



PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

This form is used to authorize Wellmark to disclose protected health information at the request of the individual.

INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZING DISCLOSURE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Identification Number: _____ Social Security Number: _____

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT

I appoint the individual named below to act on my behalf as my Authorized Personal Representative with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc., Wellmark Synergy Health, Inc., Wellmark Value Health Plan, Inc., or Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota (collectively, "Wellmark") in connection with:

All my claims or inquiries for health care benefits on and after the effective date of this appointment.

My inquiries and claims for health care benefits with the dates of service: [specify dates]

 All inquiries and claims for health care benefits for the following minor dependent(s): [specify names]

 My appeal of a benefit determination denied on: [specify date of denial letter] ____/____/____ or denied claim(s) with the dates of service: [specify dates] _____

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Effective: This appointment of Authorized Personal Representative and authorization to disclose is effective upon Wellmark's receipt of a fully completed and signed original or exact copy of this form at the address stated below.

Expiration: This appointment and authorization will expire 30 days after termination of my health plan coverage, or upon settlement of claims incurred while covered, unless revoked or an earlier date or event is entered below.

On ____/____/____ (Date)

On occurrence of the following event (which must relate to the individual or to the purpose of the use and/or disclosure being authorized):

Right to Revoke: I understand that I may revoke this appointment and authorization at any time by giving written notice of my revocation to Wellmark at the address stated below. I understand that revocation of this appointment and authorization will not affect any action you took in reliance on this appointment and authorization before you received my written notice of revocation.

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc., Wellmark Synergy Health, Inc., Wellmark Value Health Plan, Inc., and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Protected Health Information to be Disclosed: I authorize Wellmark to disclose the protected health information described in this form to the named Authorized Personal Representative.

This authorization shall include and apply to any and all protected health information related to treatments where the individual has requested a restriction and/or for any health care item or service for which the health care provider has been paid out of pocket in full.

Effect of Granting this Authorization: I understand that if the person or entity that receives the information requested is not covered by federal or state privacy laws, the information described above may be redisclosed and will no longer be protected by law.

Prohibition on Redisclosure: This form does not authorize the disclosure of medical information beyond the limit of the authorization. Where information has been disclosed from the records protected by Federal law for alcohol/drug abuse records or state law for mental health records, the Federal requirements (42 CFR Part 2) and state requirements (Iowa Code Chapter 228 or South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 27A-12) prohibit further disclosure without the specific written consent of the patient, or as otherwise permitted by such law and/or regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose. The Federal rules restrict any use of the information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse patient.

No Conditions: This authorization is voluntary. Wellmark will not condition your enrollment in a health plan, eligibility for benefits or payment of claims on giving this authorization.

Specific Authorization for Mental Health, Substance Abuse Treatment or AIDS-Related Information:

I authorize and consent to the release and disclosure of any and all protected health information, as described in this form, including specifically mental health information, substance abuse (drug or alcohol), and AIDS-related information, if applicable, to the individual named as long as this appointment of Authorized Representative is in effect. I understand that I may inspect the mental health information disclosed.

I have had full opportunity to read and consider the contents of this personal representative appointment and authorization, and I understand that, by signing this form, I am confirming authorization of the disclosure of my protected health information, as described in this form. If this authorization involves the disclosure of mental health information, I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the authorization.

Individual's Signature (or Legal Guardian if applicable): _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Print Name of Legal Guardian if applicable*: _____

**If a legal guardian signs for an individual, a copy of the guardian appointment document must be submitted with this form.*

RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

SOUTH DAKOTA MEMBERS send completed and signed form to:

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Customer Service, Mail Station 347
PO Box 5023
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5023
Or fax to (515) 376-9098

ALL OTHER MEMBERS send completed and signed form to:

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Privacy Office, Mail Station 5W590
PO Box 9232
Des Moines, IA 50306-9232
Or fax to (515) 376-9032

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. "INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZING DISCLOSURE" - this is information about you. We need to have your name, address, phone number, email address (if you have email), identification number and social security number in this section.
2. "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT" - you must select one or more of the four options. This section tells us what you want the individual you are appointing to act on your behalf will be authorized to do for you. The first option authorizes your personal representative to act on your behalf for all claims and inquiries from the time you sign this form.
 - a. The first option authorizes your personal representative to act on your behalf for all claims and inquiries from the time you sign this form.
 - b. The second option limits the information to benefits for specific dates of service.
 - c. The third option authorizes the release of information concerning your minor dependents (under age 18). You must tell us the names of the children.
 - d. The fourth option authorizes your representative to act on your behalf in connection with an appeal for a denied claim. You must tell us the date of service for the claim or the type of services if there has been a pre-service denial.
3. "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE" - this is information about the person you are appointing as your personal representative.
4. "EXPIRATION" - if you do not fill out this section, the authorization will continue until you no longer have health insurance coverage with Wellmark. However, you may specify a **date** for the authorization to terminate or an **event** upon which the authorization will terminate. An example of an "event" would be "When claims for denied services have been resolved."
5. "SIGNATURE" - we must have your signature or the signature of your legal guardian. If your legal guardian signs this section, we need a copy of the court document appointing the guardianship.

