a person who has received emergency services, but who has not been discharged from a facility.

A request for an expedited review may be submitted orally or in writing. An expedited review must be evaluated by an appropriate clinical peer in the same or similar specialty as would typically manage the case being reviewed. If we don't have the information necessary to decide an appeal, we will send you notification of precisely what is required within 24-hours of our receipt of your Grievance. All necessary information, including our decision, will be transmitted by telephone, facsimile, or the most expeditious method available. Provided we have enough information to make a decision, you, your authorized representative, or a provider acting on your behalf will be notified of the determination as expeditiously as the medical condition requires, but in no event more than 72-hours after the review has commenced. Written confirmation of our decision will be provided within 2 working business days of the decision and will contain the same items described in the written decision requirements for First Level reviews.

If the expedited review does not resolve the situation, you, your representative or a provider acting on your behalf may submit a written Grievance.

We will not provide an expedited review for retrospective reviews of Adverse Determinations.