

January 1 - December 31, 2026

EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

Your Medicare Health Benefits and Services as a Member of HealthSpring Courage (HMO)

This document gives you the details about your Medicare health care coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2026. **This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.**

For questions about this document, please contact Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711) Hours are October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays. This call is free.

This plan, HealthSpring Courage (HMO), is offered by HealthSpringSM. (When this *Evidence of Coverage* says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means HealthSpring. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means HealthSpring Courage (HMO).)

This document is available for free in Spanish.

To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call Customer Service. We can give you information in braille, in large print, or other alternate formats if you need it.

Benefits, and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2027.

The provider network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary. We will notify affected enrollees about changes at least 30 days in advance.

This document explains your benefits and rights. Use this document to understand about:

- Your plan premium and cost sharing;
- Your medical benefits;
- How to file a complaint if you are not satisfied with a service or treatment;
- How to contact us if you need further assistance; and,
- Other protections required by Medicare law.

2026 Evidence of Coverage
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CHAPTER 1

Get started as a member

SECTION 1 You're a member of HealthSpring Courage (HMO)

Section 1.1 You're enrolled in HealthSpring Courage (HMO), which is a Medicare HMO

You're covered by Medicare, and you chose to get your Medicare health care coverage through our plan, HealthSpring Courage (HMO).

Our plan covers all Part A and Part B services. However, cost sharing and provider access in this plan are different from Original Medicare. HealthSpring Courage (HMO) is a Medicare Advantage HMO Plan (HMO stands for Health Maintenance Organization) approved by Medicare and run by a private company. HealthSpring Courage (HMO) doesn't include Part D drug coverage.

Section 1.2 Legal information about the *Evidence of Coverage*

This *Evidence of Coverage* is part of our contract with you about how our plan covers your care. Other parts of this contract include your enrollment form and any notices you get from us about changes to your coverage or conditions that affect your coverage. These notices are sometimes called *riders* or *amendments*.

The contract is in effect for the months you're enrolled in our plan between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

Medicare allows us to make changes to plans we offer each calendar year. This means we can change the costs and benefits of our plan after December 31, 2026. We can also choose to stop offering our plan in your service area, after December 31, 2026.

Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) must approve our plan each year. You can continue to get Medicare coverage as a member of our plan as long as we choose to continue offering our plan and Medicare renews approval of our plan.

SECTION 2 Plan eligibility requirements

Section 2.1 Eligibility requirements

You're eligible for membership in our plan as long as you meet all these conditions:

- You have both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B
- You live in our geographic service area (Section 2.3 below describes our service area). People who are incarcerated aren't considered living in the geographic service area, even if they're physically located in it.
- You're a United States citizen or are lawfully present in the United States

Section 2.2 Plan service area for our plan

Our plan is only available to people who live in our plan service area. To stay a member of our plan, you must continue to live in our service area. The service area is described below.

Our service area includes these counties in South Carolina: Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Colleton, Dorchester, Fairfield, Greenville, Kershaw, Lancaster, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union, Williamsburg, York

If you plan to move out of our plan's service area, you can't stay a member of this plan. Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) to see if we have a plan in your new area. When you move, you'll have a Special Enrollment Period to either switch to Original Medicare or enroll in a Medicare health or drug plan in your new location.

If you move or change your mailing address, it's also important to call Social Security. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778).

Section 2.3 U.S. citizen or lawful presence

You must be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States to be a member of a Medicare health plan. Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) will notify our plan if you're not eligible to stay a member of our plan on this basis. Our plan must disenroll you if you don't meet this requirement.

	Your Costs in 2026
This is the <u>most</u> you'll pay out of pocket for covered Part A and Part B services. (Go to Chapter 4, Section 1 for details.)	
Primary care office visits	\$0 per visit
Specialist office visits	\$50 per visit
Inpatient hospital stays	\$290 per day for days 1-6; \$0 per day for days 7-90

Your costs may include the following:

- Plan Premium (Section 4.1)
- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium (Section 4.2)

Section 4.1 Plan premium

You do not pay a separate monthly plan premium for our plan.

Medicare Part B premiums differ for people with different incomes. If you have questions about these premiums review your copy of *Medicare & You 2026* handbook, the section called *2026 Medicare Costs*. If you need a copy you can download it from the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you) or order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 4.2 Monthly Medicare Part B Premium

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums

The plan will reduce your monthly Medicare Part B premium by up to \$150.00. This is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) automatically. You will see the savings in your Social Security check or Part B statement. Initially, it may take several months before you see this reduction, but you will be reimbursed for all months.

SECTION 5 More Information about your monthly plan premium

Section 5.1 Our monthly plan premium won't change during the year

We're not allowed to change our plan's monthly plan premium amount during the year. If the monthly plan premium changes for next year, we'll tell you in September and the new premium will take effect on January 1.

SECTION 6 Keep our plan membership record up to date

Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and phone number. It shows your specific plan coverage, including your Primary Care Provider/Medical Group/IPA.

The doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, and other providers in our plan's network **use your membership record to know what services and drugs are covered and your cost sharing amounts**. Because of this, it's very important you help us to keep your information up to date.

If you have any of these changes, let us know:

- Changes to your name, address, or phone number
- Changes in any other health coverage you have (such as from your employer, your spouse or domestic partner's employer, workers' compensation, or Medicaid)
- Any liability claims, such as claims from an automobile accident
- If you're admitted to a nursing home
- If you get care in an out-of-area or out-of-network hospital or emergency room
- If your designated responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes

- If you participate in a clinical research study (**Note:** You're not required to tell our plan about clinical research studies you intend to participate in, but we encourage you to do so)

If any of this information changes, let us know by calling Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

It's also important to contact Social Security if you move or change your mailing address. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778).

SECTION 7 How other insurance works with our plan

Medicare requires us to collect information about any other medical or drug coverage you have so we can coordinate any other coverage with your benefits under our plan. This is called **Coordination of Benefits**.

Once a year, we'll send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug coverage we know about. Read over this information carefully. If it's correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information isn't correct, or if you have other coverage that's not listed, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). You may need to give our plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you confirm their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

When you have other insurance (like employer group health coverage), Medicare rules decide whether our plan or your other insurance pays first. The insurance that pays first ("the primary payer") pays up to the limits of its coverage. The insurance that pays second ("secondary payer") only pays if there are costs left uncovered by the primary coverage. The secondary payer may not pay the uncovered costs. If you have other insurance, tell your doctor, hospital, and pharmacy.

These rules apply for employer or union group health plan coverage:

- If you have retiree coverage, Medicare pays first.
- If your group health plan coverage is based on your or a family member's current employment, who pays first depends on your age, the number of people employed by your employer, and whether you have Medicare based on age, disability, or End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD):
 - If you're under 65 and disabled and you (or your family member) are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 100 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 100 employees.
 - If you're over 65 and you or your spouse (or domestic partner) are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 20 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 20 employees.
- If you have Medicare because of ESRD, your group health plan will pay first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare.

These types of coverage usually pay first for services related to each type:

- No-fault insurance (including automobile insurance)
- Liability (including automobile insurance)
- Black lung benefits
- Workers' compensation

Medicaid and TRICARE never pay first for Medicare-covered services. They only pay after Medicare, employer group health plans and/or Medigap have paid.

CHAPTER 2

Phone numbers and resources

SECTION 1 HealthSpring Courage (HMO) contacts

For help with claims, billing or ID card questions, call or write to our plan's Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). We'll be happy to help you.

Customer Service – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-668-3813 Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays. Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
Write	HealthSpring, Attn: Customer Service, P.O. Box 20002, Nashville, TN 37202
Website	www.healthspring.com

How to ask for a coverage decision or appeal about your medical care

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we pay for your medical services. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision. For more information on how to ask for coverage decisions or appeals about your medical care, go to Chapter 7.

Coverage Decisions and Appeals for Medical Care – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-668-3813 Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
Write	HealthSpring, Attn: Precertification Department, P.O. Box 188081, Chattanooga, TN 37422

How to make a complaint about your medical care

You can make a complaint about us or one of our network providers, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint doesn't involve coverage or payment disputes. For more information on how to make a complaint about your medical care, go to Chapter 7.

Complaints about Medical Care – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-668-3813 Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
Write	HealthSpring, Attn: Medicare Grievance Dept., P.O. Box 188080, Chattanooga, TN 37422
Medicare Website	To submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare, go to www.Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint .

How to ask us to pay our share of the cost for medical care you got

If you got a bill or paid for services (like a provider bill) you think we should pay for, you may need to ask us for reimbursement or to pay the provider bill. Go to Chapter 5 for more information.

If you send us a payment request and we deny any part of your request, you can appeal our decision. Go to Chapter 7 for more information.

Payment Requests – Contact Information	
Write	HealthSpring, Attn: Direct Member Reimbursement, Medical Claims, P.O. Box 20002, Nashville, TN 37202
Website	www.healthspring.com

SECTION 2 Get help from Medicare

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

The federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This agency contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations including our plan.

Medicare – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
TTY	1-877-486-2048 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.
Chat live	Chat live at www.Medicare.gov/talk-to-someone
Write	Write to Medicare at PO Box 1270, Lawrence, KS 66044
Website	www.Medicare.gov - Get information about the Medicare health and drug plans in your area, including what they cost and what services they provide. - Find Medicare-participating doctors or other health care providers and suppliers.

Medicare – Contact Information

- Find out what Medicare covers, including preventive services (like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly “Wellness” visits).
- Get Medicare appeals information and forms.
- Get information about the quality of care provided by plans, nursing homes, hospitals, doctors, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, hospice centers, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals.
- Look up helpful websites and phone numbers.

You can also visit www.Medicare.gov to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about our plan.

To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to www.Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program.

SECTION 3 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state that offer free help, information, and answers to your Medicare questions. In South Carolina, the SHIP is called State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) .

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent state program (not connected with any insurance company or health plan) that gets money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors can help you understand your Medicare rights, help you make complaints about your medical care or treatment, and straighten out problems with your Medicare bills. State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors can also help you with Medicare questions or problems, help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) (South Carolina’s SHIP) – Contact Information

Call	1-803-734-9900 or 1-800-868-9095
Write	State Health Insurance Assistance Program, South Carolina Department on Aging, 1301 Gervais Street, Suite 350, Columbia, SC 29201
Website	https://aging.sc.gov/programs-initiatives/medicare-and-medicare-fraud

SECTION 4 Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)

A designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) serves people with Medicare in each state. For South Carolina, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Acentra.

Acentra has a group of doctors and other health care professionals paid by Medicare to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. Acentra is an independent organization. It’s not connected with our plan.

Contact Acentra in any of these situations:

- You have a complaint about the quality of care you got. Examples of quality-of-care concerns include getting the wrong medication, unnecessary tests or procedures, or a misdiagnosis.
- You think coverage for your hospital stay is ending too soon.
- You think coverage for your home health care, skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services is ending too soon.

Acentra (South Carolina's Quality Improvement Organization) – Contact Information	
Call	1-888-317-0751 Hours are Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., weekends and holidays: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 24 hour voicemail service is available
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking.
Write	Acentra, 5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900, Tampa, FL 33609
Website	www.Acentraqio.com

SECTION 5 Social Security

Social Security determines Medicare eligibility and handles Medicare enrollment.

If you move or change your mailing address, contact Social Security to let them know.

Social Security – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-772-1213 Calls to this number are free. Available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.
TTY	1-800-325-0778 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Website	www.SSA.gov

SECTION 6 Medicaid

Medicaid is a joint federal and state government program that helps with medical costs for certain people with limited incomes and resources. Some people with Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid offers programs to help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These **Medicare Savings Programs** include:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Helps pay Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments). (Some people with QMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (QMB+).)
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB):** Helps pay Part B premiums. (Some people with SLMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (SLMB+).)
- **Qualifying Individual (QI):** Helps pay Part B premiums.
- **Qualified Disabled & Working Individuals (QDWI):** Helps pay Part A premiums.

To find out more about Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs, contact South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid.

South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Contact Information	
Call	1-888-549-0820 Hours are Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
TTY	1-888-842-3620 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking.

South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Contact Information

Write	SC Department of Health and Human Services, South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid, P.O. Box 8206, Columbia, SC 29202-8206
Website	https://www.scdhhs.gov

SECTION 7 Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent federal agency that administers comprehensive benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. If you get Medicare through the Railroad Retirement Board, let them know if you move or change your mailing address. For questions about your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) – Contact Information

Call	1-877-772-5772 Calls to this number are free. Press “0” to speak with an RRB representative from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday. Press “1” to access the automated RRB HelpLine and get recorded information 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.
TTY	1-312-751-4701 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number aren't free.
Website	https://RRB.gov

SECTION 8 If you have group insurance or other health insurance from an employer

If you (or your spouse or domestic partner) get benefits from your (or your spouse or domestic partner's) employer or retiree group as part of this plan, call the employer/union benefits administrator or Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) with any questions. You can ask about your (or your spouse or domestic partner's) employer or retiree health benefits, premiums, or the enrollment period. You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with questions about your Medicare coverage under this plan. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

CHAPTER 3

Using our plan for your medical services

SECTION 1 How to get medical care as a member of our plan

This chapter explains what you need to know about using the plan to get your medical care covered.

For details on what medical care our plan covers and how much you pay when you get care, go to the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Section 1.1 Network providers and covered services

- **Providers** are doctors and other health care professionals licensed by the state to provide medical services and care. The term “providers” also includes hospitals and other health care facilities.
- **Network providers** are the doctors and other health care professionals, medical groups, hospitals, and other health care facilities that have an agreement with us to accept our payment and your cost-sharing amount as payment in full. We arranged for these providers to deliver covered services to members in our plan. The providers in our network bill us directly for care they give you. When you see a network provider, you pay only your share of the cost for their services.
- **Covered services** include all the medical care, health care services, supplies, and equipment that are covered by our plan. Your covered services for medical care are listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Section 1.2 Basic rules for your medical care to be covered by our plan

As a Medicare health plan, our plan must cover all services covered by Original Medicare and must follow Original Medicare's coverage rules.

Our plan will generally cover your medical care as long as:

- **The care you get is included in our plan's Medical Benefits Chart** in Chapter 4.
- **The care you get is considered medically necessary.** Medically necessary means that the services, supplies, equipment, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.
- **You have a network primary care provider (a PCP) providing and overseeing your care.** As a member of our plan, you must choose a network PCP (go to Section 2.1 of this chapter for more information).
- **You must receive your care from a network provider** (go to Section 2). In most cases, care you get from an out-of-network provider (a provider who's not part of our plan's network) won't be covered. This means you have to pay the provider in full for services you get. *Here are 3 exceptions:*
 - Our plan covers emergency care or urgently needed services you get from an out-of-network provider. For more information and to see what emergency or urgently needed services are, go to Section 3.
 - If you need medical care that Medicare requires our plan to cover but there are no specialists in our network that provide this care, you can get this care from an out-of-network provider at the same cost-sharing you normally pay in-network. Authorization must be obtained from the plan prior to seeking care. In this situation, you pay the same as you pay if you got the care from a network provider. For information about getting approval to see an out-of-network doctor, go to Section 2.4.
 - Our plan covers kidney dialysis services you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you're temporarily outside our plan's service area or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible. The cost sharing you pay our plan for dialysis can never be higher than the cost sharing in Original Medicare. If you're outside our plan's service area and get dialysis from a provider outside our plan's network, your cost sharing can't be higher than the cost sharing you pay in-network. However, if your usual in-network provider for dialysis is temporarily unavailable and you choose to get services inside our service area from a provider outside our plan's network, your cost sharing for the dialysis may be higher.

SECTION 2 Use providers in our plan's network to get medical care**Section 2.1 You must choose a Primary Care Provider (PCP) to provide and oversee your medical care****What is a PCP and what does the PCP do for you?**

When you become a member of our plan, you must choose a plan provider to be your Primary Care Physician (PCP). Your PCP is a Physician whose specialty is Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, General Practice, Geriatrics, or Pediatrics who meets state requirements and is trained to give you basic medical care. As we explain below, you will get your routine or basic care from your PCP. Your PCP will also “coordinate” the rest of the covered services you get as a member of our plan. Your PCP will provide most of your care and will help you arrange or coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a member of our plan. This includes your x-rays, laboratory tests, therapies, care from doctors who are specialists, hospital admissions, and follow-up care.

“Coordinating” your services includes checking or consulting with other plan providers about your care and how it is going. In some cases, your PCP will need to get prior authorization (prior approval) from us. Since your PCP will provide and coordinate your medical care, you should have all of your past medical records sent to your PCP's office. Chapter 6 tells you how we will protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information.

How to choose a PCP?

You select a Primary Care Physician from your *Provider and Pharmacy Directory* (www.healthspring.com/medicare/member-resources/provider-pharmacy-directories) and call Customer Service with your selection. The directory is continually being updated; therefore, please contact Customer Service to be sure the provider is accepting new patients. Customer Service is available to assist with your selection and to help find a physician to meet your needs. Customer Service can also help you check to see if a provider is in our network of physicians. If there is a particular specialist or hospital that you want to use, check first to be sure the specialist or hospital is in our plan's network.

How to change your PCP

You may change your PCP for any reason, at any time. It's also possible that your PCP might leave our plan's network of providers, and you'd need to choose a new PCP. Please see Section 2.3 in this chapter for additional details.

Your change will take place the first of the following month. To change your PCP, please call Customer Service. Customer Service will confirm that the PCP you want to switch to is accepting new patients. We will change your membership record to the new PCP and confirm when the change to your new PCP will take effect.

Section 2.2 Medical care you can get without a PCP referral

You can get the services listed below without getting approval in advance from your PCP.

- Routine women's health care, including breast exams, screening mammograms (x-rays of the breast), Pap tests, and pelvic exams as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Flu shots, COVID-19 vaccines, Hepatitis B vaccines, and pneumonia vaccines as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Emergency services from network providers or from out-of-network providers.
- Urgently needed plan-covered services are services that require immediate medical attention (but not an emergency) if you're either temporarily outside our plan's service area, or if it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. Medically necessary routine provider visits (like annual checkups) aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.
- Kidney dialysis services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you're temporarily outside our plan's service area. If possible, please call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) before you leave the service area so we can help arrange for you to have maintenance dialysis while you're away.

Section 2.3 How to get care from specialists and other network providers

A specialist is a doctor who provides health care services for a specific disease or part of the body. There are many kinds of specialists. Here are a few examples:

- Oncologists care for patients with cancer.
- Cardiologists care for patients with heart conditions.
- Orthopedists care for patients with certain bone, joint, or muscle conditions.

When you select a PCP, you are also selecting an entire network (a specific group of Plan providers) of specialists and hospitals to which your PCP will refer you. If there are specific specialists or hospitals you want to use, you must find out whether they are in our plan's network. Please call Customer Service for details regarding the specialists and hospitals you may use.

If you do not have an advanced determination, authorization can also be obtained from a network provider who refers an enrollee to a specialist outside the plan's network for a service; provided that service is not explicitly always excluded from plan coverage as discussed in Chapter 4.

When a specialist or another network provider leaves our plan

We may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers) in our plan's network during the year. If your doctor or specialist leaves our plan, you have these rights and protections:

- Even though our network of providers may change during the year, Medicare requires that you have uninterrupted access to qualified doctors and specialists.
- We'll notify you that your provider is leaving our plan so that you have time to choose a new provider.
 - If your primary care or behavioral health provider leaves our plan, we'll notify you if you visited that provider within the past 3 years.
 - If any of your other providers leave our plan, we'll notify you if you're assigned to the provider, currently get care from them or visited them within the past 3 months.
- We'll help you choose a new qualified in-network provider for continued care.
- If you're undergoing medical treatment or therapies with your current provider, you have the right to ask to continue getting medically necessary treatment or therapies. We'll work with you so you can continue to get care.
- We'll give you information about available enrollment periods and options you may have for changing plans.
- When an in-network provider or benefit is unavailable or inadequate to meet your medical needs, we'll arrange for any medically necessary covered benefit outside of our provider network at in-network cost sharing. Prior authorization may be required.
- If you find out your doctor or specialist is leaving our plan, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) so we can help you choose a new provider to manage your care.
- If you believe we haven't furnished you with a qualified provider to replace your previous provider, or that your care isn't being appropriately managed, you have the right to file a quality-of-care complaint to the QIO, a quality-of-care grievance to our plan, or both. (Go to Chapter 7).

Section 2.4 How to get care from out-of-network providers

For Medicare-covered services, if you require specialized services that are not available from a provider in our network, contact your Primary Care Physician (PCP) for authorization and coordination of care. Members are entitled to receive services from out-of-network providers for emergency or out-of-area urgently needed services. Dialysis services are covered for ESRD members who have travelled outside of our plan's service area and aren't able to access contracted ESRD providers.

SECTION 3 How to get services in an emergency, disaster, or urgent need for care

Section 3.1 Get care if you have a medical emergency

A **medical emergency** is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life (and, if you're a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb or function of a limb, or loss of or serious impairment to a bodily function. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that's quickly getting worse.

If you have a medical emergency:

- **Get help as quickly as possible.** Call 911 for help or go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. Call for an ambulance if you need it. You don't need to get approval or a referral first from your PCP. You don't need to use a network doctor. You can get covered emergency medical care whenever you need it, anywhere in the United States or its territories, and from any provider with an appropriate state license even if they're not part of our network. Our plan covers emergencies outside of the country. For more information, see the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 of this document.
- **As soon as possible, make sure our plan has been told about your emergency.** We need to follow up on your emergency care. You or someone else should call to tell us about your emergency care, usually within 48 hours. Please call Customer Service at the toll-free number on the back of your membership card. Hours are October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays. TTY users should call 711. Additionally, you should call your PCP.

Covered services in a medical emergency

Our plan covers ambulance services in situations where getting to the emergency room in any other way could endanger your health. We also cover medical services during the emergency.

The doctors giving you emergency care will decide when your condition is stable, and when the medical emergency is over.

After the emergency is over, you're entitled to follow-up care to be sure your condition continues to be stable. Your doctors will continue to treat you until your doctors contact us and make plans for additional care. Your follow-up care will be covered by our plan.

If your emergency care is provided by out-of-network providers, we'll try to arrange for network providers to take over your care as soon as your medical condition and the circumstances allow.

What if it wasn't a medical emergency?

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you have a medical emergency. For example, you might go in for emergency care — thinking that your health is in serious danger — and the doctor may say that it wasn't a medical emergency after all. If it turns out that it wasn't an emergency, as long as you reasonably thought your health was in serious danger, we'll cover your care.

However, after the doctor says it wasn't an emergency, we'll cover additional care *only* if you get the additional care in one of these 2 ways:

- You go to a network provider to get the additional care.
- The additional care you get is considered urgently needed services and you follow the rules below for getting this urgent care.

Section 3.2 Get care when you have an urgent need for services

A service that requires immediate medical attention (but isn't an emergency) is an urgently needed service if you're either temporarily outside our plan's service area, or if it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. However, medically necessary routine provider visits such as annual checkups, aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.

For a list of urgent care centers in our network, please refer to our *Provider and Pharmacy Directory* (www.healthspring.com/medicare/member-resources/provider-pharmacy-directories). You can call Customer Service for information on how to access urgent care centers.

Our plan covers worldwide emergency and urgent care services outside the United States under the circumstances described in the Emergency Care and Urgently Needed Services benefits listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 of this document.

Section 3.3 Get care during a disaster

If the Governor of your state, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the President of the United States declares a state of disaster or emergency in your geographic area, you're still entitled to care from our plan.

Visit www.healthspring.com/medicare/member-resources/disaster-policy for information on how to obtain needed care during a disaster.

If you can't use a network provider during a disaster, our plan will allow you to obtain care from out-of-network providers at in-network cost sharing.

SECTION 4

What if you're billed directly for the full cost of your services?

If you paid more than our plan cost-sharing for covered services, or if you got a bill for the full cost of covered medical services, you can ask us to pay our share of the cost of covered services. Go to Chapter 5 for information about what to do.

Section 4.1

If services aren't covered by our plan, you must pay the full cost

Our plan covers all medically necessary services as listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4. If you get services that aren't covered by our plan or you get services out-of-network without authorization, you're responsible for paying the full cost of services. For covered services that have a benefit limitation, you also pay the full cost of any services you get after you use up your benefit for that type of covered service. For example, you may have to pay the full cost of any skilled nursing facility care you get after our Plan's payment reaches the benefit limit. Once you have used up your benefit limit, additional payments you make for the service do not count toward your annual out-of-pocket maximum.

SECTION 5

Medical services in a clinical research study

Section 5.1

What is a clinical research study

A clinical research study (also called a *clinical trial*) is a way that doctors and scientists test new types of medical care, like how well a new cancer drug works. Certain clinical research studies are approved by Medicare. Clinical research studies approved by Medicare typically ask for volunteers to participate in the study. When you're in a clinical research study, you can stay enrolled in our plan and continue to get the rest of your care (care that's not related to the study) through our plan.

If you participate in a Medicare-approved study, Original Medicare pays most of the costs for the covered services you get as part of the study. If you tell us you're in a qualified clinical trial, you're only responsible for the in-network cost sharing for the services in that trial. If you paid more—for example, if you already paid the Original Medicare cost-sharing amount—we'll reimburse the difference between what you paid and the in-network cost sharing. You'll need to provide documentation to show us how much you paid.

If you want to participate in any Medicare-approved clinical research study, you don't need to tell us or get approval from us or your PCP. The providers that deliver your care as part of the clinical research study don't need to be part of our plan's network. (This doesn't apply to covered benefits that include require a clinical trial or registry to assess the benefit, including certain benefits requiring coverage with evidence development (NCDs-CED) and investigational exemption device (IDE) studies. These benefits may also be subject to prior authorization and other plan rules.)

While you don't need our plan's permission to be in a clinical research study, we encourage you to notify us in advance when you choose to participate in Medicare-qualified clinical trials.

If you participate in a study not approved by Medicare, you'll be responsible for paying all costs for your participation in the study.

Section 5.2

Who pays for services in a clinical research study

Once you join a Medicare-approved clinical research study, Original Medicare covers the routine items and services you get as part of the study, including:

- Room and board for a hospital stay that Medicare would pay for even if you weren't in a study.
- An operation or other medical procedure if it's part of the research study.
- Treatment of side effects and complications of the new care.

After Medicare pays its share of the cost for these services, our plan will pay the difference between the cost sharing in Original Medicare and your in-network cost sharing as a member of our plan. This means you'll pay the same amount for services you get as part of the study as you would if you got these services from our plan. However, you must submit documentation showing how much cost-sharing you paid. Go to Chapter 5 for more information on submitting requests for payments.

Example of cost sharing in a clinical trial: Let's say you have a lab test that costs \$100 as part of the research study. Your share of the costs for this test is \$20 under Original Medicare, but the test would be \$10 under our plan. In this case, Original Medicare

would pay \$80 for the test, and you would pay the \$20 copay required under Original Medicare. You would notify our plan that you got a qualified clinical trial service and submit documentation, (like a provider bill) to our plan. Our plan would then directly pay you \$10. This makes your net payment for the test \$10, the same amount you'd pay under our plan's benefits.

When you're in a clinical research study, **neither Medicare nor our plan will pay for any of the following:**

- Generally, Medicare won't pay for the new item or service the study is testing unless Medicare would cover the item or service even if you weren't in a study.
- Items or services provided only to collect data and not used in your direct health care. For example, Medicare won't pay for monthly CT scans done as part of a study if your medical condition would normally require only one CT scan.
- Items and services provided by the research sponsors free-of-charge for people in the trial.

Get more information about joining a clinical research study

Get more information about joining a clinical research study in the Medicare publication *Medicare and Clinical Research Studies* available at www.Medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2019-09/02226-medicare-and-clinical-research-studies.pdf. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 6 Rules for getting care in a religious non-medical health care institution

Section 6.1 A religious non-medical health care institution

A religious non-medical health care institution is a facility that provides care for a condition that would ordinarily be treated in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. If getting care in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility is against a member's religious beliefs, we'll instead cover care in a religious non-medical health care institution. This benefit is provided only for Part A inpatient services (non-medical health care services).

Section 6.2 How to get care from a religious non-medical health care institution

To get care from a religious non-medical health care institution, you must sign a legal document that says you're conscientiously opposed to getting medical treatment that's **non-excepted**.

- **Non-excepted** medical care or treatment is any medical care or treatment that's *voluntary* and *not required* by any federal, state, or local law.
- **Excepted** medical treatment is medical care or treatment that you get that's *not* voluntary or *is required* under federal, state, or local law.

To be covered by our plan, the care you get from a religious non-medical health care institution must meet the following conditions:

- The facility providing the care must be certified by Medicare.
- Our plan only covers non-religious aspects of care.
- If you get services from this institution provided to you in a facility, the following conditions apply:
 - You must have a medical condition that would allow you to get covered services for inpatient hospital care or skilled nursing facility care;
 - — *and* — you must get approval in advance from our plan before you're admitted to the facility, or your stay won't be covered.

Medicare Inpatient Hospital coverage limits apply (please refer to the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4).

SECTION 7

Rules for ownership of durable medical equipment

Section 7.1

You won't own some durable medical equipment after making a certain number of payments under our plan

Durable medical equipment (DME) includes items like oxygen equipment and supplies, wheelchairs, walkers, powered mattress systems, crutches, diabetic supplies, speech generating devices, IV infusion pumps, nebulizers, and hospital beds ordered by a provider for members to use in the home. The member always owns some DME items, like prosthetics. Other types of DME you must rent.

In Original Medicare, people who rent certain types of DME own the equipment after paying copayments for the item for 13 months. **As a member of our plan, you usually won't get ownership of rented DME items no matter how many copayments you make for the item while a member of our plan.** You won't get ownership even if you made up to 12 consecutive payments for the DME item under Original Medicare before you joined our plan. Under certain limited circumstances, we'll transfer ownership of the DME item to you. Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) for more information.

What happens to payments you made for durable medical equipment if you switch to Original Medicare?

If you didn't get ownership of the DME item while in our plan, you'll have to make 13 new consecutive payments after you switch to Original Medicare to own the DME item. The payments you made while enrolled in our plan don't count towards these 13 payments.

Example 1: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. The payments you made in Original Medicare don't count.

Example 2: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. You didn't get ownership of the item while in our plan. You then go back to Original Medicare. You'll have to make 13 consecutive new payments to own the item once you rejoin Original Medicare. Any payments you already (whether to our plan or to Original Medicare) don't count.

Section 7.2

Rules for oxygen equipment, supplies and maintenance

If you qualify for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage, our plan will cover:

- Rental of oxygen equipment
- Delivery of oxygen and oxygen contents
- Tubing and related oxygen accessories for the delivery of oxygen and oxygen contents
- Maintenance and repairs of oxygen equipment

If you leave our plan or no longer medically require oxygen equipment, the oxygen equipment must be returned.

What happens if you leave our plan and return to Original Medicare?

Original Medicare requires an oxygen supplier to provide you services for 5 years. During the first 36 months, you rent the equipment. For the remaining 24 months, the supplier provides the equipment and maintenance (you're still responsible for the copayment for oxygen). After 5 years, you can choose to stay with the same company or go to another company. At this point, the 5-year cycle starts over again, even if you stay with the same company, and you're again required to pay copayments for the first 36 months. If you join or leave our plan, the 5-year cycle starts over.

CHAPTER 4

Medical Benefits Chart

(what's covered and what you pay)

SECTION 1 Understanding your out-of-pocket costs for covered services

The Medical Benefits Chart lists your covered services and shows how much you pay for each covered service as a member of our plan. This section also gives information about medical services that aren't covered and explains limits on certain services.

Section 1.1 Out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered services

Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered services include:

- **Copayment:** the fixed amount you pay each time you get certain medical services. You pay a copayment at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart tells you more about your copayments.)
- **Coinsurance:** the percentage you pay of the total cost of certain medical services. You pay a coinsurance at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart tells you more about your coinsurance.)

Most people who qualify for Medicaid or for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program don't pay deductibles, copayments or coinsurance. If you're in one of these programs be sure to show your proof of Medicaid or QMB eligibility to your provider.

Section 1.2 What's the most you'll pay for Medicare Part A and Part B covered medical services?

Medicare Advantage Plans have limits on the total amount you have to pay out of pocket each year for in-network medical services covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. This limit is called the maximum out of pocket (MOOP) amount for medical services.

For calendar year 2026 this amount is \$6,700.

The amounts you pay for copayments and coinsurance for in network covered services count toward this maximum out of pocket amount. In addition, amounts you pay for some services don't count toward your maximum out of pocket amount. These services are italicized in the Medical Benefits Chart. If you reach the maximum out-of-pocket amount of \$6,700, you won't have to pay any out-of-pocket costs for the rest of the year for in-network covered Part A and Part B services. However, you must continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium (unless your Part B premium is paid for you by Medicaid or another third party).

Section 1.3 Providers aren't allowed to balance bill you

As a member of our plan, you have an important protection because you only have to pay your cost-sharing amount when you get services covered by our plan. Providers may bill you for additional separate charges, called **balance billing**. This protection applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service and even if there's a dispute and we don't pay certain provider charges.

Here's how protection from balance billing works.

- If your cost sharing is a copayment (a set amount of dollars, for example, \$15.00), you pay only that amount for any covered services from a network provider.
- If your cost sharing is a coinsurance (a percentage of the total charges), you never pay more than that percentage. However, your cost depends on which type of provider you see:
 - If you get covered services from a network provider, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by our plan's reimbursement rate (this is set in the contract between the provider and our plan).
 - If you get the covered services from an out-of-network provider who participates with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for participating providers. (Our plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral or for emergencies or urgently needed services.)

- If you get the covered services from an out-of-network provider who doesn't participate with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for non-participating providers. (Our plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral, or for emergencies or for urgently needed services outside the service area.)

If you think a provider has balance billed you, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

SECTION 2 The Medical Benefits Chart to find out what is covered and how much you will pay

The Medical Benefits Chart on the next pages lists the services our plan covers and what you pay out of pocket for each service. The services listed in the Medical Benefits Chart are covered only when the following coverage requirements are met:

- Your Medicare covered services must be provided according to the Medicare coverage guidelines.
- Your services (including medical care, services, supplies, equipment, and Part B drugs) *must* be medically necessary. Medically necessary means that the services, supplies, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.
- For new enrollees, your MA coordinated care plan must provide a minimum 90-day transition period, during which time the new MA plan can't require prior authorization for any active course of treatment, even if the course of treatment was for a service that commenced with an out-of-network provider.
- You get your care from a network provider. In most cases, care you get from an out-of-network provider won't be covered, unless its emergency or urgent care, or unless our plan or a network provider gave you a referral. This means you pay the provider in full for the services you get.
- You have a primary care provider (a PCP) providing and overseeing your care.
- Some services listed in the Medical Benefits Chart are covered *only* if your doctor or other network provider gets approval from us (sometimes called prior authorization). Covered services that need approval in advance are marked in the Medical Benefits Chart in bold.
- If your coordinated care plan provides approval of a prior authorization request for a course of treatment, the approval must be valid for as long as medically reasonable and necessary to avoid disruptions in care in accordance with applicable coverage criteria, your medical history, and the treating provider's recommendation.

Other important things to know about our coverage:

- Like all Medicare health plans, we cover everything that Original Medicare covers. For some of these benefits, you pay *more* in our plan than you would in Original Medicare. For others, you pay *less*. (To learn more about the coverage and costs of Original Medicare, go to your *Medicare & You 2026* handbook. View it online at www.Medicare.gov or ask for a copy by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.)
- For preventive services covered at no cost under Original Medicare, we also cover those services at no cost to you. However, if you're also treated or monitored for an existing medical condition during the visit when you get the preventive service, a copayment will apply for the care you got for the existing medical condition.
- If Medicare adds coverage for any new services during 2026, either Medicare or our plan will cover those services.



You will see this apple next to the preventive services in the benefits chart.

Covered Service	What you pay
Note: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time. A facility fee may apply when services are performed in an outpatient facility.	
 Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening A one-time screening ultrasound for people at risk. Our plan only covers this screening if you have certain risk factors and if you get a referral for it from your physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for this preventive screening.
Acupuncture for chronic low back pain Covered services include: Up to 12 visits in 90 days are covered under the following circumstances: For the purpose of this benefit, chronic low back pain is defined as: • Lasting 12 weeks or longer • Nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious disease, etc.) • Not associated with surgery; and • Not associated with pregnancy An additional 8 sessions will be covered for patients demonstrating an improvement. No more than 20 acupuncture treatments may be administered annually. Treatment must be discontinued if the patient is not improving or is regressing. Provider Requirements: Physicians (as defined in 1861(r)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act)) may furnish acupuncture in accordance with applicable state requirements. Physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs)/clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) (as identified in 1861(aa)(5) of the Act), and auxiliary personnel may furnish acupuncture if they meet all applicable state requirements and have: • a masters or doctoral level degree in acupuncture or Oriental Medicine from a school accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM); and, • a current, full, active, and unrestricted license to practice acupuncture in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth (i.e., Puerto Rico) of the United States, or District of Columbia. Auxiliary personnel furnishing acupuncture must be under the appropriate level of supervision of a physician, PA, or NP/CNS required by our regulations at 42 CFR §§ 410.26 and 410.27.	Prior authorization may be required. \$20 copayment for each Medicare-covered acupuncture visit
Additional telehealth services Covered telehealth services include the following virtual services: Physical Therapy Speech and Language Pathology Primary Care Physician Physician Specialist	Prior authorization may be required. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered virtual Physical Therapy \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered virtual Speech and Language Pathology

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered virtual Primary care physician visits \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered virtual physician specialist visits
Ambulance services - Covered ambulance services, whether for an emergency or non-emergency situation, include fixed wing, rotary wing, and ground ambulance services, to the nearest appropriate facility that can provide care if they're furnished to a member whose medical condition is such that other means of transportation could endanger the person's health or if authorized by the plan. If the covered ambulance services aren't for an emergency situation, it should be documented that the member's condition is such that other means of transportation could endanger the person's health and that transportation by ambulance is medically required. Non-emergency ambulance transportation services: - Medically-necessary, non-emergency transportation by ambulance is only covered to the closest facility that can provide care. - Prior authorization is required for non-emergency, Medicare-covered ambulance services (such as transport from home to your doctor's office for routine visits, transport from home to a Medicare-certified dialysis facility for prescribed hemodialysis, or transport beyond the closest facility capable of providing care when transferring between facilities or levels of care). - Out-of-network, non-emergency ambulance transportation services will be reviewed after the service is rendered to ensure service was medically and reasonably necessary. Worldwide ambulance services: - Ambulance transportation outside the United States or its territories is only covered to the closest, most appropriate facility that can provide care. - Return to the United States by ambulance is not a covered service unless that is where the closest, most appropriate, facility is located. - See Emergency care or Urgently needed services in this chart for additional information about Worldwide ambulance services.	Prior authorization may be required for non-emergency ambulance services. \$270 copayment for each one-way Medicare-covered ground ambulance trip. 20% coinsurance for each one-way Medicare-covered air ambulance trip.
Annual physical exam The annual physical is an extensive physical exam including a medical history collection and it may also include any of the following: vital signs, observation of general appearance, a head and neck exam, a heart and lung exam, an abdominal exam, a neurological exam, a dermatological exam, and an extremities exam. Coverage for this benefit is in addition to the Medicare-covered annual wellness visit and the Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit. Limited to one physical exam per year. Separate cost-sharing amounts may apply to any additional lab or diagnostic procedures that are ordered during the annual physical exam.	<i>\$0 copayment for annual physical exam</i>

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
Note: You will be responsible for cost sharing amounts for any additional services during this exam.	
 Annual wellness visit If you've had Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get an annual wellness visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors. The annual wellness visit is covered once each calendar year. Note: Your first annual wellness visit can't take place within 12 months of your <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit. However, you don't need to have had a <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> visit to be covered for annual wellness visits after you've had Part B for 12 months. Note: You will be responsible for cost sharing amounts for any additional services during this exam.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the annual wellness visit. A separate copay may apply if a non-preventive screening lab test or other non-preventive services are provided at the time of an annual wellness visit.
 Bone mass measurement For qualified people (generally, this means people at risk of losing bone mass or at risk of osteoporosis), the following services are covered every 24 months or more frequently if medically necessary: procedures to identify bone mass, detect bone loss, or determine bone quality, including a physician's interpretation of the results.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered bone mass measurement.
 Breast cancer screening (mammograms) Covered services include: • One baseline mammogram between the ages of 35 and 39 • One screening mammogram every 12 months for women aged 40 and older • Clinical breast exams once every 24 months	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for covered screening mammograms.
Cardiac rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of cardiac rehabilitation services that include exercise, education, and counseling are covered for members who meet certain conditions with a doctor's order. Our plan also covers intensive cardiac rehabilitation programs that are typically more rigorous or more intense than cardiac rehabilitation programs.	Prior authorization may be required. \$10 copayment for each Medicare-covered cardiac rehabilitative therapy visit \$10 copayment for each Medicare-covered intensive cardiac rehabilitative therapy visit One copayment will apply when multiple therapies are provided by the same provider on the same date and at the same place of service.
 Cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease) We cover one visit per year with your primary care doctor to help lower your risk for cardiovascular disease. During this visit, your doctor may discuss aspirin use (if appropriate), check your blood pressure, and give you tips to make sure you're eating healthy.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the intensive behavioral therapy cardiovascular disease preventive benefit.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
 Cardiovascular disease screening tests Blood tests for the detection of cardiovascular disease (or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease) once every 5 years (60 months).	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for cardiovascular disease testing that is covered once every 5 years.
Caregiver Support Services include one-on-one coaching and personalized resources for members and caregivers. Caregivers can receive coaching by telephone or through the program's website. Recommended caregiver services or programs may have additional costs. For questions and more details, call the HealthSpring caregiver support vendor at 1-888-651-0856 (TTY 711).	<i>\$0 copayment for caregiver support benefit.</i> No limit or maximum.
 Cervical and vaginal cancer screening Covered services include: • For all women: Pap tests and pelvic exams are covered once every 24 months • If you're at high risk of cervical or vaginal cancer or you're of childbearing age and have had an abnormal Pap test within the past 3 years: one Pap test every 12 months	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered preventive Pap and pelvic exams.
Chiropractic services (Medicare-covered) Covered services include: • We cover only manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation (when one or more of the bones of your spine move out of position) if you get it from a licensed chiropractor.	Prior authorization may be required. \$15 copayment for each Medicare-covered chiropractic visit
Chronic pain management and treatment services Covered monthly services for people living with chronic pain (persistent or recurring pain lasting longer than 3 months). Services may include pain assessment medication management, and care coordination and planning.	Cost sharing for this service will vary depending on provider and individual services provided under the course of treatment.
 Colorectal cancer screening The following screening tests are covered: • Colonoscopy has no minimum or maximum age limitation and is covered once every 120 months (10 years) for patients not at high risk, or 48 months after a previous flexible sigmoidoscopy for patients who aren't at high risk for colorectal cancer, and once every 24 months for high risk patients after a previous screening colonoscopy. • Computed tomography colonography for patients 45 years and older who are not at high risk of colorectal cancer and is covered when at least 59 months have passed following the month in which the last screening computed tomography colonography was performed or 47 months have passed following the month in which the last screening flexible sigmoidoscopy or screening colonoscopy was performed. For patients at high risk for colorectal cancer, payment may be made for a screening computed tomography colonography performed after at least 23 months have passed following the month in which the last screening computed tomography colonography or the last screening colonoscopy was performed.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for a Medicare-covered colorectal cancer screening exam. If your doctor finds and removes a polyp or other tissue during the colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, the screening exam becomes a diagnostic exam. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered diagnostic exams and any surgical procedures (i.e., polyp removal) during a colorectal screening.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Flexible sigmoidoscopy for patients 45 years and older. Once every 120 months for patients not at high risk after the patient got a screening colonoscopy. Once every 48 months for high risk patients from the last flexible sigmoidoscopy or computed tomography colonography. • Screening fecal-occult blood tests for patients 45 years and older. Once every 12 months. • Multitarget stool DNA for patients 45 to 85 years of age and not meeting high risk criteria. Once every 3 years. • Blood-based Biomarker Tests for patients 45 to 85 years of age and not meeting high risk criteria. Once every 3 years. • Colorectal cancer screening tests include a follow-on screening colonoscopy after a Medicare-covered non-invasive stool-based colorectal cancer screening test returns a positive result. • Colorectal cancer screening tests include a planned screening flexible sigmoidoscopy or screening colonoscopy that involves the removal of tissue or other matter, or other procedure furnished in connection with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter as the screening test. Note: If you receive a colonoscopy without previous symptoms, this is considered preventive or screening, and there will be no copayment or coinsurance. If your doctor is performing the colonoscopy because you have shown symptoms of a medical condition, this is considered outpatient surgery and cost share may apply (see Outpatient Surgery benefit in this chart for more information).	
Dental services (Medicare-covered) In general, preventive dental services (such as cleaning, routine dental exams, and dental X-rays) aren't covered by Original Medicare. However, Medicare pays for dental services in a limited number of circumstances, specifically when that service is an integral part of specific treatment of a person's primary medical condition. Examples include reconstruction of the jaw after a fracture or injury, tooth extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for cancer involving the jaw, or oral exams prior to organ transplantation. See Physician/Practitioner services, including doctor's office visits benefit in this chart for more information on Medicare-covered non-routine dental services.	Prior authorization is required for Medicare-covered dental services \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered dental benefits
Dental services (Routine) Dental Allowance In-network only coverage This plan provides additional dental coverage not covered by Original Medicare. The plan provides an annual dental allowance to reimburse routine preventive and comprehensive dental services. Cigna Dental will process your dental claims. You can choose any provider in the Cigna Dental Allowance (DPPO) network. Services obtained from dental providers outside of this network are not covered. Your dental provider will bill Cigna Dental directly. Unused balance of the allowance amount does not carry over to the following year. Cosmetic procedures are not covered. Limitations, exclusions, and restrictions may	<i>Allowance of \$1,000 every year (combined preventive and comprehensive) for routine dental services.</i> Member is responsible for any amount over and above the allowance amount.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
apply. For a list of excluded services, go to www.healthspring.com to review the Dental Allowance Guide. The preventive and comprehensive dental services are administered through Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company and, in New York, Cigna Health and Life Adjuster Services. For more information, call Dental Customer Service at 1-866-213-7295 (TTY 711).	
 Depression screening We cover one screening for depression per year. The screening must be done in a primary care setting that can provide follow-up treatment and/or referrals.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual depression screening visit.
 Diabetes screening We cover this screening (includes fasting glucose tests) if you have any of these risk factors: high blood pressure (hypertension), history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels (dyslipidemia), obesity, or a history of high blood sugar (glucose). Tests may also be covered if you meet other requirements, like being overweight and having a family history of diabetes. You may be eligible for up to 2 diabetes screenings every 12 months following the date of your most recent diabetes screening test.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered diabetes screening tests.
Diabetes self-management training, diabetic services and supplies For all people who have diabetes (insulin and non-insulin users). Covered services include: - Supplies to monitor your blood glucose: blood glucose monitor, blood glucose test strips. - Lancet devices and lancets, and glucose-control solutions for checking the accuracy of test strips and monitors. - For people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease: one pair per calendar year of therapeutic custom-molded shoes (including inserts provided with such shoes) and 2 additional pairs of inserts, or one pair of depth shoes and 3 pairs of inserts (not including the non-customized removable inserts provided with such shoes). Coverage includes fitting. - Diabetes self-management training is covered under certain conditions. Preferred brands of blood glucose monitors include: - Abbott Diabetes Care: FreeStyle Lite, FreeStyle Freedom Lite, FreeStyle Precision Neo and FreeStyle Libre (CGM) - Dexcom: Dexcom G6 (CGM) and Dexcom G7 (CGM)	Prior authorization may be required. \$0 copayment for preferred brand Medicare-covered diabetic monitoring supplies. Non-preferred brands are not covered unless medically necessary. You are eligible for one preferred brand glucose monitor and one preferred brand continuous glucose monitoring device every two years. You are also eligible for 200 preferred brand glucose test strips or three preferred brand sensors per 30-day period depending on your monitor. 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered therapeutic shoes and inserts \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered diabetes self-management training
Durable medical equipment (DME) and related supplies (For a definition of durable medical equipment, go to Chapter 10 and Chapter 3.) Covered items include, but aren't limited to: wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies, hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment, nebulizers, and walkers.	Prior authorization is required for all Medicare-covered rental items, including oxygen equipment. There are a limited number of DME items where the total rental price cannot exceed the purchase price

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
We cover all medically necessary DME covered by Original Medicare. If our supplier in your area doesn't carry a particular brand or manufacturer, you can ask them if they can special order it for you. Prior authorization may be required for special orders. The most recent list of suppliers is available on our website at www.healthspring.com.	and once that amount has been paid you will no longer pay for that item. 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered items Your cost sharing for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage is 20% coinsurance every month. After 36 months, you should no longer have a coinsurance for the oxygen equipment. The equipment is eligible for replacement after the maximum expected useful life of 5 years, unless it is not functioning and cannot be repaired before 5 years. If you join or leave our plan the 5-year cycle starts over.
Emergency care Emergency care refers to services that are: • Furnished by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services, and • Needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition. A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life, (and, if you're a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse. Cost sharing for necessary emergency services you get out-of-network is the same as when you get these services in-network. Observation services are hospital outpatient services given to help the doctor decide if the patient needs to be admitted as an inpatient or discharged. Observation services may be given in the emergency department or another area of the hospital. For information about the observation services cost sharing, please see the Outpatient hospital observation section of this <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>. <i>Emergency care is covered worldwide.</i> See Ambulance services benefit in this chart for additional information about Worldwide ambulance services.	\$130 copayment for Medicare-covered emergency room visits <i>\$130 copayment for worldwide emergency room visits and worldwide emergency transportation</i> <i>\$50,000 (USD) combined limit per year for emergency and urgent care services provided outside the U.S. and its territories.</i> Emergency transportation must be medically necessary. If you are admitted to the hospital within 24 hours for the same condition, you pay \$0 for the emergency room visit. If you receive emergency care at an out-of-network hospital and need inpatient care after your emergency condition is stabilized, you must have your inpatient care at the out-of-network hospital authorized by the plan and your cost is the highest cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
Fitness The fitness benefit provides several options. You are eligible for a fitness membership at participating fitness locations in the standard fitness network. At these locations you can take advantage of exercise equipment, amenities and, where available, group exercise classes tailored to meet the needs of older adults. You can also select one Home Fitness Kit per benefit year from a variety of kit options, which may include a wearable fitness tracker option. Kits are based on availability and subject to change. Once selected, kits cannot be exchanged. You can also get personalized Workout Plans; access thousands of on-demand workout videos available on the program's website; get one-on-one Well-Being Coaching by phone, video or chat; track your fitness activity; and enjoy many other digital resources through the Well-Being Club. Non-standard services that call for an added fee are not part of the fitness program and will not be reimbursed. For questions and more details, contact the HealthSpring fitness vendor at 1-888-886-1992 (TTY 711).	<i>\$0 copayment for a fitness membership and/or 1 Home Fitness Kit</i>
Hearing services (Medicare-covered) Diagnostic hearing and balance evaluations performed by your provider to determine if you need medical treatment are covered as outpatient care when you get them from a physician, audiologist, or other qualified provider.	\$30 copayment for Medicare-covered diagnostic hearing exams A separate PCP/Specialist cost share may apply if additional services requiring cost sharing are rendered.
Hearing services (Routine) This plan covers the following routine hearing services: • up to one routine hearing exam every year • fitting evaluation for a hearing aid(s) • hearing aid(s) Hearing aid evaluations are part of the routine hearing exam. Multiple fittings are allowed with the original provider if necessary to ensure hearing aids are accurately fitted. A routine hearing exam needs to be performed prior to hearing aids being dispensed. Hearing aid devices are limited to those worn externally and do not include assisted listening devices, amplifiers or disposable devices. Members are required to contact HealthSpring's hearing vendor to access the routine hearing exam and hearing aid benefits. A 60-day evaluation period is granted to determine the effectiveness of a hearing aid. A 4-year supply of batteries (up to 256 cells per hearing aid) is included with a hearing aid that is acquired through HealthSpring's hearing vendor. Hearing aids purchased from anyone outside HealthSpring's hearing vendor will not be covered. Over-the-counter hearing aid devices are not covered. Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aid devices are not covered under this routine hearing services benefit. Go to the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids benefit in this chart for coverage information for OTC hearing aids.	<i>\$0 copayment for one routine hearing exam every year</i> <i>\$0 copayment for one fitting evaluation for hearing aid every year</i> <i>\$399 - \$1,800 copayment per device for prescribed Hearing Aids.</i> Limited to 2 devices every year. Actual cost-share will depend on hearing aid selected.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
For more information on your routine hearing benefits, contact HealthSpring's hearing vendor at 1-866-872-1001 (TTY 711).	
 HIV screening For people who ask for an HIV screening test or who are at increased risk for HIV infection, we cover: • One screening exam every 12 months If you're pregnant, we cover: • Up to 3 screening exams during a pregnancy	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered preventive HIV screening.
Home-Delivered Meals When released from an approved inpatient hospital stay or skilled nursing facility, members can get 14 healthy, medical diet appropriate, frozen meals delivered to their home. This benefit is available up to 3 times each year. Releases from an emergency department, observation stay or outpatient visit are not eligible. Members meeting this requirement will receive a call from HealthSpring's meal provider to schedule delivery. For more information, call Customer Service. Meals for ESRD members Members diagnosed with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and enrolled in an ESRD care management program can get up to 56 healthy frozen meals delivered to their home. Members are eligible for this benefit once per year. Members meeting this requirement will receive a call from HealthSpring's meal provider to schedule delivery.	<i>\$0 copayment for the home-delivered meals benefit</i> <i>\$0 copayment for 56 meals over 28 days, once each year for ESRD members</i>
Home health agency care Before you get home health services, a doctor must certify that you need home health services and will order home health services to be provided by a home health agency. You must be homebound, which means leaving home is a major effort. Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing and home health aide services (to be covered under the home health care benefit, your skilled nursing and home health aide services combined must total fewer than 8 hours per day and 35 hours per week) • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Medical and social services • Medical equipment and supplies	Prior authorization may be required. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered home health visits
Home infusion therapy Home infusion therapy involves the intravenous or subcutaneous administration of drugs or biologicals to a person at home. The components needed to perform home infusion include the drug (for example, antivirals, immune globulin), equipment (for example, a pump), and supplies (for example, tubing and catheters). Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Professional services, including nursing services, furnished in accordance with the plan of care	You pay the applicable cost sharing for each service obtained. Please refer to the <i>Durable medical equipment and related supplies, Home health agency care, and Medicare Part B Prescription Drugs</i> benefit listings for related cost share amounts that may apply.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Patient training and education not otherwise covered under the durable medical equipment benefit • Remote monitoring • Monitoring services for the provision of home infusion therapy and home infusion drugs furnished by a qualified home infusion therapy supplier	
Hospice care You're eligible for the hospice benefit when your doctor and the hospice medical director have given you a terminal prognosis certifying that you're terminally ill and have 6 months or less to live if your illness runs its normal course. You can get care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. Our plan is obligated to help you find Medicare-certified hospice programs in our plan's service area, including programs we own control, or have a financial interest in. Your hospice doctor can be a network provider or an out-of-network provider. Covered services include: • Drugs for symptom control and pain relief • Short-term respite care • Home care When you're admitted to a hospice you have the right to remain in our plan; if you stay in our plan you must continue to pay plan premiums. <u>For hospice services and services covered by Medicare Part A or B that are related to your terminal prognosis:</u> Original Medicare (rather than our plan) will pay your hospice provider for your hospice services and any Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis. While you're in the hospice program, your hospice provider will bill Original Medicare for the services Original Medicare pays for. You'll be billed Original Medicare cost sharing. <u>For services covered by Medicare Part A or B and are not related to your terminal prognosis:</u> If you need non-emergency, non-urgently needed services covered under Medicare Part A or B and aren't related to your terminal prognosis, your cost for these services depends on whether you use a provider in our plan's network and follow plan rules (like if there's a requirement to obtain prior authorization). • If you get the covered services from a network provider and follow plan rules for obtaining service, you only pay our plan cost sharing amount for in-network services • If you get the covered services from an out-of-network provider, you pay the cost sharing under Original Medicare <u>For services covered by our plan but not covered by Medicare Part A or B:</u> Our plan will continue to cover plan-covered services that aren't covered under Part A or B whether or not they're related to your terminal prognosis. You pay your plan cost sharing amount for these services. Note: If you need non-hospice care (care that is not related to your terminal prognosis), you should contact us to arrange the services. Our plan covers hospice consultation services (one time only) for a terminally ill person who hasn't elected the hospice benefit.	When you enroll in a Medicare-certified hospice program, your hospice services and your Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis are paid for by Original Medicare, not our plan. You must get care from a Medicare-certified hospice. You must consult with your plan before you select hospice. <u>Hospice Consultation</u> You pay the applicable cost sharing for the provider of the service (for example, physician services). Please refer to the applicable benefit in this section of this <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
 Immunizations Covered Medicare Part B services include: • Pneumonia vaccines • Flu/influenza shots (or vaccines), once each flu/influenza season in the fall and winter, with additional flu/influenza shots (or vaccines) if medically necessary • Hepatitis B vaccines if you're at high or intermediate risk of getting Hepatitis B • COVID-19 vaccines • Other vaccines if you're at risk and they meet Medicare Part B coverage rules	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the pneumonia, flu/influenza, Hepatitis B and COVID-19 vaccines.
Inpatient hospital care Includes inpatient acute, inpatient rehabilitation, long-term care hospitals and other types of inpatient hospital services. Inpatient hospital care starts the day you're formally admitted to the hospital with a doctor's order. The day before you're discharged is your last inpatient day. Our plan covers an unlimited number of days for an inpatient hospital stay. Covered services include but aren't limited to: • Semi-private room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals including special diets • Regular nursing services • Costs of special care units (such as intensive care or coronary care units) • Drugs and medications • Lab tests • X-rays and other radiology services • Necessary surgical and medical supplies • Use of appliances, such as wheelchairs • Operating and recovery room costs • Physical, occupational, and speech language therapy • Inpatient substance abuse services • Under certain conditions, the following types of transplants are covered: corneal, kidney, kidney pancreatic, heart, liver, lung, heart/lung, bone marrow, stem cell, and intestinal/multivisceral. If you need a transplant, we'll arrange to have your case reviewed by a Medicare-approved transplant center that will decide whether you're a candidate for a transplant. Transplant providers may be local or outside of the service area. If our in-network transplant services are outside the community pattern of care, you may choose to go locally as long as the local transplant providers are willing to accept the Original Medicare rate. If our plan provides transplant services at a location outside the pattern of care for transplants in your community and you choose to get transplants at this distant location, we'll arrange or pay for appropriate lodging and transportation costs for you and a companion.	Prior authorization may be required. Except in an emergency, your doctor must tell the plan that you are going to be admitted to the hospital. For each Medicare-covered hospital stay, your copayment is: \$290 per day for days 1-6; \$0 per day for days 7-90 For each Medicare-covered hospital stay, you are required to pay the applicable cost sharing. In some instances, a readmission policy may apply in which the benefit will continue from original admission. If you get authorized inpatient care at an out-of-network hospital after your emergency condition is stabilized, your cost is the highest cost sharing you'd pay at a network hospital.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
This travel benefit is not applicable for corneal transplants. Reimbursement is provided for up to \$10,000 of eligible transportation and lodging expenses for an approved transplant at least 100 miles away from your legal home address to the transplant center. This benefit only covers transportation and lodging expenses for you and one companion for the initial and annual evaluation, stem cell injection and cell collection, and the actual transplant. The lodging and transportation benefit is not applicable for follow-up or post-operative visits or transplant related inpatient admissions after you receive your transplant, except for readmissions occurring during sequestering (time required to be near a facility and away from your home) immediately after a covered transplant. • Blood – including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells starts only with the first pint of blood you need. All other components of blood are covered starting with the first pint. • Physician services Note: To be an inpatient, your provider must write an order to admit you formally as an inpatient of the hospital. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you're not sure if you're an inpatient or an outpatient, ask the hospital staff. Get more information in the Medicare fact sheet called <i>Medicare Hospital Benefits</i>. This fact sheet is available at www.Medicare.gov/publications/11435-Medicare-Hospital-Benefits.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.	
Inpatient services in a psychiatric hospital Covered services include mental health care services that require a hospital stay. Our plan covers up to 190 days in a lifetime for inpatient mental health care in a psychiatric hospital. The inpatient mental health care limit doesn't apply to inpatient mental health services provided in a general hospital.	Prior authorization may be required. Except in an emergency, your doctor must tell the plan that you are going to be admitted to the hospital. For each Medicare-covered inpatient psychiatric hospital stay, your copayment is: \$595 per day for days 1-3; \$0 per day for days 4-90 For each Medicare-covered hospital stay, you are required to pay the applicable cost sharing, starting with Day 1 each time you are admitted. In some instances, a readmission policy may apply in which the benefit will continue from original admission. Our plan also covers 60 "lifetime reserve days." These are "extra" days that we cover. If you use more than 90 days within a benefit period, you can use these extra days. But once you

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
	have used up these extra 60 days, your inpatient hospital coverage will be limited to 90 days. There is a \$0 copayment per lifetime reserve day.
Inpatient stay: Covered services you get in a hospital or SNF during a non-covered inpatient stay If you've used up your inpatient benefits or if the inpatient stay isn't reasonable and necessary, we won't cover your inpatient stay. In some cases, we'll cover certain services you get while you're in the hospital or the skilled nursing facility (SNF). Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Physician services • Diagnostic tests (like lab tests) • X-ray, radium, and isotope therapy including technician materials and services • Surgical dressings • Splints, casts, and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations • Prosthetics and orthotics devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of an internal body organ (including contiguous tissue), or all or part of the function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning internal body organ, including replacement or repairs of such devices • Leg, arm, back, and neck braces; trusses, and artificial legs, arms, and eyes including adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient's physical condition • Physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy	You pay the applicable cost sharing for other services as though they were provided on an outpatient basis. Please refer to the applicable benefit in this section of this <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.
 Medical nutrition therapy This benefit is for people with diabetes, renal (kidney) disease (but not on dialysis), or after a kidney transplant when ordered by your doctor. We cover 3 hours of one-on-one counseling services during the first year you get medical nutrition therapy services under Medicare (this includes our plan, any other Medicare Advantage plan, or Original Medicare), and 2 hours each year after that. If your condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, you may be able to get more hours of treatment with a physician's order. A physician must prescribe these services and renew their order yearly if your treatment is needed into the next calendar year.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered medical nutrition therapy services.
 Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) MDPP services are covered for eligible people under all Medicare health plans. MDPP is a structured health behavior change intervention that provides practical training in long-term dietary change, increased physical activity, and problem-solving strategies for overcoming challenges to sustaining weight loss and a healthy lifestyle.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the MDPP benefit.
Medicare Part B drugs These drugs are covered under Part B of Original Medicare. Members of our plan get coverage for these drugs through our plan. Covered drugs include:	Prior authorization may be required. Medicare Part B drugs may be subject to step therapy requirements.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Drugs that usually aren't self-administered by the patient and are injected or infused while you get physician, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgical center services • Insulin furnished through an item of durable medical equipment (such as a medically necessary insulin pump) • Drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were authorized by our plan • The Alzheimer's drug, Leqembi®, (generic name lecanemab), which is administered intravenously. In addition to medication costs, you may need additional scans and tests before and/or during treatment that could add to your overall costs. Talk to your doctor about what scans and tests you may need as part of your treatment • Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia • Transplant/Immunosuppressive drugs: Medicare covers transplant drug therapy if Medicare paid for your organ transplant. You must have Part A at the time of the covered transplant, and you must have Part B at the time you get immunosuppressive drugs. • Injectable osteoporosis drugs, if you're homebound, have a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and can't self-administer the drug • Some antigens: Medicare covers antigens if a doctor prepares them and a properly instructed person (who could be you, the patient) gives them under appropriate supervision • Certain oral anti-cancer drugs: Medicare covers some oral cancer drugs you take by mouth if the same drug is available in injectable form or the drug is a prodrug (an oral form of a drug that, when ingested, breaks down into the same active ingredient found in the injectable drug) of the injectable drug • Oral anti-nausea drugs: Medicare covers oral anti-nausea drugs you use as part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen if they're administered before, at, or within 48 hours of chemotherapy or are used as a full therapeutic replacement for an intravenous anti-nausea drug • Certain oral End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) drugs covered under Medicare Part B • Calcimimetic and phosphate binder medications under the ESRD payment system, including the intravenous medication Parsabiv®, and the oral medication Sensipar® • Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when medically necessary and topical anesthetics • Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: Medicare covers erythropoietin by injection if you have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or you need this drug to treat anemia related to certain other conditions (such as Epoetin Alfa) • Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases • Parenteral and enteral nutrition (intravenous and tube feeding)	You will pay a maximum of \$35 for each one month supply of Medicare-covered Part B insulin drugs. Any plan deductible does not apply. 0 - 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered Part B Chemotherapy/Radiation drugs 0 - 20% coinsurance for other Medicare-covered Part B drugs

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
The following link will take you to a list of Part B Drugs that may be subject to Step Therapy: www.healthspring.com/medicare/member-resources/drug-list-formulary. We also cover some vaccines under our Part B drug benefit.	
 Obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss If you have a body mass index of 30 or more, we cover intensive counseling to help you lose weight. This counseling is covered if you get it in a primary care setting, where it can be coordinated with your comprehensive prevention plan. Talk to your primary care doctor or practitioner to find out more.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for preventive obesity screening and therapy.
Opioid treatment program services Members of our plan with opioid use disorder (OUD) can get coverage of services to treat OUD through an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) which includes the following services: • U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved opioid agonist and antagonist medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medications. • Dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable) • Substance use counseling • Individual and group therapy • Toxicology testing • Intake activities • Periodic assessments	Prior authorization may be required. \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered opioid treatment services
Outpatient diagnostic tests and therapeutic services and supplies Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • X-rays • Radiation (radium and isotope) therapy including technician materials and supplies • Surgical supplies, such as dressings • Splints, casts and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations • Laboratory tests • Medicare-covered genetic tests will only be covered once per the member's lifetime unless the test is specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be performed more than once. • Blood – including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells begins with the first pint of blood that you need. All other components of blood are covered beginning with the first pint. • Diagnostic non-laboratory tests such as CT scans, MRIs, EKGs, and PET scans when your doctor or other health care provider orders them to treat a medical problem. • Other outpatient diagnostic tests	Prior authorization may be required. A separate PCP/Specialist cost share will apply if additional services requiring cost sharing are rendered. A facility fee may also apply. \$0 or \$95 copayment for Medicare-covered diagnostic procedures and tests. \$0 copayment for EKG and diagnostic colorectal screenings. \$95 copayment for all other diagnostic procedures and tests. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered lab services \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered genetic tests 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered medical supplies (such as surgical supplies, splints or casts) \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered blood services

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
	\$0 or \$195 copayment for Medicare-covered diagnostic radiology services (not including X-rays). \$0 copayment for mammography and ultrasounds. \$195 copayment for all other diagnostic and nuclear medicine radiological services If multiple test types (such as CT and PET) are performed in the same day, multiple copayments will apply. If multiple tests of the same type (for example, CT scan of the head and CT scan of the chest) are performed in the same day one copayment will apply. 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered therapeutic radiology services \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered X-rays in a PCP or Specialist office. \$100 copayment for Medicare-covered X-rays in all other locations.
Outpatient hospital observation Observation services are hospital outpatient services given to determine if you need to be admitted as an inpatient or can be discharged. For outpatient hospital observation services to be covered, they must meet Medicare criteria and be considered reasonable and necessary. Observation services are covered only when provided by the order of a physician or another person authorized by state licensure law and hospital staff bylaws to admit patients to the hospital or order outpatient tests. Note: Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you're an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you aren't sure you're an outpatient, ask the hospital staff. Get more information in the Medicare fact sheet called <i>Medicare Hospital Benefits</i>. This fact sheet is available at www.Medicare.gov/publications/11435-Medicare-Hospital-Benefits.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.	Prior authorization may be required. \$285 per stay copayment for Medicare-covered outpatient hospital observation
Outpatient hospital services We cover medically-necessary services you get in the outpatient department of a hospital for diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury. Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Services in an emergency department or outpatient clinic, such as observation services or outpatient surgery • Laboratory and diagnostic tests billed by the hospital	Prior authorization may be required. You pay the applicable cost sharing for these services. Please refer to the applicable benefit in this section of this <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>. Self-administered drugs (medication you would normally take on your own)

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Mental health care, including care in a partial-hospitalization program, if a doctor certifies that inpatient treatment would be required without it • X-rays and other radiology services billed by the hospital • Medical supplies such as splints and casts • Certain drugs and biologicals that you can't give yourself Note: Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you are an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you're not sure if you're an outpatient, ask the hospital staff.	are not covered in an outpatient hospital setting. Please contact Customer Service for more information.
Outpatient mental health care Covered services include: Mental health services provided by a state-licensed psychiatrist or doctor, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, clinical nurse specialist, licensed professional counselor (LPC), licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), nurse practitioner, (NP), physician assistant, (PA), or other Medicare-qualified mental health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws. Mental health telehealth services are available through the HealthSpring's telehealth vendor. Not all provider types are available through the telehealth vendor. For more information contact the HealthSpring telehealth vendor at 1-866-918-7836 (TTY 1-800-770-5531).	Prior authorization may be required. \$50 copayment for each Medicare-covered individual or group therapy in-person or telehealth visit. \$50 copayment for each Medicare-covered individual or group therapy in-person or telehealth visit with a psychiatrist
Outpatient rehabilitation services Covered services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language therapy in-person visits. Outpatient rehabilitation services are provided in various outpatient settings, such as hospital outpatient departments, independent therapist offices, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs).	Prior authorization may be required. \$45 copayment for Medicare-covered Occupational Therapy visits. \$45 copayment for Medicare-covered Physical Therapy in-person visits. \$45 copayment for Medicare-covered Speech and Language Pathology in-person visits. One copayment will apply when multiple therapies (such as PT, OT, ST) are provided by the same provider on same date and at the same place of service.
Outpatient substance use disorder services Covered services include: Substance use disorder outpatient services including Partial Hospitalization Program, outpatient evaluation, outpatient therapy and medication management provided by a doctor, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other Medicare-qualified behavioral health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws.	Prior authorization may be required. \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered individual or group substance use disorder outpatient treatment visits

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
Outpatient surgery, including services provided at hospital outpatient facilities and ambulatory surgical centers Note: If you're having surgery in a hospital facility, you should check with your provider about whether you'll be an inpatient or outpatient. Unless the provider writes an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you're an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient surgery. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient.	Prior authorization may be required. \$0 or \$285 copayment for each Medicare-covered outpatient hospital facility visit. \$0 copayment for any surgical procedures (i.e., polyp removal) during a colorectal screening. \$285 copayment for all other Outpatient Services not provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center. \$0 or \$225 copayment for each Medicare-covered ambulatory surgical center visit. \$0 copayment for any surgical procedures (i.e., polyp removal) during a colorectal screening. \$225 copayment for all other Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) services.
Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids This plan covers an over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aid kit. Each kit includes one hearing aid per ear and a charger as needed. A routine hearing exam is not required prior to the kit being dispensed. Member is required to contact the HealthSpring hearing vendor to access this OTC hearing aid benefit. For more information, contact the HealthSpring hearing vendor at 1-866-872-1001 (TTY 711).	\$399 copayment for each OTC hearing aid kit. Limited to 2 kits every year.
Partial hospitalization services and Intensive outpatient services <i>Partial hospitalization</i> is a structured program of active psychiatric treatment provided a hospital outpatient service or by a community mental health center, that's more intense than care you get in your doctor's, therapist's, licensed marriage and family therapist's (LMFT), or licensed professional counselor's office and is an alternative to inpatient hospitalization. <i>Intensive outpatient service</i> is a structured program of active behavioral (mental) health therapy treatment provided in a hospital outpatient department, a community mental health center, a federally qualified health center, or a rural health clinic that's more intense than care you get in your doctor's, therapist's, licensed marriage and family therapist's (LMFT), or licensed professional counselor's office, but less intense than partial hospitalization.	Prior authorization may be required. \$140 copayment for Medicare-covered partial hospitalization program \$140 copayment for Medicare-covered intensive outpatient services
Physician/Practitioner services, including doctor's office visits Covered services include: - Medically-necessary medical care or surgery services you get in a physician's office, certified ambulatory surgical center, hospital outpatient department, or any other location - Consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a specialist	Prior authorization may be required. \$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered primary care physician visit \$50 copayment for each Medicare-covered specialist visit

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Basic hearing and balance exams performed by your specialist, if your doctor orders it to see if you need medical treatment • Certain telehealth services, including urgent care (treating symptoms like allergies, cough, headache, nausea, and other low-risk illnesses), mental health therapy and dermatology ○ You have the option of receiving these services through an in-person visit or by telehealth. If you choose to receive one of these services by telehealth, you must use a network provider who offers the service by telehealth. ○ If your network provider does not offer telehealth services and/or you need to access telehealth care quickly, you also have the option of getting these services through the HealthSpring telehealth vendor. Electronic exchange can be by smartphone, regular telephone, computer or tablet and can include video. You must complete a brief medical history and symptom assessment before receiving services. A cost-share may apply and is due at the time of your telehealth visit. Go to www.myHealthSpring.com to register for the telehealth vendor's services. For questions and more details, call the HealthSpring telehealth vendor at 1-866-918-7836 (TTY 1-800-770-5531) or call Customer Service. • Some telehealth services including consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a physician or practitioner, for patients in certain rural areas or other places approved by Medicare • Telehealth services for monthly end-stage renal disease-related visits for home dialysis members in a hospital-based or critical access hospital-based renal dialysis center, renal dialysis facility, or the member's home • Telehealth services to diagnose, evaluate, or treat symptoms of a stroke, regardless of your location • Telehealth services for members with a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health disorder, regardless of their location • Telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of mental health disorders if: ○ You have an in-person visit within 6 months prior to your first telehealth visit ○ You have an in-person visit every 12 months while getting these telehealth services ○ Exceptions can be made to the above for certain circumstances • Telehealth services for mental health visits provided by Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers • Virtual check-ins (for example, by phone or video chat) with your doctor for 5-10 minutes if: ○ You're not a new patient and ○ The check-in isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days and ○ The check-in doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment	\$0 copayment in a PCP office or \$50 copayment in a Specialist office for each Medicare-covered Other Health Care Professional Service

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
• Evaluation of video and/or images you send to your doctor, and interpretation and follow-up by your doctor within 24 hours if: ○ You're not a new patient and ○ The evaluation isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days and ○ The evaluation doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, internet, or electronic health record • Second opinion by another network provider prior to surgery • Non-routine dental care (covered services are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures, setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, extraction of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatments of neoplastic cancer disease, or services that would be covered when provided by a physician) • Wound care services (including clinic) are provided to manage acute and chronic wounds through debridement, local wound care and specialized dressings. Medicare covers services provided by other health providers, such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, social workers, physical therapists, and psychologists. Health professional means— • a physician who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy; or • a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist; or • a medical professional (including a health educator, a registered dietitian, or nutrition professional, or other licensed practitioner) or a team of such medical professionals, working under the direct supervision of a physician Note: Costs for services provided by other health providers (such as a nurse practitioner or physician assistant) will be based on the supervising physician's specialty. For example, if you are seeing a nurse practitioner and the supervising physician is a PCP, you will pay the PCP cost. If you are seeing a nurse practitioner and supervising physician is a Specialist, you will pay the Specialist cost. If your provider bills us as part of a hospital system, you may also be responsible for the outpatient hospital setting cost-share for the services. Cost-share for other services performed in an outpatient setting are outlined in this chapter. Please check with your provider prior to scheduling services to see if the site is identified as part of a hospital.	
Podiatry services (Medicare-covered) Covered services include: • Diagnosis and the medically necessary treatment of injuries and diseases of the feet (such as hammer toe or heel spurs) • Routine foot care for members with certain medical conditions affecting the lower limbs	\$45 copayment for Medicare-covered podiatry services
 Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the PrEP benefit.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
If you don't have HIV, but your doctor or other health care practitioner determines you're at an increased risk for HIV, we cover pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication and related services. If you qualify, covered services include: • FDA-approved oral or injectable PrEP medication. If you're getting an injectable drug, we also cover the fee for injecting the drug. • Up to 8 individual counseling sessions (including HIV risk assessment, HIV risk reduction, and medication adherence) every 12 months. • Up to 8 HIV screenings every 12 months. A one-time hepatitis B virus screening.	
 Prostate cancer screening exams For men age 50 and older, covered services include the following – once every 12 months: • Digital rectal exam • Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual PSA test.
Prosthetic and orthotic devices and related supplies Devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of a body part or function. These include, but aren't limited to testing, fitting, or training in the use of prosthetic and orthotic devices; as well as: colostomy bags and supplies directly related to colostomy care, pacemakers, braces, prosthetic shoes, artificial limbs, and breast prostheses (including a surgical brassiere after a mastectomy). Includes certain supplies related to prosthetic and orthotic devices, and repair and/or replacement of prosthetic and orthotic devices. Also includes some coverage following cataract removal or cataract surgery – go to <i>Vision Care</i> later in this table for more detail. Note: Supply quantities will be reviewed to ensure they are medically necessary and reasonable. Total monthly quantity limits may apply for supplies.	Prior authorization may be required. 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered prosthetic and orthotic devices and supplies
Pulmonary rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of pulmonary rehabilitation are covered for members who have moderate to very severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and an order for pulmonary rehabilitation from the doctor treating the chronic respiratory disease.	\$10 copayment for each Medicare-covered pulmonary rehabilitative therapy visit One copayment will apply when multiple therapies are provided by the same provider on the same date and at the same place of service.
 Screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse We cover one alcohol misuse screening for adults (including pregnant women) who misuse alcohol, but aren't alcohol dependent. If you screen positive for alcohol misuse, you can get up to 4 brief face-to-face counseling sessions per year (if you're competent and alert during counseling) provided by a qualified primary care doctor or practitioner in a primary care setting.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse preventive benefit.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
 Screening for Hepatitis C Virus infection We cover one Hepatitis C screening if your primary care doctor or other qualified health care provider orders one and you meet one of these conditions: • You're at high risk because you use or have used illicit injection drugs. • You had a blood transfusion before 1992. • You were born between 1945-1965. If you were born between 1945-1965 and aren't considered high risk, we pay for a screening once. If you're at high risk (for example, you've continued to use illicit injection drugs since your previous negative Hepatitis C screening test), we cover yearly screenings.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening for the Hepatitis C Virus.
 Screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography (LDCT) For qualified people, a LDCT is covered every 12 months. Eligible members are: people age 50 – 77 who have no signs or symptoms of lung cancer, but who have a history of tobacco smoking of at least 20 pack-years and who currently smoke or have quit smoking within the last 15 years, who get an order for LDCT during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit that meets the Medicare criteria for such visits and be furnished by a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. <i>For LDCT lung cancer screenings after the initial LDCT screening:</i> the members must get an order for LDCT lung cancer screening, which may be furnished during any appropriate visit with a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. If a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner elects to provide a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit for later lung cancer screenings with LDCT, the visit must meet the Medicare criteria for such visits.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered counseling and shared decision making visit or for the LDCT.
 Screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and counseling to prevent STIs We cover sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Hepatitis B. These screenings are covered for pregnant women and for certain people who are at increased risk for an STI when the tests are ordered by a primary care provider. We cover these tests once every 12 months or at certain times during pregnancy. We also cover up to two individual 20 to 30 minute, face-to-face high-intensity behavioral counseling sessions each year for sexually active adults at increased risk for STIs. We will only cover these counseling sessions as a preventive service if they are provided by a primary care provider and take place in a primary care setting, such as a doctor's office.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening for STIs and counseling for STIs preventive benefit.
Services to treat kidney disease Covered services include: • Kidney disease education services to teach kidney care and help members make informed decisions about their care. For members with stage IV chronic kidney	Prior authorization may be required for Medicare-covered renal dialysis. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered kidney disease education services

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
disease when referred by their doctor, we cover up to six sessions of kidney disease education services per lifetime. • Outpatient dialysis treatments (including dialysis treatments when temporarily out of the service area, as explained in Chapter 3, or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible) • Inpatient dialysis treatments (if you are admitted as an inpatient to a hospital for special care) • Self-dialysis training (includes training for you and anyone helping you with your home dialysis treatments) • Home dialysis equipment and supplies • Certain home support services (such as, when necessary, visits by trained dialysis workers to check on your home dialysis, to help in emergencies, and check your dialysis equipment and water supply) Certain drugs for dialysis are covered under your Medicare Part B drug benefit. For information about coverage for Part B drugs, go to the section, Medicare Part B drugs in this table.	20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered renal dialysis
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care (For a definition of skilled nursing facility care, see Chapter 12. Skilled nursing facilities are sometimes called SNFs.) Plan covers up to 100 days each benefit period. An inpatient hospital stay is not required prior to SNF admission. Covered services include but are not limited to: • Semiprivate room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals, including special diets • Skilled nursing services • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Drugs administered to you as part of our plan of care (this includes substances that are naturally present in the body, such as blood clotting factors.) • Blood – including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells begins only with the first pint of blood you need. All other components of blood are covered beginning with the first pint used. • Medical and surgical supplies ordinarily provided by SNFs • Laboratory tests ordinarily provided by SNFs • X-rays and other radiology services ordinarily provided by SNFs • Use of appliances such as wheelchairs ordinarily provided by SNFs • Physician/Practitioner services Generally, you get SNF care from network facilities. Under certain conditions listed below, you may be able to pay in-network cost sharing for a facility that isn't a network provider, if the facility accepts our plan's amounts for payment. • A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where you were living right before you went to the hospital (as long as it provides skilled nursing facility care)	Prior authorization may be required. For Medicare-covered SNF stays, the copayment is: \$10 per day for days 1-20; \$218 per day for days 21-60; \$0 per day for days 61-100 In some instances, a readmission policy may apply in which the benefit will continue from original admission. For each Medicare-covered SNF stay, you are required to pay the applicable cost sharing, starting with Day 1 each time you are admitted.

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
An SNF where your spouse or domestic partner is living at the time you leave the hospital	
 Smoking and tobacco use cessation (counseling to stop smoking or tobacco use) Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling is covered for outpatient and hospitalized patients who meet these criteria: - Use tobacco, regardless of whether they exhibit signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease - Are competent and alert during counseling - A qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner provides counseling We cover 2 cessation attempts per year (each attempt includes a maximum of 4 intermediate or intensive sessions, with the patient getting up to 8 sessions per year.)	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered smoking and tobacco use cessation preventive benefits.
Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) SET is covered for members who have symptomatic peripheral artery disease (PAD) and are recommended for treatment from the physician responsible for the PAD treatments. Up to 36 sessions over a 12-week period are covered if the SET program requirements are met. The SET program must: - Consist of sessions lasting 30-60 minutes, comprising a therapeutic exercise-training program for PAD in patients with claudication - Be conducted in a hospital outpatient setting or a physician's office - Be delivered by qualified auxiliary personnel necessary to ensure benefits exceed harms, and who are trained in exercise therapy for PAD - Be under the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist who must be trained in both basic and advanced life support techniques SET may be covered beyond 36 sessions over 12 weeks for an additional 36 sessions over an extended period of time if deemed medically necessary by a health care provider.	Prior authorization may be required. \$10 copayment for each Medicare-covered Supervised Exercise Therapy visit One copayment will apply when multiple therapies are provided by the same provider on the same date and at the same place of service.
Urgently needed services A plan-covered service requiring immediate medical attention that's not an emergency is an urgently needed service if either you're temporarily outside our plan's service, or even if you're inside our plan's service area, it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Our plan must cover urgently needed services and only charge you in-network cost sharing. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. Medically necessary routine provider visits (like annual checkups) aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable. <i>Urgently needed services are covered worldwide.</i>	\$50 copayment for Medicare-covered urgently needed service visit <i>\$130 for worldwide emergency/urgent coverage and worldwide emergency transportation</i> <i>\$50,000 (USD) combined limit per year for emergency and urgent care services provided outside the U.S. and its territories.</i>

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
See Ambulance services benefit in this chart for additional information about Worldwide ambulance services.	Emergency transportation must be medically necessary. If you are admitted to the hospital within 24 hours for the same condition, you pay \$0 for the urgently needed services visit.
 Vision care (Medicare-covered) Covered services include: • Outpatient physician services for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the eye, including treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Original Medicare doesn't cover routine eye exams (eye refractions) for eyeglasses/contacts. • For people who are at high risk for glaucoma, we cover one glaucoma screening each year. People at high risk of glaucoma include people with a family history of glaucoma, people with diabetes, African-Americans who are age 50 and older, and Hispanic Americans who are 65 or older. • For people with diabetes, screening for diabetic retinopathy is covered once per year. • One pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens. If you have 2 separate cataract operations, you can't reserve the benefit after the first surgery and purchase 2 eyeglasses after the second surgery. For more information on your Medicare-covered vision benefits, call Customer Service.	A separate PCP/Specialist cost share may apply if additional services requiring cost sharing are rendered (e.g., but not limited to, if a medical eye condition is discovered during a preventive routine eye exam). For surgical procedures performed in an outpatient surgical center, a separate physician cost share or facility fee may apply. \$0 or \$50 copayment for Medicare-covered exams to diagnose and treat diseases and conditions of the eye, including an annual glaucoma screening for people at risk. \$0 copayment for glaucoma screenings and diabetic retinal screening. \$50 copayment for all other Medicare-covered vision services. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered eyewear (one pair of eyeglasses with standard frames/lenses or one set of standard contact lenses after cataract surgery that implants an intraocular lens)
Vision care (Routine) This plan covers: • One (1) comprehensive routine eye exam per year. Eye refractions performed outside of the comprehensive routine eye exam are not covered. The annual comprehensive routine eye exam consists of the following services: ○ Case history ○ Patient observation ○ Clinical diagnostic testing, including binocular function, refractive status, color vision testing, and stereopsis testing ○ Dilation as necessary ○ Assessment	A separate PCP/Specialist cost share may apply if additional services requiring cost sharing are rendered (e.g., but not limited to, if a medical eye condition is discovered during a preventive routine eye exam). <i>\$0 copayment for one comprehensive routine eye exam every year (routine eye exam does not include a contact lens fitting)</i> <i>\$0 copayment up to the eyewear allowance for:</i>

NOTE: Additional cost share may apply when other services are performed at the same time.

Covered Service	What you pay
○ Diagnosis and treatment plan ● Eyeglasses and frames or contact lenses up to the plan allowance amount. The plan specified allowance may be applied to one set of the member's choice of eyewear, to include the eyeglass frame/lenses/lens options combination or contact lenses and contact lens fitting (to include related professional fees) in lieu of eyeglasses. Routine annual eyewear allowance applied to the retail value only. Applicable taxes are not covered. Unused balance of the allowance amount does not carry forward to future benefit years. Routine eye exam and eyewear must be obtained from a provider in HealthSpring's vision vendor network. Services obtained from vendors outside this network are not covered. There are limitations on the number of covered services within a service category. Frequency limits vary depending on the type of covered service. Medically necessary contact lenses are not covered by the routine vision benefit. Other exclusions may apply. For questions and more details, contact HealthSpring's vision vendor at 1-888-886-1995 (TTY 711).	–up to one pair of eyeglasses (lenses and frames) every year –unlimited contact lenses up to plan coverage limit –up to one pair of eyeglass lenses every year –up to one eyeglass frame every year –upgrades \$175 allowance for routine eyewear every year. The plan will not cover both eyeglass lenses/frames and contacts in the same plan year. Customer is responsible for all costs over and above the allowance amount.
 Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit Our plan covers the one-time <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit. The visit includes a review of your health, as well as education and counseling about preventive services you need (including certain screenings and shots (or vaccines)), and referrals for other care if needed. Important: We cover the <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit only within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B. When you make your appointment, let your doctor's office know you want to schedule your <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Welcome to Medicare preventive visit.

SECTION 3 Services that aren't covered by our plan (exclusions)

This section tells you what services are *excluded* from Medicare coverage and therefore, aren't covered by this plan.

The chart below lists services and items that either aren't covered under any condition or are covered only under specific conditions.

If you get services that are excluded (not covered), you must pay for them yourself except under the specific conditions listed below. Even if you get the excluded services at an emergency facility, the excluded services are still not covered and our plan won't pay for them. The only exception: is if the service is appealed and decided upon appeal to be a medical service that we should have paid for or covered because of your specific situation. (For information about appealing a decision we made to not cover a medical service, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.3.)

All exclusions or limitations on services are described in the Benefits Chart or in the chart below.

Even if you receive the excluded services at an emergency facility, the excluded services are still not covered and our plan will not pay for them.

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Acupuncture	Available for people with chronic low back pain under certain circumstances.

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Air ambulance for transportation to return to the United States.	Return or repatriation to the United States during a medical injury or illness is not covered unless the closest appropriate facility to stabilize and treat the injury or illness is in the United States. Once stabilized, return air ambulance transportation to the United States is not covered.
Cosmetic surgery or procedures	Covered in cases of an accidental injury or for improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member. Covered for all stages of reconstruction for a breast after a mastectomy, as well as for the unaffected breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
Custodial care Custodial care is personal care that doesn't require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel, such as care that helps you with activities of daily living, such as bathing or dressing.	Not covered under any condition
Experimental medical and surgical procedures, equipment and medications Experimental procedures and items are those items and procedures determined Original Medicare to not be generally accepted by the medical community.	May be covered by Original Medicare under a Medicare-approved clinical research study or by our plan. (Go to Chapter 3, Section 5 for more information on clinical research studies.)
Fees charged for care by your immediate relatives or members of your household	Not covered under any condition
Full-time nursing care in your home	Not covered under any condition
General health panel including, but not limited to, a comprehensive metabolic panel, blood count complete and thyroid stimulating hormone.	Not covered under any condition
Home-delivered meals	Please refer to Home-delivered meals in the Medical Benefits Chart for more information.
Homemaker services include basic household help, including light housekeeping or light meal preparation	Not covered under any condition
Incontinence supplies including pads, pull-ups and gloves	Not covered under any condition
Naturopath services (uses natural or alternative treatments)	Not covered under any condition
Non-routine dental care	Dental care required to treat illness or injury may be covered as inpatient or outpatient care.
Obstetrical services	Not covered under any condition

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Orthopedic shoes or supportive devices for the feet	Shoes that are part of a leg brace and are included in the cost of the brace. Orthopedic or therapeutic shoes for people with diabetic foot disease.
Personal items in your room at a hospital or a skilled nursing facility, such as a telephone or a television	Not covered under any condition
Private room in a hospital	Covered only when medically necessary.
Reversal of sterilization procedures and/or non-prescription contraceptive supplies	Not covered under any condition
Routine chiropractic care	Manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation is covered.
Routine foot care	Some limited coverage provided according to Medicare guidelines (e.g., if you have diabetes).
Radial keratotomy, LASIK surgery and other low vision aids.	Not covered under any condition.
Services considered not reasonable and necessary, according to Original Medicare standards	Not covered under any condition

CHAPTER 5

Asking us to pay our share of a bill for covered medical services

SECTION 1 Situations when you should ask us to pay our share for covered services

Sometimes when you get medical care, you may need to pay the full cost. Other times, you may find you pay more than you expected under the coverage rules of our plan, or you may get a bill from a provider. In these cases, you can ask our plan to pay you back (reimburse you). It's your right to be paid back by our plan whenever you've paid more than your share of the cost for medical services covered by our plan. There may be deadlines that you must meet to get paid back. Go to Section 2 of this chapter.

There may also be times when you get a bill from a provider for the full cost of medical care you got or for more than your share of cost sharing as discussed in this material. First try to resolve the bill with the provider. If that doesn't work, send the bill to us instead of paying it. We'll look at the bill and decide whether the services should be covered. If we decide they should be covered, we'll pay the provider directly. If we decide not to pay it, we'll notify the provider. You should never pay more than plan-allowed cost-sharing. If this provider is contracted, you still have the right to treatment.

Examples of situations in which you may need to ask our plan to pay you back or to pay a bill you got:

1. When you've gotten emergency or urgently needed medical care from a provider who's not in our plan's network

Outside the service area, you can get emergency or urgently needed services from any provider, whether or not the provider is a part of our network. In these cases,

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost for emergency or urgently needed services. Emergency providers are legally required to provide emergency care.
- If you pay the entire amount yourself at the time you get the care, ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Send us the bill, along with documentation of any payments you made.
- You may get a bill from the provider asking for payment you think you don't owe. Send us this bill, along with documentation of any payments you already made.
 - If the provider is owed anything, we'll pay the provider directly.
 - If you already paid more than your share of the cost of the service, we'll determine how much you owed and pay you back for our share of the cost.

2. When a network provider sends you a bill you think you shouldn't pay

Network providers should always bill our plan directly and ask you only for your share of the cost. But sometimes they make mistakes and ask you to pay more than your share.

- You only have to pay your cost-sharing amount when you get covered services. We don't allow providers to add additional separate charges, called **balance billing**. This protection (that you never pay more than your cost-sharing amount) applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service and even if there's a dispute and we don't pay certain provider charges.
- Whenever you get a bill from a network provider you think is more than you should pay, send us the bill. We'll contact the provider directly and resolve the billing problem.
- If you already paid a bill to a network provider, but feel you paid too much, send us the bill along with documentation of any payment you made and ask us to pay you back the difference between the amount you paid and the amount you owed under our plan.

3. If you're retroactively enrolled in our plan

Sometimes a person's enrollment in our plan is retroactive. (This means that the first day of their enrollment has already passed. The enrollment date may even have occurred last year.)

If you were retroactively enrolled in our plan and you paid out-of-pocket for any covered services after your enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back for our share of the costs. You need to submit paperwork such as receipts and bills for us to handle the reimbursement.

When you send us a request for payment, we'll review your request and decide whether the service or drug should be covered. This is called making a **coverage decision**. If we decide it should be covered, we'll pay for our share of the cost for the service or drug. If we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. Chapter 7 has information about how to make an appeal.

SECTION 2 How to ask us to pay you back or pay a bill you got

You can ask us to pay you back by sending us a request in writing. If you send a request in writing, send your bill and documentation of any payment you've made. It's a good idea to make a copy of your bill and receipts for your records. **You must submit your claim to us within 12 months** of the date you got the service or item.

To make sure you're giving us all the information we need to make a decision, you can fill out our claim form to make your request for payment.

- You don't have to use the form, but it'll help us process the information faster. Please include details with your request such as your name, contact information, date and place of service, service received and Provider name.
- Download a copy of the form from our website (www.healthspring.com) or call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the form.

Mail your request for payment together with any bills or paid receipts to us at this address:

HealthSpring
Attn: Direct Member Reimbursement, Medical Claims
P.O. Box 20002
Nashville, TN 37202

SECTION 3 We'll consider your request for payment and say yes or no

When we get your request for payment, we'll let you know if we need any additional information from you. Otherwise, we'll consider your request and make a coverage decision.

- If we decide the medical care is covered and you followed all the rules, we'll pay for our share of the cost. If you already paid for the service, we'll mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. If you haven't paid for the service yet, we'll mail the payment directly to the provider.
- If we decide the medical care is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we won't pay for our share of the cost. We'll send you a letter explaining the reasons why we aren't sending the payment and your rights to appeal that decision.

Section 3.1 If we tell you that we won't pay for all or part of the medical care or drug, you can make an appeal
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If you think we made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or the amount we're paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you're asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment. The appeals process is a formal process with detailed procedures and important deadlines. For the details on how to make this appeal, go to Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 6

Your rights and responsibilities

SECTION 1 Our plan must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities

Section 1.1 We must provide information in a way that works for you and consistent with your cultural sensitivities (in languages other than English, braille, large print, or other alternate formats, etc.)
Debemos proporcionarle la información de manera que la entienda bien y que sea consistente con sus sensibilidades culturales (en idiomas que no sean inglés, braille, letra grande o en otros formatos alternativos, etc.)

Our plan is required to ensure that all services, both clinical and non-clinical, are provided in a culturally competent manner and are accessible to all enrollees, including those with limited English proficiency, limited reading skills, hearing incapacity, or those with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Examples of how our plan may meet these accessibility requirements include, but aren't limited to: provision of translator services, interpreter services, teletypewriters, or TTY (text telephone or teletypewriter phone) connection.

Our plan has free interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English speaking members. We can also give you materials in braille, in large print, or other alternate formats at no cost if you need it. We're required to give you information about our plan's benefits in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

Our plan is required to give female enrollees the option of direct access to a women's health specialist within the network for women's routine and preventive health care services.

If providers in our plan's network for a specialty aren't available, it's our plan's responsibility to locate specialty providers outside the network who will provide you with the necessary care. In this case, you'll only pay in-network cost sharing. If you find yourself in a situation where there are no specialists in our plan's network that cover a service you need, call our plan for information on where to go get this service at in-network cost sharing.

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you, seeing a women's health specialist or finding a network specialist, call to file a grievance with our Member Grievances department (phone numbers are printed in the Complaints About Medical Care contact information in Chapter 2, Section 1 of this document). You can also file a complaint with Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or directly with the Office for Civil Rights 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697.

Nuestro plan tiene la obligación de asegurarse de que todos los servicios, tanto clínicos como no clínicos, se proporcionen de manera culturalmente competente y sean accesibles a todos los afiliados, incluidos los que tienen dominio limitado del inglés, habilidades de lectura limitadas, discapacidad auditiva o personas con antecedentes culturales y étnicos diversos. Algunos ejemplos de cómo nuestro plan puede cumplir con estos requisitos de accesibilidad incluyen, entre otros, la provisión de servicios de traducción, servicios de interpretación, teletipos o conexión TTY (teléfono de texto o teletipo).

Nuestro plan cuenta con servicios de intérprete gratuitos disponibles para responder a las preguntas de los miembros que no hablan inglés. También podemos proporcionarle de manera gratuita materiales en braille, en letra grande o en otros formatos alternativos si lo necesita. Tenemos la obligación de brindarle información sobre los beneficios de nuestro plan en un formato que sea accesible y adecuado para usted. Para que le proporcionemos información de manera que la entienda bien, llame a Servicio al Cliente al 1-800-668-3813 (los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711).

Nuestro plan debe brindar a las mujeres inscritas la opción de acceder de forma directa a un especialista en salud femenina dentro de la red para los servicios de cuidado de la salud preventivo y de rutina.

Si dentro de la red de nuestro plan no hay disponibilidad de un proveedor para una especialidad, es responsabilidad de nuestro plan buscar un proveedor de dicha especialidad fuera de la red que le brinde la atención médica que necesita. En este caso, usted solo paga los costos compartidos dentro de la red. Si se encuentra en una situación en la que no hay un especialista dentro

de la red de nuestro plan que cubra un servicio que necesita, llame a nuestro plan para pedir información sobre dónde debe ir para obtener dicho servicio dentro de la red, con costos compartidos.

Si tiene algún problema para recibir la información de nuestro plan en un formato que sea accesible y adecuado para usted, para ver a un especialista en la salud de la mujer o para encontrar un especialista de la red, llame para iniciar un procedimiento de queja formal a través de nuestro Departamento de Quejas de los Miembros (los números de teléfono están impresos en la información de contacto de Quejas respecto de la Atención Médica en la Sección 1 del Capítulo 2 de este documento). También puede presentar una queja ante Medicare llamando al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) o directamente a la Oficina de Derechos Civiles al 1-800-368-1019 o TTY 1-800-537-7697.

Section 1.2 We must ensure you get timely access to covered services

You have the right to choose a primary care provider (PCP) in our plan's network to provide and arrange for your covered services. We don't require you to get referrals to go to network providers.

You also have the right to get non-emergency care after your PCP's office is closed. If you need to talk with your PCP or get medical care when the PCP office is closed, and it's *not* a medical emergency, call your PCP. There is always a doctor on call to help you. The Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) provides a relay service for deaf, hard-of-hearing and/or persons with speech and language disorders by dialing 711. The TRS will assist you in contacting your PCP.

You have the right to get appointments and covered services from our plan's network of providers *within a reasonable amount of time*. This includes the right to get timely services from specialists when you need that care.

If you think you aren't getting your medical care within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7 tells what you can do.

HealthSpring's Evaluation of New Technologies

We take pride in giving our customers the best medical and pharmacy benefits available. Our Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee and our Clinical Guidelines Committee carefully review new medications, medical and behavioral procedures, and devices as potential benefit additions for our customers. The Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee is made up of practicing physicians, pharmacists, and our Medical Directors. Together, these professionals review new medications while evaluating available clinical guidelines, evidence-based medicine, and pharmacoeconomic studies. The Clinical Guidelines Committee is made up of our Medical Directors, pharmacists and behavioral health specialists. This committee evaluates medical and behavioral technologies by reviewing pertinent data including evidence-based guidelines, safety data, appropriate CMS and other regulatory information, and expert specialist input. Based on these reviews, the committees then vote on which medications, medical and behavioral procedures, and devices to offer that are deemed efficacious and efficient and will provide the greatest benefit for our customers.

Section 1.3 We must protect the privacy of your personal health information

Federal and state laws protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information. We protect your personal health information as required by these laws.

- Your personal health information includes the personal information you gave us when you enrolled in this plan as well as your medical records and other medical and health information.
- You have rights related to your information and controlling how your health information is used. We give you a written notice, called a *Notice of Privacy Practice*, that tells about these rights and explains how we protect the privacy of your health information.

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records.
- Except for the circumstances noted below, if we intend to give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care, *we are required to get written permission from you or someone you've given legal power to make decisions for you first*.
- There are certain exceptions that don't require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.
 - We're required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care.

- Because you're a member of our plan through Medicare, we're required to give Medicare your health information. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to federal statutes and regulations; typically, this requires that information that uniquely identifies you not be shared.

You can see the information in your records and know how it's been shared with others

You have the right to look at your medical records held at our plan, and to get a copy of your records. We're allowed to charge you a fee for making copies. You also have the right to ask us to make additions or corrections to your medical records. If you ask us to do this, we'll work with your health care provider to decide whether the changes should be made.

You have the right to know how your health information has been shared with others for any purposes that aren't routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

Section 1.4 We must give you information about our plan, our network of providers, and your covered services

As a member of our plan, you have the right to get several kinds of information from us.

If you want any of the following kinds of information, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about our plan's financial condition.
- **Information about our network providers.**
 - You have the right to get information about the qualifications of the providers in our network and how we pay the providers in our network.
 - To learn more about HealthSpring's providers (name, address, professional qualifications, specialty, medical school attended, residency completion and board certification status) please see our *Provider and Pharmacy Directory*. The most up-to-date version of our *Provider and Pharmacy Directory* is available on our website at www.healthspring.com/medicare/member-resources/provider-pharmacy-directories.
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage.**
 - Chapters 3 and 4 provide information regarding medical services.
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it.**
 - Chapter 7 provides information on asking for a written explanation on why a medical service isn't covered or if your coverage is restricted. Chapter 7 also provides information on asking us to change a decision, also called an appeal.
 - Staff are available to answer utilization management (UM) questions about services or medications that require prior approval or authorization. Staff will identify themselves by name, title and as a HealthSpring employee when answering or returning calls regarding UM issues. You may leave a message after normal business hours and HealthSpring will return your call. Call 1-800-558-4314 (TDD/TTY) 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday or FAX 1-866-730-1896. Language assistance is available.

Section 1.5 You have the right to know your treatment options and participate in decisions about your care

You have the right to get full information from your doctors and other health care providers. Your providers must explain your medical condition and your treatment choices *in a way that you can understand*.

You also have the right to participate fully in decisions about your health care. To help you make decisions with your doctors about what treatment is best for you, your rights include the following:

- **To know about all your choices.** You have the right to be told about all treatment options recommended for your condition, no matter what they cost or whether they're covered by our plan.
- **To know about the risks.** You have the right to be told about any risks involved in your care. You must be told in advance if any proposed medical care or treatment is part of a research experiment. You always have the choice to refuse any experimental treatments.
- **The right to say "no."** You have the right to refuse any recommended treatment. This includes the right to leave a hospital or other medical facility, even if your doctor advises you not to leave. If you refuse treatment, you accept full responsibility for what happens to your body as a result.

You have the right to give instructions about what's to be done if you can't make medical decisions for yourself

Sometimes people become unable to make health care decisions for themselves due to accidents or serious illness. You have the right to say what you want to happen if you're in this situation. This means, *if you want to*, you can:

- Fill out a written form to give **someone the legal authority to make medical decisions for you** if you ever become unable to make decisions for yourself.
- **Give your doctors written instructions** about how you want them to handle your medical care if you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

Legal documents you can use to give directions in advance in these situations are called **advance directives**. Documents like a **living will** and **power of attorney for health care** are examples of advance directives.

How to set up an advance directive to give instructions:

- **Get a form.** You can get an advance directive form from your lawyer, a social worker, or some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare.
- **Fill out the form and sign it.** No matter where you get this form, it's a legal document. Consider having a lawyer help you prepare it.
- **Give copies of the form to the right people.** Give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form who can make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members. Keep a copy at home.

If you know ahead of time that you're going to be hospitalized, and you signed an advance directive, **take a copy with you to the hospital.**

- The hospital will ask whether you signed an advance directive form and whether you have it with you.
- If you didn't sign an advance directive form, the hospital has forms available and will ask if you want to sign one.

Filling out an advance directive is your choice (including whether you want to sign one if you're in the hospital). According to law, no one can deny you care or discriminate against you based on whether or not you signed an advance directive.

If your instructions aren't followed

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital didn't follow the instructions in it, you can file a complaint with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Section 1.6	You have the right to make complaints and ask us to reconsider decisions we made
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If you have any problems, concerns, or complaints and need to ask for coverage, or make an appeal, Chapter 7 of this document tells what you can do. Whatever you do — ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint — **we're required to treat you fairly.**

Section 1.7	If you believe you're being treated unfairly, or your rights aren't being respected
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If you believe you've been treated unfairly or your rights haven't been respected due to your race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, or national origin, call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 (TTY users call 1-800-537-7697), or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

If you believe you've been treated unfairly or your rights haven't been respected, *and it's not* about discrimination, you can get help dealing with the problem you're having:

- **Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711)**
- **Call your local SHIP at 1-803-734-9900 or 1-800-868-9095**
- **Call Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048).

Section 1.8	How to get more information about your rights
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Get more information about your rights from these places:

- **Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711)**

- **Call your local SHIP at 1-803-734-9900 or 1-800-868-9095**
- **Contact Medicare.**
 - Visit [www.Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov/publications/11534-medicare-rights-and-protections.pdf) to read the publication *Medicare Rights & Protections*. (available at: <https://www.Medicare.gov/publications/11534-medicare-rights-and-protections.pdf>)
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY user call 1-877-486-2048).

You have the right to make recommendations regarding HealthSpring's member rights and responsibilities policy.

SECTION 2 Your responsibilities as a member of our plan

Things you need to do as a member of our plan are listed below. If you have any questions, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

- **Get familiar with your covered services and the rules you must follow to get these covered services.** Use this *Evidence of Coverage* document to learn what's covered for you and the rules you need to follow to get covered services.
 - Chapters 3 and 4 give details about medical services.
- **If you have any other health coverage in addition to our plan, or separate prescription drug coverage, you're required to tell us.** Chapter 1 tells you about coordinating these benefits.
- **Tell your doctor and other health care providers that you're enrolled in our plan.** Show our plan membership card whenever you get medical care.
- **Help your doctors and other providers help you by giving them information, asking questions, and following through on your care.**
 - To help get the best care, tell your doctors and other health providers about your health problems. Follow the treatment plans and instructions you and your doctors agree on.
 - Make sure your doctors know all the drugs you're taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements.
 - If you have questions, be sure to ask and get an answer you can understand.
- **Be considerate.** We expect our members to respect the rights of other patients. We also expect you to act in a way that helps the smooth running of your doctor's office, hospitals, and other offices.
- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you're responsible for these payments:
 - You must continue to pay a premium for your Medicare Part B to stay a member of our plan.
 - For some of your medical services covered by our plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the service.
- **If you move *within* our plan service area, we need to know** so we can keep your membership record up to date and know how to contact you.
- **If you move *outside* our plan service area, you can't stay a member of our plan.**
- **If you move, tell Social Security (or the Railroad Retirement Board).**

CHAPTER 7

If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

SECTION 1 What to do if you have a problem or concern

This chapter explains 2 types of processes for handling problems and concerns:

- For some problems, you need to use the **process for coverage decisions and appeals**.
- For other problems, you need to use the **process for making complaints** (also called grievances).

Both processes have been approved by Medicare. Each process has a set of rules, procedures, and deadlines that must be followed by us and by you.

The information in this chapter will help you identify the right process to use and what to do.

Section 1.1 Legal terms

There are legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this chapter. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people. To make things easier, this chapter uses more familiar words in place of some legal terms.

However, it's sometimes important to know the correct legal terms. To help you know which terms to use to get the right help or information, we include these legal terms when we give details for handling specific situations.

SECTION 2 Where to get more information and personalized help

We're always available to help you. Even if you have a complaint about our treatment of you, we're obligated to honor your right to complain. You should always call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) for help. In some situations, you may also want help or guidance from someone who isn't connected with us. Two organizations that can help you are:

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Each state has a government program with trained counselors. The program isn't connected with us or with any insurance company or health plan. The counselors at this program can help you understand which process you should use to handle a problem you're having. They can also answer questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

The services of SHIP counselors are free. SHIP contact information is available in Chapter 2, Section 3.

Medicare

You can also contact Medicare to get help. To contact Medicare:

- You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Visit www.medicare.gov

SECTION 3 Which process to use for your problem

Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?

This includes problems about whether medical care (medical items, services and/or Part B drugs) are covered or not, the way they're covered, and problems related to payment for medical care.

Yes.

Go to **Section 4, A guide to coverage decisions and appeals**.

No.

Go to **Section 9, How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns**.

COVERAGE DECISIONS AND APPEALS

SECTION 4 A guide to coverage decisions and appeals

Coverage decisions and appeals deal with problems about your benefits and coverage for your medical care (services, items, and Part B drugs, including payment). To keep things simple, we generally refer to medical items, services, and Medicare Part B drugs as **medical care**. You use the coverage decision and appeals process for issues such as whether something is covered or not and the way in which something is covered.

Asking for coverage decisions before you get services

If you want to know if we'll cover medical care before you get it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you. A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we'll pay for your medical care. For example, if our plan network doctor refers you to a medical specialist not inside the network, this referral is considered a favorable coverage decision unless either you or your network doctor can show that you got a standard denial notice for this medical specialist, or the *Evidence of Coverage* makes it clear that the referred service is never covered under any condition. You or your doctor can also contact us and ask for a coverage decision if your doctor is unsure whether we'll cover a particular medical service or refuses to provide medical care you think you need.

In limited circumstances a request for a coverage decision will be dismissed, which means we won't review the request. Examples of when a request will be dismissed include if the request is incomplete, if someone makes the request on your behalf but isn't legally authorized to do so, or if you ask for your request to be withdrawn. If we dismiss a request for a coverage decision, we'll send a notice explaining why the request was dismissed and how to ask for a review of the dismissal.

We make a coverage decision whenever we decide what's covered for you and how much we pay. In some cases, we might decide medical care isn't covered or is no longer covered for you. If you disagree with this coverage decision, you can make an appeal.

Making an appeal

If we make a coverage decision, whether before or after you get a benefit, and you aren't satisfied, you can **appeal** the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we made. Under certain circumstances, you can ask for an expedited or **fast appeal** of a coverage decision. Your appeal is handled by different reviewers than those who made the original decision.

When you appeal a decision for the first time, this is called a Level 1 appeal. In this appeal, we review the coverage decision we made to check to see if we properly were following the rules. When we have completed the review, we give you our decision.

In limited circumstances a request for a Level 1 appeal will be dismissed, which means we won't review the request. Examples of when a request will be dismissed include if the request is incomplete, if someone makes the request on your behalf but isn't legally authorized to do so, or if you ask for your request to be withdrawn. If we dismiss a request for a Level 1 appeal, we'll send a notice explaining why the request was dismissed and how to ask for a review of the dismissal.

If we say no to all or part of your Level 1 appeal for medical care, your appeal will automatically go on to a Level 2 appeal conducted by an independent review organization not connected to us.

- You don't need to do anything to start a Level 2 appeal. Medicare rules require we automatically send your appeal for medical care to Level 2 if we don't fully agree with your Level 1 appeal.
- Go to **Section 5.4** for more information about Level 2 appeals for medical care.

If you aren't satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal (this chapter explains the Level 3, 4 and 5 appeals processes).

Section 4.1 Get help asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal

Here are resources if you decide to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision:

- **Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).**
- **Get free help from** your State Health Insurance Program.
- **Your doctor can make a request for you.** If your doctor helps with an appeal past Level 2, they will need to be appointed as your representative. Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the *Appointment of*

Representative form. (The form is also available at www.CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf).

- For medical care or Part B drugs, your doctor can ask for a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your appeal is denied at Level 1, it will be automatically forwarded to Level 2.
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** You can name another person to act for you as your *representative* to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal.
 - If you want a friend, relative, or another person to be your representative, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the *Appointment of Representative* form. (The form is also available at www.CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf). The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person you want to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form.
 - We can accept an appeal request from a representative without the form, but we can't complete our review until we get it. If we don't get the form before our deadline for making a decision on your appeal, your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we'll send you a written notice explaining your right to ask the independent review organization to review our decision to dismiss your appeal.
- **You also have the right to hire a lawyer.** You can contact your own lawyer or get the name of a lawyer from your local bar association or other referral service. There are also groups that will give you free legal services if you qualify. However, **you aren't required to hire a lawyer** to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision.

Section 4.2 Rules and deadlines for different situations

There are 3 different situations that involve coverage decisions and appeals. Each situation has different rules and deadlines. We give the details for each of these situations:

- **Section 5:** Medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal
- **Section 6:** How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think you're being discharged too soon
- **Section 7:** How to ask us to keep covering certain medical services if you think your coverage is ending too soon (*Applies to only these services:* home health care, skilled nursing facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services)

If you're not sure which information applies to you, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). You can also get help or information your SHIP.

SECTION 5 Medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal

Section 5.1 What to do if you have problems getting coverage for medical care or want us to pay you back for our share of the cost of your care

Your benefits for medical care are described in Chapter 4 in the Medical Benefits Chart. In some cases, different rules apply to a request for a Part B drug. In those cases, we'll explain how the rules for Part B drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells what you can do if you're in any of the 5 following situations:

1. You aren't getting certain medical care you want, and you believe this is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision, Section 5.2.**
2. Our plan won't approve the medical care your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe this care is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision, Section 5.2.**
3. You got medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, but we said we won't pay for this care. **Make an Appeal, Section 5.3.**
4. You got and paid for medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, and you want to ask our plan to reimburse you for this care. **Send us the bill, Section 5.5.**

Chapter 7. If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

5. You're being told that coverage for certain medical care you've been getting that we previously approved will be reduced or stopped, and you believe that reducing or stopping this care could harm your health. **Make an Appeal, Section 5.3.**

- **Note: If the coverage that will be stopped is for hospital care, home health care, skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services, go to Sections 6 and 7. Special rules apply to these types of care.**

Section 5.2 How to ask for a coverage decision**Legal Terms**

A coverage decision that involves your medical care is called an **organization determination**.

A fast coverage decision is called an **expedited determination**.

Step 1: Decide if you need a standard coverage decision or a fast coverage decision.

A standard coverage decision is usually made within 7 calendar days when the medical item or service is subject to our prior authorization rules, 14 calendar days for all other medical items and services, or 72 hours for Part B drugs. A fast coverage decision is generally made within 72 hours, for medical services, or 24 hours for Part B drugs. To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet 2 requirements:

- You may *only* ask for coverage for medical care items and/or services (not requests for payment for items and/or services you already got).
- You can get a fast coverage decision *only* if using the standard deadlines could *cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to regain function*.
- **If your doctor tells us that your health requires a fast coverage decision, we'll automatically agree to give you a fast coverage decision.**
- **If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own, without your doctor's support, we'll decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision.** If we don't approve a fast coverage decision, we'll send you a letter that:
 - Explains that we'll use the standard deadlines.
 - Explains if your doctor asks for the fast coverage decision, we'll automatically give you a fast coverage decision
 - Explains that you can file a *fast complaint* about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you asked for.

Step 2: Ask our plan to make a coverage decision or fast coverage decision

- Start by calling, writing, or faxing our plan to make your request for us to authorize or provide coverage for the medical care you want. You, your doctor or your representative can do this. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Step 3: We consider your request for medical care coverage and give you our answer.

For standard coverage decisions, we use the standard deadlines.

This means we'll give you an answer within 7 calendar days after we get your request for a medical item or service that is subject to our prior authorization rules. If your requested medical item or service is not subject to our prior authorization rules, we'll give you an answer within 14 calendar days after we get your request. If your request is for a Part B drug, we'll give you an answer within 72 hours after we get your request.

- **However**, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.
- If you believe we *shouldn't* take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. We'll give you an answer to your complaint as soon as we make the decision. (The process for making a complaint is different from the process for coverage decisions and appeals. Go to Section 9 for information on complaints.).

For fast coverage decisions, we use an expedited timeframe.

A fast coverage decision means we'll answer within 72 hours if your request is for a medical item or service. If your request is for a Part B drug, we'll answer within 24 hours.

- **However**, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days**. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.
- If you believe we *shouldn't* take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. (Go to Section 9 of this chapter for information on complaints.) We'll call you as soon as we make the decision.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no.

Step 4: If we say no to your request for coverage for medical care, you can appeal.

- If we say no, you have the right to ask us to reconsider this decision by making an appeal. This means asking again to get the medical care coverage you want. If you make an appeal, it means you're going on to Level 1 of the appeals process.

Section 5.3 How to make a Level 1 Appeal

Legal Terms

An appeal to our plan about a medical care coverage decision is called a plan **reconsideration**.

A *fast appeal* is also called an **expedited reconsideration**.

Step 1: Decide if you need a standard appeal or a fast appeal.

A standard appeal is usually made within 30 calendar days or 7 calendar days for Part B drugs. A fast appeal is generally made within 72 hours.

- If you're appealing a decision we made about coverage for care, you and/or your doctor need to decide if you need a *fast appeal*. If your doctor tells us that your health requires a *fast appeal*, we'll give you a fast appeal.
- The requirements for getting a *fast appeal* are the same as those for getting a *fast coverage decision* in Section 5.2 of this chapter.

Step 2: Ask our plan for an Appeal or a Fast Appeal.

- **If you're asking for a standard appeal, submit your standard appeal in writing.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **If you're asking for a fast appeal, make your appeal in writing or call us.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **You must make your appeal request within 65 calendar days** from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for asking for an appeal.
- **You can ask for a copy of the information regarding your medical decision. You and your doctor may add more information to support your appeal.** We're allowed to charge a fee for copying and sending this information to you.

Step 3: We consider your appeal, and we give you our answer.

- When our plan is reviewing your appeal, we take a careful look at all the information. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request.
- We'll gather more information if needed and may contact you or your doctor.

Deadlines for a fast appeal

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours after we get your appeal**. We'll give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time if your request is for a Part B drug.

Chapter 7. If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

- If we don't give you an answer within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we're required to automatically send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must authorize or provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we get your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you our decision in writing and automatically forward your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it gets your appeal.

Deadlines for a standard appeal

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer **within 30 calendar days** after we get your appeal. If your request is for a Part B drug you didn't get yet, we'll give you our answer **within 7 calendar days** after we get your appeal. We'll give you our decision sooner if your health condition requires us to.
 - However, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.
 - If you believe we *shouldn't* take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. When you file a *fast complaint*, we'll give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (Go to Section 9 for information on complaints.)
 - If we don't give you an answer by the deadline (or by the end of the extended time period), we'll send your request to a Level 2 appeal, where an independent review organization will review the appeal. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must authorize or provide the coverage within **30 calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service, or **within 7 calendar days** if your request is for a Part B drug.
- **If our plan says no to part or all of your appeal**, we'll automatically send your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal.

Section 5.4 The Level 2 appeal process**Legal Term**

The formal name for the *independent review organization* is the **Independent Review Entity**. It's sometimes called the **IRE**.

The **independent review organization** is an **independent organization hired by Medicare**. It isn't connected with us and isn't a government agency. This organization decides whether the decision we made is correct or if it should be changed. Medicare oversees its work.

Step 1: The independent review organization reviews your appeal.

- We'll send the information about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your **case file**. **You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file**. We're allowed to charge you a fee for copying and sending this information to you.
- You have a right to give the independent review organization additional information to support your appeal.
- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

If you had a fast appeal at Level 1, you'll also have a fast appeal at Level 2

- For the *fast appeal*, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 72 hours** of when it gets your appeal.
- If your request is for a medical item or service and the independent review organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, **it can take up to 14 more calendar days**. The independent review organization can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.

If you had a standard appeal at Level 1, you'll also have a standard appeal at Level 2.

- For the *standard appeal*, if your request is for a medical item or service, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 30 calendar days** of when it gets your appeal. If your request is for a Part B drug, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 7 calendar days** of when it gets your appeal.
- If your request is for a medical item or service and the independent review organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, **it can take up to 14 more calendar days**. The independent review organization can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.

Step 2: The independent review organization gives you its answer.

The independent review organization will tell you its decision in writing and explain the reasons for it.

- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of a request for a medical item or service**, we must authorize the medical care coverage within 72 hours or provide the service within 14 calendar days after we get the decision from the independent review organization for **standard requests**. For **expedited requests**, we have 72 hours from the date we get the decision from the independent review organization.
- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of a request for a Part B drug**, we must authorize or provide the Part B drug within **72 hours** after we get the decision from the independent review organization for **standard requests**. For **expedited requests**, we have **24 hours** from the date we get the decision from the independent review organization.
- **If this organization says no to part or all of your appeal**, it means they agree with us that your request (or part of your request) for coverage for medical care shouldn't be approved. (This is called **upholding the decision or turning down your appeal**.) In this case, the independent review organization will send you a letter that:
 - Explains its decision.
 - Lets you know about your right to a Level 3 appeal if the dollar value of the medical care coverage meets a certain minimum. The written notice you get from the independent review organization will tell you the dollar amount you must meet to continue the appeals process.
 - Tells you how to file a Level 3 appeal.

Step 3: If your case meets the requirements, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are 3 additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go to a Level 3 appeal the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes.

Section 5.5 If you're asking us to pay for our share of a bill you got for medical care

Chapter 5 describes when you may need to ask for reimbursement or to pay a bill you got from a provider. It also tells how to send us the paperwork that asks us for payment.

Asking for reimbursement is asking for a coverage decision from us

If you send us the paperwork asking for reimbursement, you're asking for a coverage decision. To make this decision, we'll check to see if the medical care you paid for is covered. We'll also check to see if you followed the rules for using your coverage for medical care.

- **If we say yes to your request:** If the medical care is covered and you followed the rules, we'll send you the payment for the cost typically within 30 calendar days, but no later than 60 calendar days after we get your request. If you haven't paid for the medical care, we'll send the payment directly to the provider.
- **If we say no to your request:** If the medical care isn't covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we won't send payment. Instead, we'll send you a letter that says we won't pay for the medical care and the reasons why.

If you don't agree with our decision to turn you down, **you can make an appeal**. If you make an appeal, it means you're asking us to change the coverage decision we made when we turned down your request for payment

Chapter 7. If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

To make this appeal, follow the process for appeals in Section 5.3. For appeals concerning reimbursement, note:

- We must give you our answer within 60 calendar days after we get your appeal. If you're asking us to pay you back for medical care you already got and paid for, you aren't allowed to ask for a *fast appeal*.
- If the independent review organization decides we should pay, we must send you or the provider the payment within 30 calendar days. If the answer to your appeal is yes at any stage of the appeals process after Level 2, we must send the payment you asked for to you or the provider within 60 calendar days.

SECTION 6 How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think you're being discharged too soon

When you're admitted to a hospital, you have the right to get all covered hospital services necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury.

During your covered hospital stay, your doctor and the hospital staff will work with you to prepare for the day you leave the hospital. They'll help arrange for care you may need after you leave.

- The day you leave the hospital is called your **discharge date**.
- When your discharge date is decided, your doctor or the hospital staff will tell you.
- If you think you're being asked to leave the hospital too soon, you can ask for a longer hospital stay, and your request will be considered.

Section 6.1 During your inpatient hospital stay, you'll get a written notice from Medicare that tells you about your rights

Within 2 calendar days of being admitted to the hospital, you'll be given a written notice called *An Important Message from Medicare about Your Rights*. Everyone with Medicare gets a copy of this notice. If you don't get the notice from someone at the hospital (for example, a caseworker or nurse), ask any hospital employee for it. If you need help, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048).

1. Read this notice carefully and ask questions if you don't understand it. It tells you about:

- Your right to get Medicare-covered services during and after your hospital stay, as ordered by your doctor. This includes the right to know what these services are, who will pay for them, and where you can get them.
- Your right to be involved in any decisions about your hospital stay.
- Where to report any concerns you have about quality of your hospital care.
- Your right to **request an immediate review** of the decision to discharge you if you think you're being discharged from the hospital too soon. This is a formal, legal way to ask for a delay in your discharge date so we'll cover your hospital care for a longer time.

2. You'll be asked to sign the written notice to show that you got it and understand your rights.

- You or someone who is acting on your behalf will be asked to sign the notice.
- Signing the notice shows *only* that you got the information about your rights. The notice doesn't give your discharge date. Signing the notice **doesn't mean** you're agreeing on a discharge date.

3. Keep your copy of the notice so you have the information about making an appeal (or reporting a concern about quality of care) if you need it.

- If you sign the notice more than 2 calendar days before your discharge date, you'll get another copy before you're scheduled to be discharged.
- To look at a copy of this notice in advance, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can also get the notice online at www.CMS.gov/Medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im

Section 6.2 How to make a Level 1 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

To ask us to cover your inpatient hospital services for a longer time, use the appeals process to make this request. Before you start, understand what you need to do and what the deadlines are.

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have questions or need help, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for personalized help. SHIP contact information is available in Chapter 2, Section 3.

During a Level 1 Appeal, the Quality Improvement Organization reviews your appeal. It checks to see if your planned discharge date is medically appropriate for you.

- **The Quality Improvement Organization** is a group of doctors and other health care professionals paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. This includes reviewing hospital discharge dates for people with Medicare. These experts aren't part of our plan.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization for your state and ask for an immediate review of your hospital discharge. You must act quickly.

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you got (*An Important Message from Medicare About Your Rights*) tells you how to reach this organization. (Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in Chapter 2.)

Act quickly:

- To make your appeal, you must contact the Quality Improvement Organization *before* you leave the hospital and **no later than midnight the day of your discharge**.
 - If you meet this deadline, you can stay in the hospital *after* your discharge date *without paying for it* while you wait to get the decision from the Quality Improvement Organization.
 - **If you don't meet this deadline**, contact us. If you decide to stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, *you may have to pay all the costs* for hospital care you get after your planned discharge date.
- Once you ask for an immediate review of your hospital discharge the Quality Improvement Organization will contact us. By noon of the day after we're contacted, we'll give you a **Detailed Notice of Discharge**. This notice gives your planned discharge date and explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it's right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.
- You can get a sample of the **Detailed Notice of Discharge** by calling Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.) Or you can get a sample notice online at www.CMS.gov/Medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization conducts an independent review of your case.

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the *reviewers*) will ask you (or your representative) why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you can if you want.
- The reviewers will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that we and the hospital gave them.
- By noon of the day after the reviewers told us of your appeal, you'll get a written notice from us that gives your planned discharge date. This notice also explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it's right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.

Step 3: Within one full day after it has all the needed information, the Quality Improvement Organization will give you its answer to your appeal.

What happens if the answer is yes?

- If the independent review organization says yes, **we must keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as these services are medically necessary.**
- You'll have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as deductibles or copayments if these apply). In addition, there may be limitations on your covered hospital services.

Chapter 7. If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)***What happens if the answer is no?***

- If the independent review organization says *no*, they're saying that your planned discharge date is medically appropriate. If this happens, **our coverage for your inpatient hospital services will end** at noon on the day *after* the Quality Improvement Organization gives you its answer to your appeal.
- If the independent review organization says *no* to your appeal and you decide to stay in the hospital, **you may have to pay the full cost** of hospital care you get after noon on the day after the Quality Improvement Organization gives you its answer to your appeal.

Step 4: If the answer to your Level 1 appeal is no, you decide if you want to make another appeal.

- If the Quality Improvement Organization said no to your appeal, *and* you stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, you can make another appeal. Making another appeal means you're going on to *Level 2* of the appeals process.

Section 6.3 How to make a Level 2 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

During a Level 2 appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at its decision on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your stay after your planned discharge date.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review

- You must ask for this review **within 60 calendar days** after the day the Quality Improvement Organization said *no* to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you stay in the hospital after the date your coverage for the care ended.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization does a second review of your situation

- Reviewers at the Quality Improvement Organization will take another careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your request for a Level 2 appeal, the reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you its decision.***If the independent review organization says yes:***

- **We must reimburse you** for our share of the costs of hospital care you got since noon on the day after the date your first appeal was turned down by the Quality Improvement Organization. **We must continue providing coverage for your inpatient hospital care for as long as it's medically necessary.**
- You must continue to pay your share of the costs and coverage limitations may apply.

If the independent review organization says no:

- It means they agree with the decision they made on your Level 1 appeal. This is called *upholding the decision*.
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you want to continue with the review process.

Step 4: If the answer is no, you need to decide whether you want to take your appeal further by going to Level 3

- There are 3 additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go to a Level 3 appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal decision.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

SECTION 7 How to ask us to keep covering certain medical services if you think your coverage is ending too soon

When you're getting covered **home health services, skilled nursing care, or rehabilitation care (Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility)**, you have the right to keep getting your services for that type of care for as long as the care is needed to diagnose and treat your illness or injury.

When we decide it's time to stop covering any of these 3 types of care for you, we're required to tell you in advance. When your coverage for that care ends, *we'll stop paying our share of the cost for your care*.

If you think we're ending the coverage of your care too soon, you can appeal our decision. This section tells you how to ask for an appeal.

Section 7.1 We'll tell you in advance when your coverage will be ending

Legal Term

Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage. It tells you how you can ask for a **fast-track appeal**. Asking for a fast-track appeal is a formal, legal way to ask for a change to our coverage decision about when to stop your care.

1. **You get a notice in writing** at least 2 calendar days before our plan is going to stop covering your care. The notice tells you:
 - The date when we'll stop covering the care for you.
 - How to request a *fast-track appeal* to ask us to keep covering your care for a longer period of time.
2. **You, or someone who is acting on your behalf, will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you got it.**
 - Signing the notice shows *only* that you got the information about when your coverage will stop. **Signing it doesn't mean you agree** with our plan's decision to stop care.

Section 7.2 How to make a Level 1 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time

If you want to ask us to cover your care for a longer period of time, you'll need to use the appeals process to make this request. Before you start, understand what you need to do and what the deadlines are.

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have questions or need help, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for personalized help. SHIP contact information is available in Chapter 2, Section 3.

During a Level 1 Appeal, the Quality Improvement Organization reviews your appeal. It decides if the end date for your care is medically appropriate.

- **The Quality Improvement Organization** is a group of doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. This includes reviewing plan decisions about when it's time to stop covering certain kinds of medical care. These experts aren't part of our plan.

Step 1: Make your Level 1 Appeal: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization and ask for a fast-track appeal. You must act quickly.

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you got (*Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage*) tells you how to reach this organization. Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in Chapter 2.

Act quickly.

- You must contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your appeal **by noon of the day before the effective date** on the *Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage*.
- If you miss the deadline, and you want to file an appeal, you still have appeal rights. Contact your Quality Improvement Organization.

If you miss the deadline, and you want to file an appeal, you still have appeal rights. Contact the Quality Improvement Organization using the contact information on the Notice of Medicare Non-coverage. The name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state may also be found in Chapter 2.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization conducts an independent review of your case.

Legal Term

Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage. Notice that gives details on reasons for ending coverage.

What happens during this review?

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the *reviewers*) will ask you, or your representative, why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you can if you want.

Chapter 7. If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

- The independent review organization will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information our plan gives them.
- By the end of the day the reviewers tell us of your appeal, you'll get the *Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage* from us that explains in detail our reasons for ending our coverage for your services.

Step 3: Within one full day after they have all the information they need; the reviewers will tell you its decision.

What happens if the reviewers say yes?

- If the reviewers say yes to your appeal, then **we must keep providing your covered services for as long as it's medically necessary.**
- You'll have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as deductibles or copayments, if these apply). There may be limitations on your covered services.

What happens if the reviewers say no?

- If the reviewers say *no*, then **your coverage will end on the date we told you.**
- If you decide to keep getting the home health care, or skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* this date when your coverage ends, **you'll have to pay the full cost** of this care yourself.

Step 4: If the answer to your Level 1 appeal is no, you decide if you want to make another appeal.

- If reviewers say *no* to your Level 1 appeal — and you choose to continue getting care after your coverage for the care has ended — then you can make a Level 2 appeal.

Section 7.3	How to make a Level 2 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time
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During a Level 2 appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at the decision on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your home health care, or skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* the date when we said your coverage would end.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review.

- You must ask for this review **within 60 calendar days** after the day when the Quality Improvement Organization said *no* to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you continued getting care after the date your coverage for the care ended.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization does a second review of your situation.

- Reviewers at the Quality Improvement Organization will take another careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your appeal request, reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you its decision.

What happens if the independent review organization says yes?

- **We must reimburse you** for our share of the costs of care you got since the date when we said your coverage would end. **We must continue providing coverage** for the care for as long as it's medically necessary.
- You must continue to pay your share of the costs and there may be coverage limitations that apply.

What happens if the independent review organization says no?

- It means they agree with the decision we made to your Level 1 appeal.
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you want to continue with the review process. It will give you details about how to go to the next level of appeal, which is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator.

Step 4: If the answer is no, you need to decide whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are 3 additional levels of appeal after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go on to a Level 3 appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal decision.

- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

SECTION 8 Taking your appeal to Levels 3, 4, and 5

Section 8.1 Appeal Levels 3, 4 and 5 for Medical Service Requests

This section may be right for you if you made a Level 1 appeal and a Level 2 appeal, and both of your appeals were turned down. If the dollar value of the item or medical service you appealed meets certain minimum levels, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar value is less than the minimum level, you can't appeal any further. The written response you get to your Level 2 appeal will explain how to make a Level 3 appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last 3 levels of appeal work in much the same way as the first 2 levels. Here's who handles the review of your appeal at each of these levels.

Level 3 appeal An Administrative Law Judge or an attorney adjudicator who works for the federal government will review your appeal and give you an answer.

- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator says yes to your appeal, the appeals process *may* or *may not* be over.** Unlike a decision at a Level 2 appeal, we have the right to appeal a Level 3 decision that's favorable to you. If we decide to appeal, it will go to a Level 4 appeal.
 - If we decide *not* to appeal, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after we get the Administrative Law Judge's or attorney adjudicator's decision.
 - If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll send you a copy of the Level 4 appeal request with any accompanying documents. We may wait for the Level 4 appeal decision before authorizing or providing the medical care in dispute.
- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator says no to your appeal, the appeals process *may* or *may not* be over.**
 - If you decide to accept the decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
 - If you don't want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. The notice you get will tell you what to do for a Level 4 appeal.

Level 4 appeal The **Medicare Appeals Council** (Council) will review your appeal and give you an answer. The Council is part of the federal government.

- **If the answer is yes, or if the Council denies our request to review a favorable Level 3 appeal decision, the appeals process *may* or *may not* be over.** Unlike a decision at Level 2, we have the right to appeal a Level 4 decision that is favorable to you. We'll decide whether to appeal this decision to Level 5.
 - If we decide *not* to appeal the decision, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after getting the Council's decision.
 - If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll let you know in writing.
- **If the answer is no or if the Council denies the review request, the appeals process *may* or *may not* be over.**
 - If you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
 - If you don't want to accept the decision, you may be able to continue to the next level of the review process. If the Council says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you whether the rules allow you to go to a Level 5 appeal and how to continue with a Level 5 appeal.

Level 5 appeal A judge at the **Federal District Court** will review your appeal.

- A judge will review all the information and decide *yes* or *no* to your request. This is a final answer. There are no more appeal levels after the Federal District Court.

MAKING COMPLAINTS

SECTION 9 How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service, or other concerns

Section 9.1 What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process?

The complaint process is *only* used for certain types of problems. This includes problems related to quality of care, waiting times, and customer service. Here are examples of the kinds of problems handled by the complaint process.

Complaint	Example
Quality of your medical care	Are you unhappy with the quality of the care you got (including care in the hospital)?
Respecting your privacy	Did someone not respect your right to privacy or share confidential information?
Disrespect, poor customer service, or other negative behaviors	- Has someone been rude or disrespectful to you? - Are you unhappy with our Customer Service? - Do you feel you're being encouraged to leave our plan?
Waiting times	- Are you having trouble getting an appointment, or waiting too long to get it? - Have you been kept waiting too long by doctors, pharmacists, or other health professionals? Or by our Customer Service or other staff at our plan? - Examples include waiting too long on the phone, in the waiting or exam room, or getting a prescription.
Cleanliness	Are you unhappy with the cleanliness or condition of a clinic, hospital, or doctor's office?
Information you get from us	- Did we fail to give you a required notice? - Is our written information hard to understand?
Timeliness (These types of complaints are all about the <i>timeliness</i> of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals)	If you asked for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think we aren't responding quickly enough, you can make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples. - You have asked for a <i>fast coverage decision</i> or a <i>fast appeal</i>, and we said no; you can make a complaint. - You believe we aren't meeting the deadlines for coverage decisions or appeals; you can make a complaint. - You believe we aren't meeting deadlines for covering or reimbursing you for certain medical items or services or drugs that were approved; you can make a complaint. - You believe we failed to meet required deadlines for forwarding your case to the independent review organization; you can make a complaint.

Section 9.2 How to make a complaint

Legal Terms

- A **complaint** is also called a **grievance**.
- Making a complaint** is called **filing a grievance**.
- Using the process for complaints** is called **using the process for filing a grievance**.
- A **fast complaint** is called an **expedited grievance**.

Step 1: Contact us promptly — either by phone or in writing.

- Calling Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) is usually the first step.** If there's anything else you need to do, Customer Service will let you know.

- **If you don't want to call (or you called and weren't satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us.** If you put your complaint in writing, we'll respond to your complaint in writing.
- Submit your **written complaint** to the following address: HealthSpring, Attn: Medicare Grievance Dept., P.O. Box 188080, Chattanooga, TN 37422.

For standard grievances received in writing, we'll respond to you in writing **within 30 calendar days** of receipt of your written grievance. For expedited grievances, we must decide and notify you **within 24 hours** (see "fast complaint" below).

- The deadline for making a complaint is **60 calendar days** from the time you had the problem you want to complain about.

Step 2: We look into your complaint and give you our answer.

- **If possible, we'll answer you right away.** If you call us with a complaint, we may be able to give you an answer on the same phone call.
- **Most complaints are answered within 30 calendar days.** If we need more information and the delay is in your best interest or if you ask for more time, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** (44 calendar days total) to answer your complaint. If we decide to take extra days, we'll tell you in writing.
- **If you're making a complaint because we denied your request for a fast coverage decision or a fast appeal, we'll automatically give you a fast complaint.** If you have a *fast complaint*, it means we'll give you **an answer within 24 hours**.
- **If we don't agree** with some or all of your complaint or don't take responsibility for the problem you're complaining about, we'll include our reasons in our response to you.

Section 9.3 You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization

When your complaint is about *quality of care*, you also have 2 extra options.

- **You can make your complaint directly to the Quality Improvement Organization.** The Quality Improvement Organization is a group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Or

- **You can make your complaint to both the Quality Improvement Organization and us at the same time.**

Section 9.4 You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to www.Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY/TDD users call 1-877-486-2048.

CHAPTER 8

Ending membership in our plan

SECTION 1 Ending your membership in our plan

Ending your membership in our plan may be **voluntary** (your own choice) or **involuntary** (not your own choice):

- You might leave our plan because you decide that you *want* to leave.
 - Sections 2 and 3 give information on ending your membership voluntarily.
- There are also limited situations where we're required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

If you're leaving our plan, our plan must continue to provide your medical care, and you'll continue to pay your cost share until your membership ends.

SECTION 2 When can you end your membership in our plan?

Section 2.1 You can end your membership during the Open Enrollment Period

You can end your membership in our plan during the **Open Enrollment Period** each year. During this time, review your health and drug coverage and decide about coverage for the upcoming year.

- **The Open Enrollment Period** is from **October 15 to December 7**.
- **Choose to keep your current coverage or make changes for the upcoming year.** If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans.
 - Another Medicare health plan, with or without drug coverage,
 - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare drug plan,
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan.
- **Your membership will end in our plan** when your new plan's coverage starts on January 1.

Section 2.2 You can end your membership during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

You can make *one* change to your health coverage during the **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** each year.

- **The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** is from January 1 to March 31 and for new Medicare enrollees in an MA plan, from the month of entitlement to Part A and Part B until the last day of the 3rd month of entitlement.
- **During the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** you can:
 - Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage.
 - Disenroll from our plan and get coverage through Original Medicare. If you switch to Original Medicare during this period, you can also join a separate Medicare prescription drug plan at the same time.
- **Your membership will end** on the first day of the month after you enroll in a different Medicare Advantage plan or we get your request to switch to Original Medicare. If you also choose to enroll in a Medicare drug plan, your membership in the drug plan will start the first day of the month after the drug plan gets your enrollment request.

Section 2.3 In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period

In certain situations, members of our plan may be eligible to end their membership at other times of the year. This is known as a **Special Enrollment Period**.

You may be eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period If any of the following situations apply. These are just examples. For the full list you can contact our plan, call Medicare, or visit www.Medicare.gov.

- Usually, when you move
- If you have Medicaid

- If we violate our contract with you
- If you’re getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital.
- If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Enrollment periods vary depending on your situation.

To find out if you’re eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you’re eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. You can choose:

- Another Medicare health plan with or without drug coverage.
- Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare drug plan.
- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan.

Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after we get your request to change our plan.

Section 2.4

Get more information about when you can end your membership

If you have questions about ending your membership you can:

- Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).
- You can find the information in the *Medicare & You 2026* handbook.
- Contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 3

How to end your membership in our plan

The table below explains how you can end your membership in our plan.

To switch from our plan to:	Here’s what to do:
• Another Medicare health plan	• Enroll in the new Medicare health plan. • You’ll automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan’s coverage starts.
• Original Medicare <i>with</i> a separate Medicare drug plan	• Enroll in the new Medicare drug plan. You’ll automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan’s coverage starts.
• Original Medicare <i>without</i> a separate Medicare drug plan	• Send us a written request to disenroll. Call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) if you need more information on how to do this. • You can also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. • You’ll be disenrolled from our plan when your coverage in Original Medicare starts.

Note: If you also have creditable prescription drug coverage (e.g., a separate Medicare drug plan) and disenroll from that coverage, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later after going without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 days or more in a row.

SECTION 4

Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your medical items and services through our plan

Until your membership ends and your new Medicare coverage starts, you must continue to get your medical items and services through our plan.

- Continue to use our network providers to get medical care.
- If you’re hospitalized on the day your membership ends, your hospital stay will usually be covered by our plan until you’re discharged (even if you’re discharged after your new health coverage starts).

SECTION 5 HealthSpring must end our plan membership in certain situations

HealthSpring must end your membership in our plan if any of the following happen:

- If you no longer have Medicare Part A and Part B
- If you move out of our service area
- If you're away from our service area for more than 6 months
 - If you move or take a long trip, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711) to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan's service area.
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison)
- If you're no longer a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States.
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you're enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan. (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you continuously behave in a way that's disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide medical care for you and other members of our plan. (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get medical care. (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
 - If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General

If you have questions or want more information on when we can end your membership, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711).

Section 5.1 We can't ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason

HealthSpring isn't allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason.

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel that you're being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 5.2 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you can file a grievance or make a complaint about our decision to end your membership.

CHAPTER 9

Legal notices

SECTION 1 Notice about governing law

The principal law that applies to this *Evidence of Coverage* document is Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the regulations created under the Social Security Act by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, other Federal laws may apply and, under certain circumstances, the laws of the state you live in. This may affect your rights and responsibilities even if the laws are not included or explained in this document.

SECTION 2 Notice about non-discrimination

We don't discriminate based on race, ethnicity, national origin, color, religion, sex, gender, age, mental or physical disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or geographic location within the service area. All organizations that provide Medicare Advantage plans, like our plan, must obey Federal laws against discrimination, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, all other laws that apply to organizations that get Federal funding, and any other laws and rules that apply for any other reason.

If you want more information or have concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment, please call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 (TTY 1-800-537-7697) or your local Office for Civil Rights. You can also review information from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html>.

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, call Customer Service at 1-800-668-3813 (TTY users call 711). If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, Customer Service can help.

SECTION 3 Notice about Medicare Secondary Payer subrogation rights

We have the right and responsibility to collect for covered Medicare services for which Medicare is not the primary payer. According to CMS regulations at 42 CFR sections 422.108 and 423.462, HealthSpring, as a Medicare Advantage Organization, will exercise the same rights of recovery that the Secretary exercises under CMS regulations in subparts B through D of part 411 of 42 CFR and the rules established in this section supersede any State laws.

SECTION 4 Notice about subrogation and third party recovery

If we make any payment to you or on your behalf for Covered Services (see Chapter 10 for definition), we are permitted to be fully subrogated (a legal principle that allows the plan to be reimbursed for certain payments we have made on your behalf, in certain circumstances) to any and all rights you have against any person, entity or insurer that may be responsible for payment of medical expenses and/or benefits related to your injury, illness or condition. We are given the same rights of subrogation and recovery that are available to the Medicare Program under the Medicare Secondary Payer rules. We may use whatever rights of recovery are available to the Medicare program under 42 U.S.C. § 1395mm(e)(4), 42 U.S.C. §1395w-22(a)(4), 42 C.F.R. Part 411, and 42 C.F.R. Part 422.

Once we have made a payment for Covered Services, we will have a lien on the proceeds of any judgment, settlement, or other award or recovery you may receive or be entitled to receive, including but not limited to the following:

1. Any award, settlement, benefits or other amounts paid under any workers' compensation law or award;
2. Any and all payments made directly by or on behalf of a third party tortfeasor or person, entity or insurer responsible for indemnifying the third party tortfeasor;
3. Any arbitration awards, payments, settlements, structured settlements, or other benefits or amounts paid under an uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage policy; or any other payments designated, earmarked, or otherwise intended to be paid to you as compensation, restitution, or remuneration for your injury, illness, or condition suffered as a result of the negligence or liability of a third party.

You agree to cooperate with us and any of our designated representatives and to take any actions or steps necessary to secure our lien/interests, including but not limited to:

1. Fully responding to requests for information about any accidents or injuries;
2. Fully responding to our requests for information and providing any relevant information that we have requested; and
3. Fully participating in all phases of any legal action we may need to protect our rights, including but not limited to participating in discovery, attending depositions, and appearing and testifying at trial.

In addition, you agree not to do anything to affect our rights, including but not limited to assigning any rights or causes of action that you may have against any person or entity relating to your injury, illness, or condition without our prior authorized written consent. Your failure to cooperate shall be deemed a violation or breach of your obligations, and we may seek any available legal action against you to protect our rights.

We are also entitled to be fully reimbursed for any and all benefit payments we make to you or on your behalf that are the responsibility of any person, organization, or insurer. Our right of reimbursement is separate and apart from our subrogation right, and is limited only by the amount of actual benefits paid under the Plan. You must immediately pay to us any amounts you get by judgment, settlement, award, recovery or otherwise from any third party or his or her insurer, to the extent that we paid out or provided benefits for your injury, illness, or condition during your enrollment in this Plan.

Our subrogation and reimbursement rights shall have first priority, to be paid before any of your other claims are paid. Our subrogation and reimbursement rights will not be affected, reduced, impacted or eliminated by the “made whole” doctrine or any other doctrine that may apply.

We are not required to pursue subrogation or reimbursement either for our benefit or on your behalf. Our rights under this *Evidence of Coverage* shall not be affected, reduced, or eliminated by our failure to intervene in any legal action you seek relating to your injury, illness, or condition.

If you disagree with any decision or action we take in connection with the subrogation and third party recovery provisions outlined above, you must follow the procedures explained in Chapter 7 of this document.

SECTION 5 Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Health care fraud is a violation of federal and/or state law. If you know of or suspect health insurance fraud, please report it by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

CHAPTER 10

Definitions

Ambulatory Surgical Center – An Ambulatory Surgical Center is an entity that operates exclusively for the purpose of furnishing outpatient surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization and whose expected stay in the center doesn't exceed 24 hours.

Appeal – An appeal is something you do if you disagree with our decision to deny a request for coverage of health care services or payment for services you already got. You may also make an appeal if you disagree with our decision to stop services that you're getting.

Balance Billing – When a provider (such as a doctor or hospital) bills a patient more than our plan's allowed cost-sharing amount. As a member of our plan, you only have to pay our plan's cost-sharing amounts when you get services covered by our plan. We don't allow providers to **balance bill** or otherwise charge you more than the amount of cost sharing our plan says you must pay.

Benefit Period – The way that Original Medicare measures your use of hospital and skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. A benefit period begins the day you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't gotten any inpatient hospital care (or skilled care in a SNF) for 60 days in a row. If you go into a hospital or a skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – The federal agency that administers Medicare.

Chronic-Care Special Needs Plan (C-SNP) – C--SNPs are SNPs that restrict enrollment to MA eligible people who have specific severe and chronic diseases.

Coinsurance – An amount you may be required to pay, expressed as a percentage (for example 20%) as your share of the cost for services after you pay any deductibles.

Complaint – The formal name for making a complaint is **filing a grievance**. The complaint process is used *only* for certain types of problems. This includes problems about quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you get. It also includes complaints if our plan doesn't follow the time periods in the appeal process.

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) – A facility that mainly provides rehabilitation services after an illness or injury, including physical therapy, social or psychological services, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services, and home environment evaluation services.

Copayment (or copay) – An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for a medical service or supply, like a doctor's visit, hospital outpatient visit, or a prescription drug. A copayment is a set amount (for example \$10), rather than a percentage.

Cost Sharing – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when services are gotten. Cost sharing includes any combination of the following 3 types of payments: 1) any deductible amount a plan may impose before services are covered; 2) any fixed copayment amount that a plan requires when a specific service is gotten; or 3) any coinsurance amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a service, that a plan requires when a specific service is gotten.

Covered Services – The term we use to mean all the health care services and supplies that are covered by our plan.

Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage – Prescription drug coverage (for example, from an employer or union) that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. People who have this kind of coverage when they become eligible for Medicare can generally keep that coverage without paying a penalty if they decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

Custodial Care – Custodial care is personal care provided in a nursing home, hospice, or other facility setting when you don't need skilled medical care or skilled nursing care. Custodial care, provided by people who don't have professional skills or training, includes help with activities of daily living like bathing, dressing, eating, getting in or out of a bed or chair, moving around, and using the bathroom. It may also include the kind of health-related care that most people do themselves, like using eye drops. Medicare doesn't pay for custodial care.

Customer Service – A department within our plan responsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits,

grievances, and appeals.

Deductible – The amount you must pay for health care before our plan pays.

Disenroll or Disenrollment – The process of ending your membership in our plan.

Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP) – D-SNPs enroll people who are entitled to both Medicare (Title XVIII of the Social Security Act) and medical assistance from a state plan under Medicaid (Title XIX). States cover some Medicare costs, depending on the state and the person's eligibility.

Dually Eligible Individual – A person who is eligible for Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) – Certain medical equipment that is ordered by your doctor for medical reasons. Examples include walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment, nebulizers, or hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home.

Emergency – A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life (and, if you're a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb, or loss of or serious impairment to a bodily function. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse.

Emergency Care – Covered services that are: 1) provided by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services; and 2) needed to treat, evaluate, or stabilize an emergency medical condition.

Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and Disclosure Information – This document, along with your enrollment form and any other attachments, riders, or other optional coverage selected, which explains your coverage, what we must do, your rights, and what you have to do as a member of our plan.

Extra Help – A Medicare or a state program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug program costs, such as premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

Grievance – A type of complaint you make about our plan or providers, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This doesn't involve coverage or payment disputes.

Home Health Aide – A person who provides services that don't need the skills of a licensed nurse or therapist, such as help with personal care (e.g., bathing, using the toilet, dressing, or carrying out the prescribed exercises).

Hospice – A benefit that provides a special treatment for a member who has been medically certified as terminally ill, meaning having a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Our plan must provide you with a list of hospices in your geographic area. If you elect hospice and continue to pay premiums you're still a member of our plan. You can still obtain all medically necessary services, as well as the supplemental benefits we offer.

Hospital Inpatient Stay – A hospital stay when you've been formally admitted to the hospital for skilled medical services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient.

Independent Physician Association (IPA) – An IPA is a group of primary care and specialty care physicians who work together in coordinating your medical needs. See Chapter 1, Section 6 for more information about Independent Physician Associations (IPAs).

Initial Enrollment Period – When you're first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B. If you're eligible for Medicare when you turn 65, your Initial Enrollment Period is the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.

Low Income Subsidy (LIS) – Go to **Extra Help**.

Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount – The most that you pay out-of-pocket during the calendar year for in-network covered Part A and Part B services. Amounts you pay for Medicare Part A and Part B premiums don't count toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount. See Chapter 4, Section 1.2 for information about your maximum out-of-pocket amount.

Medicaid (or Medical Assistance) – A joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with low incomes and limited resources. State Medicaid programs vary, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Medical Group – An association of primary care physicians (PCPs), specialists and/or ancillary providers (such as therapists and radiologists) that our plan contracts with to provide care as one unit. Medical groups can be a single specialty (e.g., all PCPs) or multispecialty (e.g., PCPs and specialists). See Chapter 1, Section 6 for information about Medical Groups.

Medically Necessary – Services, supplies, or drugs that are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.

Medicare – The federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (generally those with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period – The time period from January 1 to March 31 when members in a Medicare Advantage plan can cancel their plan enrollment and switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or get coverage through Original Medicare. If you choose to switch to Original Medicare during this period, you can also join a separate Medicare prescription drug plan at that time. The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is also available for a 3-month period after a person is first eligible for Medicare.

Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan – Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A and Part B benefits. A Medicare Advantage Plan can be i) an HMO, ii) a PPO, iii) a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan, or iv) a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. Besides choosing from these types of plans, a Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO plan can also be a Special Needs Plan (SNP). In most cases, Medicare Advantage Plans also offer Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). These plans are called **Medicare Advantage Plans with Prescription Drug Coverage**. Our plan doesn't offer Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Medicare Cost Plan – A Medicare Cost Plan is a plan operated by a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or Competitive Medical Plan (CMP) in accordance with a cost-reimbursed contract under section 1876(h) of the Act.

Medicare-Covered Services – Services covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. All Medicare health plans must cover all the services that are covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. The term Medicare-Covered Services doesn't include the extra benefits, such as vision, dental, or hearing, that a Medicare Advantage plan may offer.

Medicare Health Plan – A Medicare health plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits to people with Medicare who enroll in our plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Cost Plans, Special Needs Plans, Demonstration/Pilot Programs, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare Part D) – Insurance to help pay for outpatient prescription drugs, vaccines, biologicals, and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B.

Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy – Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill gaps in Original Medicare. Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare. (A Medicare Advantage Plan is not a Medigap policy.)

Member (Member of our Plan, or Plan Member) – A person with Medicare who is eligible to get covered services, who has enrolled in our plan, and whose enrollment has been confirmed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Network Provider – Provider is the general term for doctors, other health care professionals, hospitals, and other health care facilities that are licensed or certified by Medicare and by the state to provide health care services. **Network providers** have an agreement with our plan to accept our payment as payment in full, and in some cases to coordinate as well as provide covered services to members of our plan. Network providers are also called **plan providers**.

Open Enrollment Period – The time period of October 15 until December 7 of each year when members can change their health or drug plans or switch to Original Medicare.

Organization Determination – A decision our plan makes about whether items or services are covered or how much you have to pay for covered items or services. Organization determinations are called coverage decisions in this document.

Original Medicare (Traditional Medicare or Fee-for-Service Medicare) – Original Medicare is offered by the government, and not a private health plan like Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers payment amounts established by Congress. You can see any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has 2 parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) and is available everywhere in the United States.

Out-of-Network Provider or Out-of-Network Facility – A provider or facility that doesn't have a contract with our plan to coordinate or provide covered services to members of our plan. Out-of-network providers are providers that aren't employed,

owned, or operated by our plan.

Out-of-Pocket Costs – Go to the definition for *cost sharing* above. A member's cost-sharing requirement to pay for a portion of services gotten is also referred to as the member's out-of-pocket cost requirement.

PACE plan – A PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) plan combines medical, social, and long-term services and supports (LTSS) for frail people to help people stay independent and living in their community (instead of moving to a nursing home) as long as possible. People enrolled in PACE plans get both their Medicare and Medicaid benefits through our plan.

Part C – Go to **Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan**.

Part D – The voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program.

Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plan – A Preferred Provider Organization plan is a Medicare Advantage Plan that has a network of contracted providers that have agreed to treat plan members for a specified payment amount. A PPO plan must cover all plan benefits whether they're received from network or out-of-network providers. Member cost sharing will generally be higher when plan benefits are gotten from out-of-network providers. PPO plans have an annual limit on your out-of-pocket costs for services received from network (preferred) providers and a higher limit on your total combined out-of-pocket costs for services from both in-network (preferred) and out-of-network (non-preferred) providers.

Premium – The periodic payment to Medicare, an insurance company, or a health care plan for health or prescription drug coverage.

Preventive services – Health care to prevent illness or detect illness at an early stage, when treatment is likely to work best (for example, preventive services include Pap tests, flu shots, and screening mammograms).

Primary Care Physician (PCP) – The doctor or other provider you see first for most health problems. In many Medicare health plans, you must see your primary care physician before you see any other health care provider.

Prior Authorization – Approval in advance to get services based on specific criteria. Covered services that need prior authorization are marked in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Prosthetics and Orthotics – Medical devices including, but not limited to: arm, back and neck braces; artificial limbs; artificial eyes; and devices needed to replace an internal body part or function, including ostomy supplies and enteral and parenteral nutrition therapy.

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) – A group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients.

Rehabilitation Services – These services include inpatient rehabilitation care, physical therapy (outpatient), speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy.

Service Area – A geographic area where you must live to join a particular health plan. For plans that limit which doctors and hospitals you may use, it's also generally the area where you can get routine (non-emergency) services. Our plan may disenroll you if you permanently move out of our plan's service area.

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care – Skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services provided on a continuous, daily basis, in a skilled nursing facility. Examples of care include physical therapy or intravenous injections that can only be given by a registered nurse or doctor.

Special Enrollment Period – A set time when members can change their health or drug plans or return to Original Medicare. Situations in which you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period include: if you move outside the service area, if you move into a nursing home, or if we violate our contract with you.

Special Needs Plan – A special type of Medicare Advantage Plan that provides more focused health care for specific groups of people, such as those who have both Medicare and Medicaid, who live in a nursing home, or who have certain chronic medical conditions.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – A monthly benefit paid by Social Security to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 and older. SSI benefits aren't the same as Social Security benefits.

Urgently Needed Services – A plan-covered service requiring immediate medical attention that's not an emergency is an urgently needed service if either you're temporarily outside our plan's service area, or it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. Medically necessary routine provider visits (like annual checkups)

aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.

Notice of Availability of Language Assistance Services and Auxiliary Aids and Services

English:	ATTENTION: If you speak English, free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids and services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call the plan for more information or speak to your provider.
Español (Spanish):	ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. También puede solicitar, sin costo alguno, servicios o herramientas especiales para acceder a la información en formatos accesibles. Llame al plan para obtener más información o hable con su proveedor.
中文 (Chinese Mandarin):	注意：如果您说中文，我们可以为您提供免费的语言协助服务。我们还免费提供适当的辅助设备和服务，以无障碍格式提供信息。请致电计划以获取更多信息或与您的服务提供者联系。
中文 (Chinese Cantonese):	注意：如果您說中文，我們將免費為您提供語言協助服務。我們還免費提供適當的輔助工具和服務，以無障礙格式提供資訊。請致電本計劃查詢更多資訊或諮詢您的醫療服務提供者。
Tagalog (Tagalog):	PAGBIGAY-PANSIN: Kung nagsasalita ka ng wikang tagalog, available para sa iyo ang mga serbisyo ng libreng tulong sa wika. Available din nang walang bayad ang mga wastong dagdag na tulong at serbisyo na makapagbibigay-impormasyon sa mga naa-access na format. Balikan ang plano para sa higit pang impormasyon o makipag-usap sa iyong provider.
Français (French):	ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits peuvent être mis à votre disposition. Des aides et services auxiliaires appropriés pour fournir des informations dans des formats accessibles sont également disponibles gratuitement. Appelez votre régime d'assurance maladie pour obtenir des informations supplémentaires, ou adressez-vous à votre prestataire.
Việt (Vietnamese):	CHÚ Ý: Nếu quý vị nói tiếng việt, các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí sẽ có sẵn cho quý vị. Các dịch vụ và trợ giúp bổ sung phù hợp để cung cấp thông tin ở các định dạng có thể truy cập cũng có sẵn miễn phí. Hãy gọi cho chương trình để biết thêm thông tin hoặc trao đổi với nhà cung cấp dịch vụ của quý vị.
Deutsch (German):	BITTE BEACHTEN: Wenn Sie deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Geeignete Hilfsmittel und Dienstleistungen zur Bereitstellung von Informationen in barrierefreien Formaten sind ebenfalls kostenlos verfügbar. Für weitere Informationen wenden Sie sich bitte an den Kundendienst Ihrer Versicherung bzw. an Ihren Versicherungsberater.

한국어 (Korean):	참조: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 이용 가능한 형식으로 정보를 제공하는 적절한 보조 도구 및 서비스도 무료로 제공해 드립니다. 자세한 정보는 플랜에 전화하거나 서비스 제공업체에 문의하십시오.
Русский (Russian):	ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вам удобнее для общения русский язык, вы можете воспользоваться бесплатными услугами языковой поддержки. Также доступны необходимые вспомогательные средства и услуги предоставления информации в доступном формате для людей с ограниченными возможностями. Для получения дополнительной информации позвоните или обратитесь к своему поставщику.
اللغة العربية (Arabic):	تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فستتوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية المجانية. كما تتوفر وسائل مساعدة وخدمات مناسبة لتوفير المعلومات بتنسيقات يمكن الوصول إليها مجانًا. اتصل بالخطة للحصول على مزيد من المعلومات أو للتحدث مع مقدم الخدمة الذي تتعامل معه.
हिंदी (Hindi):	ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिंदी बोलते हैं, तो आपके लिए निःशुल्क भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। सुलभ प्रारूपों में जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए उचित सहायक साधन और सेवाएं भी निःशुल्क उपलब्ध हैं। प्लान के बारे में अधिक जानकारी के लिए कॉल करें या अपने प्रदाता से बात करें।
Italiano (Italian):	ATTENZIONE: Se parla italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Sono inoltre disponibili gratuitamente ausili e servizi adeguati per fornire informazioni in formati accessibili. Chiama il numero corrispondente al Suo piano per ulteriori informazioni o si rivolga al Suo fornitore.
Português (Portuguese):	ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, tem à sua disposição serviços gratuitos de assistência linguística. Também estão disponíveis equipamentos e serviços de assistência adequados que lhe permitem ter acesso às informações em formatos acessíveis, de forma gratuita. Contacte o plano para obter mais informações ou fale com o seu prestador.
Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole):	ATANSYON: Si ou pale kreyòl ayisyen, w ap jwenn sèvis asistans lengwistik gratis. Gen èd ak sèvis oksilyè ki apwopriye pou bay enfòmasyon nan fòm ki aksesib, ki disponib gratis tou. Rele plan an pou jwenn plis enfòmasyon oswa pou w pale ak pwofesyonèl swen sante w la.
Polski (Polish):	UWAGA: Osoby mówiące po polsku mogą skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Odpowiednie wsparcie i usługi pomocnicze w celu zapewnienia informacji w przystępnych formatach są również dostępne bezpłatnie. Dodatkowe informacje można uzyskać dzwoniąc do planu lub rozmawiając ze świadczeniodawcą.
日本語 (Japanese):	注：お客様が[日本語]を話す場合は、無料の言語アシスタンス・サービスを利用できます。アクセスしやすい形式で情報提供を行うための、適切な補助器具やサービスも無料でご利用いただけます。詳細はプランにお電話いただくか、プロバイダーにご相談ください。

Customer Service

Method	Customer Service – Contact Information
CALL	1-800-668-3813 Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays. Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Customer Service is available October 1 – March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time, 7 days a week. From April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time. Messaging service used weekends, after hours, and on federal holidays.
WRITE	HealthSpring, Attn: Customer Service, P.O. Box 20002, Nashville, TN 37202
WEBSITE	www.healthspring.com

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) South Carolina's SHIP

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

Method	Contact Information
CALL	1-803-734-9900 or 1-800-868-9095
WRITE	State Health Insurance Assistance Program, South Carolina Department on Aging, 1301 Gervais Street, Suite 350, Columbia, SC 29201
WEBSITE	https://aging.sc.gov/programs-initiatives/medicare-and-medicare-fraud

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