



**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Northern and Southern California Regions**

*A nonprofit corporation and a Medicare Advantage Organization*

**Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) with Part D when  
Medicare is secondary coverage  
Evidence of Coverage for  
SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM**

**January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024**

Member Services  
Seven days a week, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.  
**1-800-443-0815** (TTY users call **711**)  
[kp.org](https://www.kp.org)

This document is available for free in Spanish. Please contact Member Services at **1-800-443-0815** for additional information. (TTY users should call **711**.) Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

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

- Your cost sharing
- Your medical and prescription drug 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
- Other protections required by Medicare law

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Benefit Highlights .....	1
Introduction .....	3
About Kaiser Permanente.....	3
Term of this <i>EOC</i> .....	4
Definitions.....	4
Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment.....	11
Premiums.....	11
Medicare Premiums.....	11
Who Is Eligible.....	12
How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins.....	15
How to Obtain Services.....	17
Routine Care.....	17
Urgent Care .....	17
Our Advice Nurses .....	17
Your Personal Plan Physician .....	17
Getting a Referral .....	18
Travel and Lodging for Certain Services .....	19
Second Opinions .....	19
Contracts with Plan Providers .....	20
Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area.....	20
Your ID Card.....	21
Getting Assistance.....	21
Plan Facilities .....	21
Provider Directory.....	22
Pharmacy Directory.....	22
Emergency Services and Urgent Care.....	22
Emergency Services .....	22
Urgent Care .....	22
Payment and Reimbursement.....	23
Benefits and Your Cost Share .....	23
Your Cost Share .....	24
Outpatient Care .....	26
Hospital Inpatient Services.....	28
Ambulance Services.....	29
Bariatric Surgery .....	29
Dental Services.....	29
Dialysis Care .....	30
Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use.....	31
Fertility Services .....	33
Health Education.....	33
Hearing Services .....	34
Home-Delivered Meals .....	34
Home Health Care.....	34
Home Medical Care Not Covered by Medicare for Members Who Live in Certain Counties (Advanced Care at Home) .....	35
Hospice Care .....	36
Mental Health Services .....	36

Opioid Treatment Program Services .....	37
Ostomy, Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies .....	38
Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services.....	38
Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements .....	39
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Health and Wellness .....	45
Preventive Services .....	45
Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices .....	46
Reconstructive Surgery .....	47
Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services .....	48
Services Associated with Clinical Trials .....	48
Skilled Nursing Facility Care .....	50
Substance Use Disorder Treatment .....	50
Telehealth Visits.....	51
Transplant Services .....	52
Transportation Services.....	52
Vision Services.....	53
Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions .....	53
Exclusions .....	53
Limitations .....	55
Coordination of Benefits .....	56
Reductions.....	56
Requests for Payment.....	59
Requests for Payment of Covered Services or Part D drugs .....	59
How to Ask Us to Pay You Back or to Pay a Bill You Have Received .....	60
We Will Consider Your Request for Payment and Say <i>Yes</i> or <i>No</i> .....	61
Other Situations in Which You Should Save Your Receipts and Send Copies to Us .....	61
Your Rights and Responsibilities .....	61
We must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities as a Member of our plan .....	61
You have some responsibilities as a Member of our plan .....	65
Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints.....	66
What to Do if You Have a Problem or Concern.....	66
Where To Get More Information and Personalized Assistance .....	66
To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use? .....	67
A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals.....	67
Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal .....	68
Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal.....	73
How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think You Are Being Discharged Too Soon.....	78
How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage Is Ending Too Soon.....	81
Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond.....	84
How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns .....	86
You can also tell Medicare about your complaint.....	87
Additional Review.....	87
Binding Arbitration .....	88
Termination of Membership.....	90
Termination Due to Loss of Eligibility .....	90
Termination of <i>Agreement</i> .....	91
Disenrolling from Senior Advantage.....	91
Termination of Contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.....	91
Termination for Cause.....	91
Termination for Nonpayment of Premiums.....	92
Termination of a Product or all Products.....	92

Payments after Termination .....	92
Review of Membership Termination.....	92
Continuation of Membership.....	92
Continuation of Group Coverage .....	92
Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan .....	93
Miscellaneous Provisions .....	93
Administration of Agreement.....	93
Amendment of <i>Agreement</i> .....	93
Applications and Statements .....	93
Assignment.....	93
Attorney and Advocate Fees and Expenses.....	93
Claims Review Authority .....	93
EOC Binding on Members .....	94
ERISA Notices .....	94
Governing Law.....	94
Group and Members Not Our Agents .....	94
No Waiver .....	94
Notices Regarding Your Coverage.....	94
Notice about Medicare Secondary Payer Subrogation Rights.....	94
Overpayment Recovery .....	94
Public Policy Participation .....	95
Telephone Access (TTY) .....	95
Important Phone Numbers and Resources.....	95
Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage .....	95
Medicare.....	97
State Health Insurance Assistance Program .....	98
Quality Improvement Organization.....	98
Social Security.....	99
Medicaid.....	99
Railroad Retirement Board.....	100
Group Insurance or Other Health Insurance from an Employer.....	100

## Benefit Highlights

<b>Plan Deductible</b>	None
<b>Plan Provider Office Visits</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Most Primary Care Visits and most Non-Physician Specialist Visits .....	No charge
Most Physician Specialist Visits.....	No charge
Annual Wellness visit and the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit....	No charge
Routine physical exams.....	No charge
Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist.....	No charge
Urgent care consultations, evaluations, and treatment.....	No charge
Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.....	No charge
<b>Telehealth Visits</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits by interactive video.....	No charge
Physician Specialist Visits by interactive video .....	No charge
Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits by telephone.....	No charge
Physician Specialist Visits by telephone .....	No charge
<b>Outpatient Services</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Outpatient surgery and certain other outpatient procedures .....	No charge
Allergy injections (including allergy serum).....	No charge
Most immunizations (including the vaccine).....	No charge
Most X-rays and laboratory tests.....	No charge
Manual manipulation of the spine .....	No charge
<b>Hospitalization Services</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Room and board, surgery, anesthesia, X-rays, laboratory tests, and drugs..	No charge
<b>Emergency Health Coverage</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Emergency Department visits.....	No charge
Note: If you are admitted directly to the hospital as an inpatient for covered Services, you will pay the inpatient Cost Share instead of the Emergency Department Cost Share (see “Hospitalization Services” for inpatient Cost Share).	
<b>Ambulance and Transportation Services</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Ambulance Services .....	No charge
Other transportation Services when provided by our designated transportation provider as described in this <i>EOC</i> .....	No charge for up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year
<b>Prescription Drug Coverage</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Most covered outpatient items in accord with our drug formulary guidelines .....	No charge for up to a 100-day supply
<b>Durable Medical Equipment (DME)</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Covered durable medical equipment for home use as described in this <i>EOC</i> .....	No charge
<b>Mental Health Services</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.....	No charge
Individual outpatient mental health evaluation and treatment.....	No charge
Group outpatient mental health treatment .....	No charge
<b>Substance Use Disorder Treatment</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Inpatient detoxification.....	No charge
Individual outpatient substance use disorder evaluation and treatment.....	No charge
Group outpatient substance use disorder treatment .....	No charge

<b>Home Health Services</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Home health care.....	No charge
<b>Other</b>	<b>You Pay</b>
Hearing aid(s) every 36 months.....	Amount in excess of \$2,500 Allowance per aid, per ear
Skilled Nursing Facility care .....	No charge
External prosthetic and orthotic devices as described in this <i>EOC</i> .....	No charge
Ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies .....	No charge
Meals delivered to your home immediately following discharge from a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility as an inpatient.....	No charge up to three meals per day in a consecutive four-week period, once per calendar year
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Health and Wellness items obtained through our catalog .....	No charge up to a quarterly benefit of \$70

This is a summary of the most frequently asked-about benefits. This chart does not explain benefits, Cost Share, exclusions, or limitations, nor does it list all benefits and Cost Share amounts. For a complete explanation, refer to the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” and “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” sections.

## Introduction

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (Health Plan) has a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a Medicare Advantage Organization.

This contract provides Medicare Services (including Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage) through “Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) with Part D when Medicare is secondary coverage” (Senior Advantage), except for hospice care for Members with Medicare Part A, which is covered under Original Medicare. Enrollment in this Senior Advantage plan means that you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. Kaiser Permanente is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal.

This *Evidence of Coverage* (“EOC”) describes our Senior Advantage health care coverage (when Medicare is secondary coverage under federal law) provided under the *Group Agreement (Agreement)* between Health Plan (Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.) and your Group (the entity with which Health Plan has entered into the *Agreement*). The *Agreement* contains additional terms such as Premiums, when coverage can change, the effective date of coverage, and the effective date of termination. The *Agreement* must be consulted to determine the exact terms of coverage. A copy of the *Agreement* is available from your Group.

Members who have Medicare as their secondary coverage are entitled to the same group benefits under the same terms as Members who are not eligible for Medicare, as described in your Group’s non-Medicare plan document. However, if you meet the eligibility requirements for this Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan, you may also enroll in this Senior Advantage plan and receive benefits under the terms described in this *EOC*. You must continue to have primary coverage through your Group’s non-Medicare plan in order to remain enrolled in this secondary Senior Advantage plan.

In this *EOC*, Health Plan is sometimes referred to as “we” or “us.” Members are sometimes referred to as “you.” Some capitalized terms have special meaning in this *EOC*; please see the “Definitions” section for terms you should know.

It is important to familiarize yourself with your coverage by reading this *EOC* and your Group’s non-Medicare plan document completely, so that you can take full advantage of your Health Plan benefits. Also, if you have special health care needs, please carefully read the sections that apply to you.

As a Senior Advantage Member when Medicare is secondary, you must refer to both this *EOC* and your Group’s non-Medicare plan document for the full description of your coverages, which are coordinated in accord with applicable law. Your non-Medicare plan document includes benefits not covered under this *EOC*, for example, state-mandated benefits and other terms that apply to non-Medicare plans. If you do not have your other (non-Medicare) plan document, please ask your Group for it.

## About Kaiser Permanente

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF PROVIDERS YOU MAY GET HEALTH CARE.**

When you join Kaiser Permanente, you are enrolling in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), which we call your “Home Region.” The Service Area of each Region is described in the “Definitions” section of this *EOC*. The coverage information in this *EOC* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region. When you visit the other California Region, you may receive care as described in “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region” in the “How to Obtain Services” section.

Kaiser Permanente provides Services directly to our Members through an integrated medical care program. Health Plan, Plan Hospitals, and the Medical Group work together to provide our Members with quality care. Our medical care program gives you access to all of the covered Services you may need, such as routine care with your own personal Plan Physician, hospital Services, laboratory and pharmacy Services, Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and other benefits described in this *EOC*. Plus, our health education programs offer you great ways to protect and improve your health.

We provide covered Services to Members using Plan Providers located in your Home Region Service Area, which is described in the “Definitions” section. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
- Covered Services received outside of your Home Region Service Area as described under “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area” in the “How to Obtain Services” section



- Emergency ambulance Services as described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under “Dialysis Care” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Prescription drugs from Non-Plan Pharmacies as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under “Services Associated with Clinical Trials” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section

## **Term of this EOC**

This EOC is for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, unless amended. Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year and at other times in accord with your Group’s *Agreement* with us. Your Group can tell you whether this EOC is still in effect and give you a current one if this EOC has been amended.

## **Definitions**

Some terms have special meaning in this EOC. When we use a term with special meaning in only one section of this EOC, we define it in that section. The terms in this “Definitions” section have special meaning when capitalized and used in any section of this EOC.

**Allowance:** A specified credit amount that you can use toward the cost of an item. If the cost of the item(s) or Service(s) you select exceeds the Allowance, you will pay the amount in excess of the Allowance.

Note: Any Allowances in your Group’s non-Medicare plan are coordinated with Allowances in this EOC and cannot be combined.

**Catastrophic Coverage Stage:** The stage in the Part D drug benefit that begins when you (or other qualified parties on your behalf) have spent \$8,000 for Part D covered drugs during the covered year. During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing. Note: This amount may change every January 1 in accord with Medicare requirements.

## **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):**

The federal agency that administers the Medicare program.

**Ancillary Coverage:** Optional benefits such as acupuncture, chiropractic, or dental coverage that may be available to Members enrolled under this EOC. If your plan includes Ancillary Coverage, this coverage will be described in an amendment to this EOC or a separate agreement from the issuer of the coverage.

**Charges:** “Charges” means the following:

- For Services provided by the Medical Group or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, the charges in Health Plan’s schedule of Medical Group and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals charges for Services provided to Members
- For Services for which a provider (other than the Medical Group or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals) is compensated on a capitation basis, the charges in the schedule of charges that Kaiser Permanente negotiates with the capitated provider
- For items obtained at a pharmacy owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente, the amount the pharmacy would charge a Member for the item if a Member’s benefit plan did not cover the item (this amount is an estimate of: the cost of acquiring, storing, and dispensing drugs, the direct and indirect costs of providing Kaiser Permanente pharmacy Services to Members, and the pharmacy program’s contribution to the net revenue requirements of Health Plan)
- For all other Services, the payments that Kaiser Permanente makes for the Services or, if Kaiser Permanente subtracts your Cost Share from its payment, the amount Kaiser Permanente would have paid if it did not subtract your Cost Share

**Coinsurance:** A percentage of Charges that you must pay when you receive a covered Service under this EOC.

**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 related to quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you receive. It also includes complaints if your plan does not follow the time periods in the appeal process.

**Comprehensive Formulary (Formulary or “Drug List”):** A list of Medicare Part D prescription drugs covered by our plan. The drugs on this list are selected by us with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The list includes both brand-name and generic drugs.

**Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF):** A facility that mainly provides rehabilitation Services after an illness or injury, including physician’s

Services, physical therapy, social or psychological Services, and outpatient rehabilitation.

**Copayment:** A specific dollar amount that you must pay when you receive a covered Service under this *EOC*.

Note: The dollar amount of the Copayment can be \$0 (no charge).

**Cost Share:** The amount you are required to pay for covered Services. For example, your Cost Share may be a Copayment or Coinsurance. If your coverage includes a Plan Deductible and you receive Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, your Cost Share for those Services will be Charges until you reach the Plan Deductible.

**Coverage Determination:** An initial determination we make about whether a Part D drug prescribed for you is covered under Part D and the amount, if any, you are required to pay for the prescription. In general, if you bring your prescription for a Part D drug to a Plan Pharmacy and the pharmacy tells you the prescription isn't covered by us, that isn't a Coverage Determination. You need to call or write us to ask for a formal decision about the coverage. Coverage Determinations are called "coverage decisions" in this *EOC*.

**Dependent:** A Member who meets the eligibility requirements as a Dependent (for Dependent eligibility requirements, see "Who Is Eligible" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section).

**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 Medical Condition:** A medical or mental health condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, with an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in any of the following:

- Serious jeopardy to the health of the individual or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part

A mental health condition is an emergency medical condition when it meets the requirements of the paragraph above, or when the condition manifests itself

by acute symptoms of sufficient severity such that either of the following is true:

- The person is an immediate danger to themselves or to others
- The person is immediately unable to provide for, or use, food, shelter, or clothing, due to the mental disorder

**Emergency Services:** Covered Services that are (1) rendered by a provider qualified to furnish Emergency Services; and (2) needed to treat, evaluate, or Stabilize an Emergency Medical Condition such as:

- A medical screening exam that is within the capability of the emergency department of a hospital, including ancillary services (such as imaging and laboratory Services) routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate the Emergency Medical Condition
- Within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the hospital, Medically Necessary examination and treatment required to Stabilize the patient (once your condition is Stabilized, Services you receive are Post Stabilization Care and not Emergency Services)

**EOC:** This *Evidence of Coverage* document, including any amendments, which describes the health care coverage of "Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) with Part D when Medicare is secondary coverage" under Health Plan's *Agreement* with your Group.

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

**Family:** A Subscriber and all of their Dependents.

**Grievance:** A type of complaint you make about our plan, providers, or pharmacies, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This does not involve coverage or payment disputes.

**Group:** The entity with which Health Plan has entered into the *Agreement* that includes this *EOC*.

**Health Plan:** Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., a California nonprofit corporation. This *EOC* sometimes refers to Health Plan as "we" or "us."

**Home Region:** The Region where you enrolled (either the Northern California Region or the Southern California Region).

**Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount**

**(IRMAA):** If your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return from two years ago is above a certain amount, you'll pay the standard premium

amount and an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, also known as IRMAA. IRMAA is an extra charge added to your premium. Less than 5% of people with Medicare are affected, so most people will not pay a higher premium.

**Initial Enrollment Period:** When you are first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare 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.

**Kaiser Permanente:** Kaiser Foundation Hospitals (a California nonprofit corporation), Health Plan, and the Medical Group.

**Medical Group:** For Northern California Region Members, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., a for-profit professional corporation, and for Southern California Region Members, the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, a for-profit professional partnership.

**Medically Necessary:** A Service is Medically Necessary if it is medically appropriate and required to prevent, diagnose, or treat your condition or clinical symptoms in accord with generally accepted professional standards of practice that are consistent with a standard of care in the medical community.

**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). A person enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan has Medicare Part D by virtue of his or her enrollment in the Part D plan (this *EOC* is for a Part D plan).

**Medicare Advantage Organization:** A public or private entity organized and licensed by a state as a risk-bearing entity that has a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide Services covered by Medicare, except for hospice care covered by Original Medicare. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., is a Medicare Advantage Organization.

**Medicare Advantage 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**. This *EOC* is for a Medicare Part D plan.

**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 the plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Cost plans, Demonstration/Pilot Programs, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

**Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy:** Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill “gaps” in the Original Medicare plan coverage. Medigap policies only work with the Original Medicare plan. (A Medicare Advantage Plan is not a Medigap policy.)

**Member:** A person who is eligible and enrolled under this *EOC*, and for whom we have received applicable Premiums. This *EOC* sometimes refers to a Member as “you.”

**Non-Physician Specialist Visits:** Consultations, evaluations, and treatment by non-physician specialists (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, optometrists, podiatrists, and audiologists).

**Non-Plan Hospital:** A hospital other than a Plan Hospital.

**Non-Plan Pharmacy:** A pharmacy other than a Plan Pharmacy. These pharmacies are also called “out-of-network pharmacies.”

**Non-Plan Physician:** A physician other than a Plan Physician.

**Non-Plan Provider:** A provider other than a Plan Provider.

**Non-Plan Psychiatrist:** A psychiatrist who is not a Plan Physician.

**Non-Plan Skilled Nursing Facility:** A Skilled Nursing Facility other than a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility.

**Organization Determination:** An initial determination we make about whether we will cover or pay for Services that you believe you should receive. We also make an Organization Determination when we provide you with Services, or refer you to a Non-Plan Provider for Services. Organization Determinations are called “coverage decisions” in this *EOC*.

**Original Medicare (“Traditional Medicare” or “Fee-for-Service Medicare”):** The Original Medicare plan is the way many people get their health care coverage. It is the national pay-per-visit program that lets you go to any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that

accepts Medicare. You must pay a deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance), and is available everywhere in the United States and its territories.

**Out-of-Area Urgent Care:** Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your health resulting from an unforeseen illness or an unforeseen injury if all of the following are true:

- You are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to your Home Region Service Area

**Physician Specialist Visits:** Consultations, evaluations, and treatment by physician specialists, including personal Plan Physicians who are not Primary Care Physicians.

**Plan Deductible:** The amount you must pay under this EOC in the calendar year for certain Services before we will cover those Services at the applicable Copayment or Coinsurance in that calendar year. Refer to the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section to learn whether your coverage includes a Plan Deductible, the Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, and the Plan Deductible amount.

**Plan Facility:** Any facility listed in the Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities). Plan Facilities include Plan Hospitals, Plan Medical Offices, and other facilities that we designate in the directory. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Facilities may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Plan Hospital:** Any hospital listed in the Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities). In the directory, some Plan Hospitals are listed as Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Hospitals may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Plan Medical Office:** Any medical office listed in the Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities). In the directory, Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers may include Plan Medical Offices. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Medical Offices may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Plan Optical Sales Office:** An optical sales office owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente or another optical sales office that we designate. Refer to the

Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities) for locations of Plan Optical Sales Offices. In the directory, Plan Optical Sales Offices may be called “Vision Essentials.” The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Optical Sales Offices may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Plan Optometrist:** An optometrist who is a Plan Provider.

**Plan Pharmacy:** A pharmacy owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente or another pharmacy that we designate. Refer to the Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities) for locations of Plan Pharmacies. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Pharmacies may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Plan Physician:** Any licensed physician who is a partner or employee of the Medical Group, or any licensed physician who contracts to provide Services to Members (but not including physicians who contract only to provide referral Services).

**Plan Provider:** A Plan Hospital, a Plan Physician, the Medical Group, a Plan Pharmacy, or any other health care provider that Health Plan designates as a Plan Provider.

**Plan Skilled Nursing Facility:** A Skilled Nursing Facility approved by Health Plan.

**Post-Stabilization Care:** Medically Necessary Services related to your Emergency Medical Condition that you receive in a hospital (including the Emergency Department) after your treating physician determines that this condition is Stabilized.

**Premiums:** The periodic amounts that your Group is responsible for paying for your membership under this EOC.

**Preventive Services:** Covered Services that prevent or detect illness and do one or more of the following:

- Protect against disease and disability or further progression of a disease
- Detect disease in its earliest stages before noticeable symptoms develop

**Primary Care Physicians:** Generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, and family practice, and specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians. Refer to the Provider Directory on our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org) for a list of physicians that are available as Primary Care Physicians. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Primary Care Physicians may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Primary Care Visits:** Evaluations and treatment provided by Primary Care Physicians and primary care Plan Providers who are not physicians (such as nurse practitioners).

**Provider Directory:** A directory of Plan Physicians and Plan Facilities in your Home Region. This directory is available on our website at [kp.org/directory](http://kp.org/directory). To obtain a printed copy, call Member Services. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Physicians and Plan Facilities may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

**Real-Time Benefit Tool:** A portal or computer application in which enrollees can look up complete, accurate, timely, clinically appropriate, enrollee-specific formulary and benefit information. This includes cost-sharing amounts, alternative formulary medications that may be used for the same health condition as a given drug, and coverage restrictions (prior authorization, step therapy, quantity limits) that apply to alternative medications.

**Region:** A Kaiser Foundation Health Plan organization or allied plan that conducts a direct-service health care program. Regions may change on January 1 of each year and are currently the District of Columbia and parts of Northern California, Southern California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington. For the current list of Region locations, please visit our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org) or call Member Services.

**Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18:** A condition identified as a “mental disorder” in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, other than a primary substance use disorder or developmental disorder, that results in behavior inappropriate to the child’s age according to expected developmental norms, if the child also meets at least one of the following three criteria:

- As a result of the mental disorder, (1) the child has substantial impairment in at least two of the following areas: self-care, school functioning, family relationships, or ability to function in the community; and (2) either (a) the child is at risk of removal from the home or has already been removed from the home, or (b) the mental disorder and impairments have been present for more than six months or are likely to continue for more than one year without treatment
- The child displays psychotic features, or risk of suicide or violence due to a mental disorder
- The child meets special education eligibility requirements under Section 5600.3(a)(2)(C) of the Welfare and Institutions Code

**Service Area:** The geographic area approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within which an eligible person may enroll in Senior Advantage. Note: Subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, we may reduce or expand your Home Region Service Area effective any January 1. ZIP codes are subject to change by the U.S. Postal Service. Health Plan has two Regions in California. As a Member, you are enrolled in one of the two Regions (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), called your Home Region. This *EOC* describes the coverage for both California Regions.

#### *Northern California Region Service Area*

The ZIP codes below for each county are in our Northern California Service Area:

- All ZIP codes in Alameda County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94501–02, 94505, 94514, 94536–46, 94550–52, 94555, 94557, 94560, 94566, 94568, 94577–80, 94586–88, 94601–15, 94617–21, 94622–24, 94649, 94659–62, 94666, 94701–10, 94712, 94720, 95377, 95391
- The following ZIP codes in Amador County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95640, 95669
- All ZIP codes in Contra Costa County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94505–07, 94509, 94511, 94513–14, 94516–31, 94547–49, 94551, 94553, 94556, 94561, 94563–65, 94569–70, 94572, 94575, 94582–83, 94595–98, 94706–08, 94801–08, 94820, 94850
- The following ZIP codes in El Dorado County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95613–14, 95619, 95623, 95633–35, 95651, 95664, 95667, 95672, 95682, 95762
- The following ZIP codes in Fresno County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93242, 93602, 93606–07, 93609, 93611–13, 93616, 93618–19, 93624–27, 93630–31, 93646, 93648–52, 93654, 93656–57, 93660, 93662, 93667–68, 93675, 93701–12, 93714–18, 93720–30, 93737, 93740–41, 93744–45, 93747, 93750, 93755, 93760–61, 93764–65, 93771–79, 93786, 93790–94, 93844, 93888
- The following ZIP codes in Kings County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93230, 93232, 93242, 93631, 93656
- The following ZIP codes in Madera County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93601–02, 93604, 93614, 93623, 93626, 93636–39, 93643–45, 93653, 93669, 93720
- All ZIP codes in Marin County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94901, 94903–04,

94912–15, 94920, 94924–25, 94929–30, 94933, 94937–42, 94945–50, 94956–57, 94960, 94963–66, 94970–71, 94973–74, 94976–79

- The following ZIP codes in Mariposa County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93601, 93623, 93653
- All ZIP codes in Napa County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94503, 94508, 94515, 94558–59, 94562, 94567, 94573–74, 94576, 94581, 94599, 95476
- The following ZIP codes in Placer County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95602–04, 95610, 95626, 95648, 95650, 95658, 95661, 95663, 95668, 95677–78, 95681, 95703, 95722, 95736, 95746–47, 95765
- All ZIP codes in Sacramento County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94203–09, 94211, 94229–30, 94232, 94234–37, 94239–40, 94244–45, 94247–50, 94252, 94254, 94256–59, 94261–63, 94267–69, 94271, 94273–74, 94277–80, 94282–85, 94287–91, 94293–98, 94571, 95608–11, 95615, 95621, 95624, 95626, 95628, 95630, 95632, 95638–39, 95641, 95652, 95655, 95660, 95662, 95670–71, 95673, 95678, 95680, 95683, 95690, 95693, 95741–42, 95757–59, 95763, 95811–38, 95840–43, 95851–53, 95860, 95864–67, 95894, 95899
- All ZIP codes in San Francisco County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94102–05, 94107–12, 94114–34, 94137, 94139–47, 94151, 94158–61, 94163–64, 94172, 94177, 94188
- All ZIP codes in San Joaquin County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94514, 95201–15, 95219–20, 95227, 95230–31, 95234, 95236–37, 95240–42, 95253, 95258, 95267, 95269, 95296–97, 95304, 95320, 95330, 95336–37, 95361, 95366, 95376–78, 95385, 95391, 95632, 95686, 95690
- All ZIP codes in San Mateo County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94002, 94005, 94010–11, 94014–21, 94025–28, 94030, 94037–38, 94044, 94060–66, 94070, 94074, 94080, 94083, 94128, 94303, 94401–04, 94497
- The following ZIP codes in Santa Clara County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94022–24, 94035, 94039–43, 94085–89, 94301–06, 94309, 94550, 95002, 95008–09, 95011, 95013–15, 95020–21, 95026, 95030–33, 95035–38, 95042, 95044, 95046, 95050–56, 95070–71, 95076, 95101, 95103, 95106, 95108–13, 95115–36, 95138–41, 95148, 95150–61, 95164, 95170, 95172–73, 95190–94, 95196
- All ZIP codes in Santa Cruz County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95001, 95003,

95005–07, 95010, 95017–19, 95033, 95041, 95060–67, 95073, 95076–77

- All ZIP codes in Solano County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94503, 94510, 94512, 94533–35, 94571, 94585, 94589–92, 95616, 95618, 95620, 95625, 95687–88, 95690, 95694, 95696
- The following ZIP codes in Sonoma County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94515, 94922–23, 94926–28, 94931, 94951–55, 94972, 94975, 94999, 95401–07, 95409, 95416, 95419, 95421, 95425, 95430–31, 95433, 95436, 95439, 95441–42, 95444, 95446, 95448, 95450, 95452, 95462, 95465, 95471–73, 95476, 95486–87, 95492
- All ZIP codes in Stanislaus County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95230, 95304, 95307, 95313, 95316, 95319, 95322–23, 95326, 95328–29, 95350–58, 95360–61, 95363, 95367–68, 95380–82, 95385–87, 95397
- The following ZIP codes in Sutter County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95626, 95645, 95659, 95668, 95674, 95676, 95692, 95836–37
- The following ZIP codes in Tulare County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93238, 93261, 93618, 93631, 93646, 93654, 93666, 93673
- The following ZIP codes in Yolo County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95605, 95607, 95612, 95615–18, 95645, 95691, 95694–95, 95697–98, 95776, 95798–99
- The following ZIP codes in Yuba County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95692, 95903, 95961

#### *Southern California Region Service Area*

The ZIP codes below for each county are in our Southern California Service Area:

- The following ZIP codes in Kern County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 93203, 93205–06, 93215–16, 93220, 93222, 93224–26, 93238, 93240–41, 93243, 93249–52, 93263, 93268, 93276, 93280, 93285, 93287, 93301–09, 93311–14, 93380, 93383–90, 93501–02, 93504–05, 93518–19, 93531, 93536, 93560–61, 93581
- The following ZIP codes in Los Angeles County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 90001–84, 90086–91, 90093–96, 90099, 90134, 90189, 90201–02, 90209–13, 90220–24, 90230–32, 90239–42, 90245, 90247–51, 90254–55, 90260–67, 90270, 90272, 90274–75, 90277–78, 90280, 90290–96, 90301–12, 90401–11, 90501–10, 90601–10, 90623, 90630–31, 90637–40, 90650–52, 90660–62, 90670–71, 90701–03, 90706–07, 90710–17, 90723, 90731–

34, 90744–49, 90755, 90801–10, 90813–15, 90822, 90831–33, 90840, 90842, 90844, 90846–48, 90853, 90895, 91001, 91003, 91006–12, 91016–17, 91020–21, 91023–25, 91030–31, 91040–43, 91046, 91066, 91077, 91101–10, 91114–18, 91121, 91123–26, 91129, 91182, 91184–85, 91188–89, 91199, 91201–10, 91214, 91221–22, 91224–26, 91301–11, 91313, 91316, 91321–22, 91324–31, 91333–35, 91337, 91340–46, 91350–57, 91361–62, 91364–65, 91367, 91371–72, 91376, 91380–87, 91390, 91392–96, 91401–13, 91416, 91423, 91426, 91436, 91470, 91482, 91495–96, 91499, 91501–08, 91510, 91521–23, 91526, 91601–12, 91614–18, 91702, 91706, 91711, 91714–16, 91722–24, 91731–35, 91740–41, 91744–50, 91754–56, 91759, 91765–73, 91775–76, 91778, 91780, 91788–93, 91801–04, 91896, 91899, 93243, 93510, 93532, 93534–36, 93539, 93543–44, 93550–53, 93560, 93563, 93584, 93586, 93590–91, 93599

- All ZIP codes in Orange County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 90620–24, 90630–33, 90638, 90680, 90720–21, 90740, 90742–43, 92602–07, 92609–10, 92612, 92614–20, 92623–30, 92637, 92646–63, 92672–79, 92683–85, 92688, 92690–94, 92697–98, 92701–08, 92711–12, 92728, 92735, 92780–82, 92799, 92801–09, 92811–12, 92814–17, 92821–23, 92825, 92831–38, 92840–46, 92850, 92856–57, 92859, 92861–71, 92885–87, 92899
- The following ZIP codes in Riverside County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 91752, 92201–03, 92210–11, 92220, 92223, 92230, 92234–36, 92240–41, 92247–48, 92253, 92255, 92258, 92260–64, 92270, 92276, 92282, 92320, 92324, 92373, 92399, 92501–09, 92513–14, 92516–19, 92521–22, 92530–32, 92543–46, 92548, 92551–57, 92562–64, 92567, 92570–72, 92581–87, 92589–93, 92595–96, 92599, 92860, 92877–83
- The following ZIP codes in San Bernardino County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 91701, 91708–10, 91729–30, 91737, 91739, 91743, 91758–59, 91761–64, 91766, 91784–86, 92305, 92307–08, 92313–18, 92321–22, 92324–25, 92329, 92331, 92333–37, 92339–41, 92344–46, 92350, 92352, 92354, 92357–59, 92369, 92371–78, 92382, 92385–86, 92391–95, 92397, 92399, 92401–08, 92410–11, 92413, 92415, 92418, 92423, 92427, 92880
- The following ZIP codes in San Diego County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 91901–03, 91908–17, 91921, 91931–33, 91935, 91941–46, 91950–51, 91962–63, 91976–80, 91987, 92003, 92007–11, 92013–14, 92018–30, 92033, 92037–40, 92046, 92049, 92051–52, 92054–61, 92064–65,

92067–69, 92071–72, 92074–75, 92078–79, 92081–86, 92088, 92091–93, 92096, 92101–24, 92126–32, 92134–40, 92142–43, 92145, 92147, 92149–50, 92152–55, 92158–61, 92163, 92165–79, 92182, 92186–87, 92191–93, 92195–99

- The following ZIP codes in Ventura County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 90265, 91304, 91307, 91311, 91319–20, 91358–62, 91377, 93001–07, 93009–12, 93015–16, 93020–22, 93030–36, 93040–44, 93060–66, 93094, 93099, 93252

For each ZIP code listed for a county, your Home Region Service Area includes only the part of that ZIP code that is in that county. When a ZIP code spans more than one county, the part of that ZIP code that is in another county is not inside your Home Region Service Area unless that other county is listed above and that ZIP code is also listed for that other county. If you have a question about whether a ZIP code is in your Home Region Service Area, please call Member Services. Also, the ZIP codes listed above may include ZIP codes for Post Office boxes and commercial rental mailboxes. A Post Office box or rental mailbox cannot be used to determine whether you meet the residence eligibility requirements for Senior Advantage. Your permanent residence address must be used to determine your Senior Advantage eligibility.

**Services:** Health care services or items (“health care” includes both physical health care and mental health care) and services to treat Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18 or Severe Mental Illness.

**Severe Mental Illness:** The following mental disorders: schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depressive disorders, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, pervasive developmental disorder or autism, anorexia nervosa, or bulimia nervosa.

**Skilled Nursing Facility:** A facility that provides inpatient skilled nursing care, rehabilitation services, or other related health services and is licensed by the state of California. The facility’s primary business must be the provision of 24-hour-a-day licensed skilled nursing care. The term “Skilled Nursing Facility” does not include convalescent nursing homes, rest facilities, or facilities for the aged, if those facilities furnish primarily custodial care, including training in routines of daily living. A “Skilled Nursing Facility” may also be a unit or section within another facility (for example, a hospital) as long as it continues to meet this definition.

**Spouse:** The person to whom the Subscriber is legally married under applicable law. For the purposes of this EOC, the term “Spouse” includes the Subscriber’s domestic partner. “Domestic partners” are two people who are registered and legally recognized as domestic partners by California (if your Group allows enrollment

of domestic partners not legally recognized as domestic partners by California, “Spouse” also includes the Subscriber’s domestic partner who meets your Group’s eligibility requirements for domestic partners).

**Stabilize:** To provide the medical treatment of the Emergency Medical Condition that is necessary to assure, within reasonable medical probability, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the person from the facility. With respect to a pregnant person who is having contractions, when there is inadequate time to safely transfer them to another hospital before delivery (or the transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the pregnant person or unborn child), “Stabilize” means to deliver (including the placenta).

**Subscriber:** A Member who is eligible for membership on their own behalf and not by virtue of Dependent status and who meets the eligibility requirements as a Subscriber (for Subscriber eligibility requirements, see “Who Is Eligible” in the “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section).

**Surrogacy Arrangement:** An arrangement in which an individual agrees to become pregnant and to surrender the baby (or babies) to another person or persons who intend to raise the child (or children), whether or not the individual receives payment for being a surrogate. For the purposes of this *EOC*, “Surrogacy Arrangements” includes all types of surrogacy arrangements, including traditional surrogacy arrangements and gestational surrogacy arrangements.

**Telehealth Visits:** Interactive video visits and scheduled telephone visits between you and your provider.

**Urgent Care:** Medically Necessary Services for a condition that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition.

## Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment

### Premiums

Your Group is responsible for paying Premiums. If you are responsible for any contribution to the Premiums that your Group pays, your Group will tell you the amount, when Premiums are effective, and how to pay your Group (through payroll deduction, for example). In addition to any amount you must pay your Group, you must also continue to pay Medicare your monthly Medicare premium.

## Medicare Premiums

### **Medicare Part D premium due to income**

Some members may be required to pay an extra charge, known as the Part D Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, also known as IRMAA. The extra charge is figured out using your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return from two years ago. If this amount is above a certain amount, you’ll pay the standard premium amount and the additional IRMAA. For more information on the extra amount you may have to pay based on your income, visit <https://www.medicare.gov>.

If you have to pay an extra amount, Social Security, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be. The extra amount will be withheld from your Social Security, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management benefit check, no matter how you usually pay your plan premium, unless your monthly benefit isn’t enough to cover the extra amount owed. If your benefit check isn’t enough to cover the extra amount, you will get a bill from Medicare. **You must pay the extra amount to the government. If you do not pay the extra amount, you will be disenrolled from the plan and lose prescription drug coverage.**

If you disagree about paying an extra amount, you can ask Social Security to review the decision. To find out more about how to do this, contact Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY users call **1-800-325-0778**).

### **Medicare Part D late enrollment penalty**

Some members are required to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty. The Part D late enrollment penalty is an additional premium that must be paid for Part D coverage if at any time after your initial enrollment period is over, there is a period of 63 days or more in a row when you did not have Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage. “Creditable prescription drug coverage” is coverage that meets Medicare’s minimum standards since it is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage. The cost of the late enrollment penalty depends on how long you went without Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage. You will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Part D coverage. The Part D late enrollment penalty is added to your plan premium. Your Group or Health Plan will inform you if the penalty applies to you.

You will not have to pay it if:

- You receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs



- You have gone less than 63 days in a row without creditable coverage
- You have had creditable drug coverage through another source such as a former employer, union, TRICARE, or Department of Veterans Affairs. Your insurer or your human resources department will tell you each year if your drug coverage is creditable coverage. This information may be sent to you in a letter or included in a newsletter from the plan. Keep this information because you may need it if you join a Medicare drug plan later
  - ◆ any notice must state that you had “creditable” prescription drug coverage that is expected to pay as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug plan pays
  - ◆ the following are not creditable prescription drug coverage: prescription drug discount cards, free clinics, and drug discount websites

Medicare determines the amount of the penalty. There are three important things to note about this monthly Part D late enrollment penalty:

- First, **the penalty may change each year** because the average monthly premium can change each year
- Second, **you will continue to pay a penalty** every month for as long as you are enrolled in a plan that has Medicare Part D drug benefits, even if you change plans
- Third, if you are under 65 and currently receiving Medicare benefits, the Part D late enrollment penalty will reset when you turn 65. After age 65, your Part D late enrollment penalty will be based only on the months that you don’t have coverage after your initial enrollment period for aging into Medicare

**If you disagree about your Part D late enrollment penalty, you or your representative can ask for a review.** Generally, you must request this review **within 60 days** from the date on the first letter you receive stating you have to pay a late enrollment penalty. However, if you were paying a penalty before joining our plan, you may not have another chance to request a review of that late enrollment penalty.

### Medicare’s “Extra Help” Program

Medicare provides “Extra Help” to pay prescription drug costs for people who have limited income and resources. Resources include your savings and stocks, but not your home or car. If you qualify, you get help paying for any Medicare drug plan’s monthly premium, and prescription Copayments. This “Extra Help” also counts toward your out-of-pocket costs.

People with limited income and resources may qualify for “Extra Help.” If you automatically qualify for “Extra Help,” Medicare will mail you a letter. You will not have to apply. If you do not automatically qualify, you may be able to get “Extra Help” to pay for your prescription drug premiums and costs. To see if you qualify for getting “Extra Help,” call:

- **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**), 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- The Social Security Office at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY users call **1-800-325-0778**), 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday (applications); or
- Your state Medicaid office (applications). See the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section for contact information

If you qualify for “Extra Help,” we will send you an *Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs* (also known as the *Low Income Subsidy Rider* or the *LIS Rider*), that explains your costs as a Member of our plan. If the amount of your “Extra Help” changes during the year, we will also mail you an updated *Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs*.

### Who Is Eligible

To enroll and to continue enrollment, you must meet all of the eligibility requirements described in this “Who Is Eligible” section, including your Group’s eligibility requirements and your Home Region Service Area eligibility requirements.

#### **Group eligibility requirements**

You must meet your Group’s eligibility requirements such as the minimum number of hours that employees must work. Your Group is required to inform Subscribers of its eligibility requirements.

#### **Senior Advantage eligibility requirements when Medicare is secondary**

- You must have Medicare Part B
- You must be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States
- You must be simultaneously enrolled in your Group’s non-Medicare plan as your primary coverage
- You must have Medicare as your secondary coverage in accord with federal law
- You may not be enrolled in another Medicare Health Plan or Medicare prescription drug plan

Note: If you are enrolled in a Medicare plan and lose Medicare eligibility, you may be able to enroll under your Group’s non-Medicare plan *if* that is permitted by your Group (please ask your Group for details).

### Service Area eligibility requirements

When you join Kaiser Permanente, you are enrolling in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), which we call your “Home Region.” The Service Area of each Region is described in the “Definitions” section.

You must live in your Home Region Service Area, unless you have been continuously enrolled in Senior Advantage since December 31, 1998, and lived outside your Home Region Service Area during that entire time. In which case, you may continue your membership unless you move and are still outside your Home Region Service Area. The “Definitions” section describes your Home Region Service Area and how it may change.

**Moving from your Home Region Service Area to our other California Region Service Area.** You must complete a new Senior Advantage Election Form to continue Senior Advantage coverage if you move from your Home Region Service Area to the Service Area of our other California Region (the Service Area of both Regions are described in the “Definitions” section). To get a Senior Advantage Election Form, please call Member Services toll free at **1-800-443-0815** (TTY users call **711**) every day 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Moving outside our Northern and Southern California Regions’ Service Areas.** If you permanently move outside our Northern and Southern California Regions’ Service Areas, or you are temporarily absent from your Home Region Service Area for a period of more than six months in a row, you must notify us and you cannot continue your Senior Advantage membership under this *EOC*.

Send your notice to:

*For Northern California Members:*  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 232400  
San Diego, CA 92193

*For Southern California Members:*  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 232407  
San Diego, CA 92193

It is in your best interest to notify us as soon as possible because until your Senior Advantage coverage is officially terminated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, you will not be covered by us or Original Medicare for any care you receive from Non-Plan Providers, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
- Covered Services received outside of your Home Region Service Area as described under “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under “Dialysis Care” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Prescription drugs from Non-Plan Pharmacies as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under “Services Associated with Clinical Trials” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section

If you are not eligible to continue enrollment because you move to the service area of another Region, please contact your Group to learn about your Group health care options. You may be able to enroll in the service area of another Region if there is an agreement between your Group and that Region, but the plan, including coverage, premiums, and eligibility requirements, might not be the same as under this *EOC*.

For more information about the service areas of the other Regions, please call Member Services.

### Eligibility as a Subscriber

You may be eligible to enroll and continue enrollment as a Subscriber if you are:

- An employee of your Group
- A proprietor or partner of your Group
- Otherwise entitled to coverage under a trust agreement or employment contract (unless the Internal Revenue Service considers you self-employed)

## Eligibility as a Dependent

### *Enrolling as a Dependent*

Dependent eligibility is subject to your Group's eligibility requirements, which are not described in this *EOC*. You can obtain your Group's eligibility requirements directly from your Group. If you are a Subscriber under this *EOC* and if your Group allows enrollment of Dependents, Health Plan allows the following persons to enroll as your Dependents under this *EOC* if they meet all of the other requirements described under "Senior Advantage eligibility requirements when Medicare is secondary," and "Service Area eligibility requirements" in this "Who Is Eligible" section:

- Your Spouse
- Your or your Spouse's Dependent children, who meet the requirements described under "Age limit of Dependent children," if they are any of the following:
  - ◆ sons, daughters, or stepchildren
  - ◆ adopted children
  - ◆ children placed with you for adoption
  - ◆ foster children if you or your Spouse have the legal authority to direct their care
  - ◆ children for whom you or your Spouse is the court-appointed guardian (or was when the child reached age 18)
- Certain Dependents may continue their memberships for a limited time after membership would otherwise terminate as a result of the Subscriber's death if permitted by your Group (please ask your Group for details)

### *Age limit of Dependent children*

Children must be under age 26 as of the effective date of this *EOC* to enroll as a Dependent under your plan.

Dependent children are eligible to remain on the plan through the end of the month in which they reach the age limit.

Dependent children of the Subscriber or Spouse (including adopted children and children placed with you for adoption, but not including children placed with you for foster care) who reach the age limit, may continue coverage under this *EOC* if all of the following conditions are met:

- They meet all requirements to be a Dependent except for the age limit
- Your Group permits enrollment of Dependents
- They are incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a physically- or mentally-disabling injury, illness, or condition that occurred before they reached the age limit for Dependents

- They receive 50 percent or more of their support and maintenance from you or your Spouse
- If requested, you give us proof of their incapacity and dependency within 60 days after receiving our request (see "Disabled Dependent certification" below in this "Eligibility as a Dependent" section)

### *Disabled Dependent certification*

Proof may be required for a Dependent to be eligible to continue coverage as a disabled Dependent. If we request it, the Subscriber must provide us documentation of the dependent's incapacity and dependency as follows:

- If the child is a Member, we will send the Subscriber a notice of the Dependent's membership termination due to loss of eligibility at least 90 days before the date coverage will end due to reaching the age limit. The Dependent's membership will terminate as described in our notice unless the Subscriber provides us documentation of the Dependent's incapacity and dependency within 60 days of receipt of our notice and we determine that the Dependent is eligible as a disabled dependent. If the Subscriber provides us this documentation in the specified time period and we do not make a determination about eligibility before the termination date, coverage will continue until we make a determination. If we determine that the Dependent does not meet the eligibility requirements as a disabled dependent, we will notify the Subscriber that the Dependent is not eligible and let the Subscriber know the membership termination date. If we determine that the Dependent is eligible as a disabled dependent, there will be no lapse in coverage. Also, starting two years after the date that the Dependent reached the age limit, the Subscriber must provide us documentation of the Dependent's incapacity and dependency annually within 60 days after we request it so that we can determine if the Dependent continues to be eligible as a disabled dependent
- If the child is not a Member because you are changing coverage, you must give us proof, within 60 days after we request it, of the child's incapacity and dependency as well as proof of the child's coverage under your prior coverage. In the future, you must provide proof of the child's continued incapacity and dependency within 60 days after you receive our request, but not more frequently than annually

### **Dependents not eligible to enroll under a Senior Advantage plan.**

If you have dependents who do not have Medicare Part B coverage or for some other reason are not eligible to enroll under this *EOC*, you may be able to enroll them as your dependents under a non-Medicare plan offered by your Group. Please contact

your Group for details, including eligibility and benefit information, and to request a copy of the non-Medicare plan document.

## **How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins**

Your Group is required to inform you when you are eligible to enroll and what your effective date of coverage is. If you are eligible to enroll as described under “Who Is Eligible” in this “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section, enrollment is permitted as described below and membership begins at the beginning (12:00 a.m.) of the effective date of coverage indicated below, except that:

- Your Group may have additional requirements, which allow enrollment in other situations
- The effective date of your Senior Advantage coverage under this *EOC* must be confirmed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, as described under “Effective date of Senior Advantage coverage” in this “How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins” section

If you are a Subscriber under this *EOC* and you have dependents who do not have Medicare Part B coverage or for some other reason are not eligible to enroll under this *EOC*, you may be able to enroll them as your dependents under a non-Medicare plan offered by your Group. Please contact your Group for details, including eligibility and benefit information, and to request a copy of the non-Medicare plan document.

If you are eligible to be a Dependent under this *EOC* but the subscriber in your family is enrolled under a non-Medicare plan offered by your Group, the subscriber must follow the rules applicable to Subscribers who are enrolling Dependents in this “How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins” section.

### **Effective date of Senior Advantage coverage**

After we receive your completed Senior Advantage Election Form, we will submit your enrollment request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for confirmation and send you a notice indicating the proposed effective date of your Senior Advantage coverage under this *EOC*.

If the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirms your Senior Advantage enrollment and effective date, we will send you a notice that confirms your enrollment and effective date. If the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services tells us that you do not have Medicare Part B coverage, we will notify you that you will be disenrolled from Senior Advantage.

### **New employees**

When your Group informs you that you are eligible to enroll as a Subscriber, you may enroll yourself and any eligible Dependents by submitting a Health Plan–approved enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, to your Group within 31 days.

**Effective date of Senior Advantage coverage.** The effective date of Senior Advantage coverage for new employees and their eligible family Dependents or newly acquired Dependents, is determined by your Group, subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

### **Group open enrollment**

You may enroll as a Subscriber (along with any eligible Dependents), and existing Subscribers may add eligible Dependents, by submitting a Health Plan–approved enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person to your Group during your Group’s open enrollment period. Your Group will let you know when the open enrollment period begins and ends and the effective date of coverage, which is subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

### **Special enrollment**

If you do not enroll when you are first eligible and later want to enroll, you can enroll only during open enrollment unless one of the following is true:

- You become eligible because you experience a qualifying event (sometimes called a “triggering event”) as described in this “Special enrollment” section
- You did not enroll in any coverage offered by your Group when you were first eligible and your Group does not give us a written statement that verifies you signed a document that explained restrictions about enrolling in the future. Subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the effective date of an enrollment resulting from this provision is no later than the first day of the month following the date your Group receives a Health Plan–approved enrollment or change of enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, from the Subscriber

**Special enrollment due to new Dependents.** You may enroll as a Subscriber (along with eligible Dependents), and existing Subscribers may add eligible Dependents, within 30 days after marriage, establishment of domestic partnership, birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or placement for foster care by submitting to your Group a

Health Plan–approved enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person.

Subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the effective date of an enrollment resulting from marriage or establishment of domestic partnership is no later than the first day of the month following the date your Group receives an enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, from the Subscriber. Subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, enrollments due to birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or placement for foster care are effective on the date of birth, date of adoption, or the date you or your Spouse have newly assumed a legal right to control health care.

**Special enrollment due to loss of other coverage.** You may enroll as a Subscriber (along with any eligible Dependents), and existing Subscribers may add eligible Dependents, if all of the following are true:

- The Subscriber or at least one of the Dependents had other coverage when they previously declined all coverage through your Group
- The loss of the other coverage is due to one of the following:
  - ◆ exhaustion of COBRA coverage
  - ◆ termination of employer contributions for non-COBRA coverage
  - ◆ loss of eligibility for non-COBRA coverage, but not termination for cause or termination from an individual (nongroup) plan for nonpayment. For example, this loss of eligibility may be due to legal separation or divorce, moving out of the plan’s service area, reaching the age limit for dependent children, or the subscriber’s death, termination of employment, or reduction in hours of employment
  - ◆ loss of eligibility (but not termination for cause) for coverage through Covered California, Medicaid coverage (known as Medi-Cal in California), Children’s Health Insurance Program coverage, or Medi-Cal Access Program coverage
  - ◆ reaching a lifetime maximum on all benefits

Note: If you are enrolling yourself as a Subscriber along with at least one eligible Dependent, only one of you must meet the requirements stated above.

To request enrollment, the Subscriber must submit a Health Plan–approved enrollment or change of enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, to your Group within 30 days after loss of other coverage, except that the timeframe for submitting the application is 60 days if you are

requesting enrollment due to loss of eligibility for coverage through Covered California, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, or Medi-Cal Access Program coverage. Subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the effective date of an enrollment resulting from loss of other coverage is no later than the first day of the month following the date your Group receives an enrollment or change of enrollment application, and Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, from the Subscriber.

**Special enrollment due to court or administrative order.** Within 31 days after the date of a court or administrative order requiring a Subscriber to provide health care coverage for a Spouse or child who meets the eligibility requirements as a Dependent, the Subscriber may add the Spouse or child as a Dependent by submitting to your Group a Health Plan–approved enrollment or change of enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person.

Subject to confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the effective date of coverage resulting from a court or administrative order is the first of the month following the date we receive the enrollment request, unless your Group specifies a different effective date (if your Group specifies a different effective date, the effective date cannot be earlier than the date of the order).

**Special enrollment due to eligibility for premium assistance.** You may enroll as a Subscriber (along with eligible Dependents), and existing Subscribers may add eligible Dependents, if you or a dependent become eligible for premium assistance through the Medi-Cal program. Premium assistance is when the Medi-Cal program pays all or part of premiums for employer group coverage for a Medi-Cal beneficiary. To request enrollment in your Group’s health care coverage, the Subscriber must submit a Health Plan–approved enrollment or change of enrollment application, and a Senior Advantage Election Form for each person, to your Group within 60 days after you or a dependent become eligible for premium assistance. Please contact the California Department of Health Care Services to find out if premium assistance is available and the eligibility requirements.

**Special enrollment due to reemployment after military service.** If you terminated your health care coverage because you were called to active duty in the military service, you may be able to reenroll in your Group’s health plan if required by state or federal law. Please ask your Group for more information.

## How to Obtain Services

As a Member, you are selecting our medical care program to provide your health care. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under “Getting a Referral” in this “How to Obtain Services” section
- Covered Services received outside of your Home Region Service Area as described under “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area” in this “How to Obtain Services” section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under “Dialysis Care” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Prescription drugs from Non-Plan Pharmacies as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under “Services Associated with Clinical Trials” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section

As a Member, you are enrolled in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), called your Home Region. The coverage information in this *EOC* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region.

Our medical care program gives you access to all of the covered Services you may need, such as routine care with your own personal Plan Physician, hospital Services, laboratory and pharmacy Services, Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and other benefits described in this *EOC*.

## Routine Care

To request a non-urgent appointment, you can call your local Plan Facility or request the appointment online. For appointment phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services. To request an appointment online, go to our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org).

## Urgent Care

An Urgent Care need is one that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition. If you think you may need Urgent Care, call the appropriate appointment or advice phone number at a Plan Facility. For phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services.

For information about Out-of-Area Urgent Care, refer to “Urgent Care” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section.

## Our Advice Nurses

We know that sometimes it’s difficult to know what type of care you need. That’s why we have telephone advice nurses available to assist you. Our advice nurses are registered nurses specially trained to help assess medical symptoms and provide advice over the phone, when medically appropriate. Whether you are calling for advice or to make an appointment, you can speak to an advice nurse. They can often answer questions about a minor concern, tell you what to do if a Plan Medical Office is closed, or advise you about what to do next, including making a same-day Urgent Care appointment for you if it’s medically appropriate. To reach an advice nurse, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services.

## Your Personal Plan Physician

Personal Plan Physicians provide primary care and play an important role in coordinating care, including hospital stays and referrals to specialists.

We encourage you to choose a personal Plan Physician. You may choose any available personal Plan Physician. Parents may choose a pediatrician as the personal Plan Physician for their child. Most personal Plan Physicians are Primary Care Physicians (generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, or family practice, or specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians). Some specialists who are not designated as Primary Care Physicians but who also provide primary care may be available as personal Plan Physicians. For example, some specialists in internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology who are not designated as Primary Care Physicians may be available as personal Plan Physicians. However, if you choose a specialist who is not designated as a Primary Care Physician as your personal Plan Physician, the Cost Share for a Physician Specialist Visit will apply to all visits with the specialist except for Preventive Services listed in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

To learn how to select or change to a different personal Plan Physician, visit our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org), or call Member Services. Refer to our Provider Directory for a list of physicians that are available as Primary Care Physicians. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Primary Care Physicians may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services. You can change your personal Plan Physician at any time for any reason.

## **Getting a Referral**

### **Referrals to Plan Providers**

A Plan Physician must refer you before you can receive care from specialists, such as specialists in surgery, orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, dermatology, and physical, occupational, and speech therapies. However, you do not need a referral or prior authorization to receive most care from any of the following Plan Providers:

- Your personal Plan Physician
- Generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, and family practice
- Specialists in optometry, mental health Services, substance use disorder treatment, and obstetrics/gynecology

A Plan Physician must refer you before you can get care from a specialist in urology except that you do not need a referral to receive Services related to sexual or reproductive health, such as a vasectomy.

Although a referral or prior authorization is not required to receive most care from these providers, a referral may be required in the following situations:

- The provider may have to get prior authorization for certain Services in accord with “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” in this “Getting a Referral” section
- The provider may have to refer you to a specialist who has a clinical background related to your illness or condition

### **Standing referrals**

If a Plan Physician refers you to a specialist, the referral will be for a specific treatment plan. Your treatment plan may include a standing referral if ongoing care from the specialist is prescribed. For example, if you have a life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling condition, you can

get a standing referral to a specialist if ongoing care from the specialist is required.

### **Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals**

The following are examples of Services that require prior authorization by the Medical Group for the Services to be covered (“prior authorization” means that the Medical Group must approve the Services in advance):

- Durable medical equipment
- Ostomy and urological supplies
- Services not available from Plan Providers
- Transplants

Utilization Management (“UM”) is a process that determines whether a Service recommended by your treating provider is Medically Necessary for you. Prior authorization is a UM process that determines whether the requested services are Medically Necessary before care is provided. If it is Medically Necessary, then you will receive authorization to obtain that care in a clinically appropriate place consistent with the terms of your health coverage. Decisions regarding requests for authorization will be made only by licensed physicians or other appropriately licensed medical professionals.

For the complete list of Services that require prior authorization, and the criteria that are used to make authorization decisions, please visit our website at [kp.org/UM](http://kp.org/UM) or call Member Services to request a printed copy. Refer to “Post-Stabilization Care” under “Emergency Services” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section for authorization requirements that apply to Post-Stabilization Care from Non-Plan Providers.

**Additional information about prior authorization for durable medical equipment, ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies.** The prior authorization process for durable medical equipment, ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies includes the use of formulary guidelines. These guidelines were developed by a multidisciplinary clinical and operational work group with review and input from Plan Physicians and medical professionals with clinical expertise. The formulary guidelines are periodically updated to keep pace with changes in medical technology, Medicare guidelines, and clinical practice.

If your Plan Physician prescribes one of these items, they will submit a written referral in accord with the UM process described in this “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” section. If the formulary guidelines do not specify that the prescribed item is

appropriate for your medical condition, the referral will be submitted to the Medical Group’s designee Plan Physician, who will make an authorization decision as described under “Medical Group’s decision time frames” in this “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” section.

**Medical Group’s decision time frames.** The applicable Medical Group designee will make the authorization decision within the time frame appropriate for your condition, but no later than five business days after receiving all of the information (including additional examination and test results) reasonably necessary to make the decision, except that decisions about urgent Services will be made no later than 72 hours after receipt of the information reasonably necessary to make the decision. If the Medical Group needs more time to make the decision because it doesn’t have information reasonably necessary to make the decision, or because it has requested consultation by a particular specialist, you and your treating physician will be informed about the additional information, testing, or specialist that is needed, and the date that the Medical Group expects to make a decision.

Your treating physician will be informed of the decision within 24 hours after the decision is made. If the Services are authorized, your physician will be informed of the scope of the authorized Services. If the Medical Group does not authorize all of the Services, Health Plan will send you a written decision and explanation within two business days after the decision is made. Any written criteria that the Medical Group uses to make the decision to authorize, modify, delay, or deny the request for authorization will be made available to you upon request.

If the Medical Group does not authorize all of the Services requested and you want to appeal the decision, you can file a grievance as described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

For these referral Services, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in this *EOC*.

## **Travel and Lodging for Certain Services**

The following are examples of when we will arrange or provide reimbursement for certain travel and lodging expenses in accord with our Travel and Lodging Program Description:

- If Medical Group refers you to a provider that is more than 50 miles from where you live for certain specialty Services such as bariatric surgery, complex

thoracic surgery, transplant nephrectomy, or inpatient chemotherapy for leukemia and lymphoma

- If Medical Group refers you to a provider that is outside our Service Area for certain specialty Services such as a transplant or transgender surgery
- If you are outside of California and you need an abortion on an emergency or urgent basis, and the abortion can’t be obtained in a timely manner due to a near total or total ban on health care providers’ ability to provide such Services

For the complete list of specialty Services for which we will arrange or provide reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses, the amount of reimbursement, limitations and exclusions, and how to request reimbursement, refer to the Travel and Lodging Program Description. The Travel and Lodging Program Description is available online at [kp.org/specialty-care/travel-reimbursements](http://kp.org/specialty-care/travel-reimbursements) or by calling Member Services.

## **Second Opinions**

If you want a second opinion, you can ask Member Services to help you arrange one with a Plan Physician who is an appropriately qualified medical professional for your condition. If there isn’t a Plan Physician who is an appropriately qualified medical professional for your condition, Member Services will help you arrange a consultation with a Non-Plan Physician for a second opinion. For purposes of this “Second Opinions” provision, an “appropriately qualified medical professional” is a physician who is acting within their scope of practice and who possesses a clinical background, including training and expertise, related to the illness or condition associated with the request for a second medical opinion.

Here are some examples of when a second opinion may be provided or authorized:

- Your Plan Physician has recommended a procedure and you are unsure about whether the procedure is reasonable or necessary
- You question a diagnosis or plan of care for a condition that threatens substantial impairment or loss of life, limb, or bodily functions
- The clinical indications are not clear or are complex and confusing
- A diagnosis is in doubt due to conflicting test results
- The Plan Physician is unable to diagnose the condition



- The treatment plan in progress is not improving your medical condition within an appropriate period of time, given the diagnosis and plan of care
- You have concerns about the diagnosis or plan of care

An authorization or denial of your request for a second opinion will be provided in an expeditious manner, as appropriate for your condition. If your request for a second opinion is denied, you will be notified in writing of the reasons for the denial and of your right to file a grievance as described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

For these referral Services, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in this *EOC*.

## **Contracts with Plan Providers**

### **How Plan Providers are paid**

Health Plan and Plan Providers are independent contractors. Plan Providers are paid in a number of ways, such as salary, capitation, per diem rates, case rates, fee for service, and incentive payments. To learn more about how Plan Physicians are paid to provide or arrange medical and hospital Services for Members, please visit our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org) or call Member Services.

### **Financial liability**

Our contracts with Plan Providers provide that you are not liable for any amounts we owe. However, you may have to pay the full price of noncovered Services you obtain from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers.

When you are referred to a Plan Provider for covered Services, you pay the Cost Share required for Services from that provider as described in this *EOC*.

### **Termination of a Plan Provider’s contract and completion of Services**

If our contract with any Plan Provider terminates while you are under the care of that provider, we will retain financial responsibility for the covered Services you receive from that provider until we make arrangements for the Services to be provided by another Plan Provider and notify you of the arrangements.

**Completion of Services.** If you are undergoing treatment for specific conditions from a Plan Physician (or certain other providers) when the contract with him or her ends (for reasons other than medical disciplinary cause, criminal activity, or the provider’s voluntary termination), you may be eligible to continue receiving covered care from the terminated provider for your

condition. The conditions that are subject to this continuation of care provision are:

- Certain conditions that are either acute, or serious and chronic. We may cover these Services for up to 90 days, or longer, if necessary for a safe transfer of care to a Plan Physician or other contracting provider as determined by the Medical Group
- A high-risk pregnancy or a pregnancy in its second or third trimester. We may cover these Services through postpartum care related to the delivery, or longer if Medically Necessary for a safe transfer of care to a Plan Physician as determined by the Medical Group

The Services must be otherwise covered under this *EOC*. Also, the terminated provider must agree in writing to our contractual terms and conditions and comply with them for Services to be covered by us.

For the Services of a terminated provider, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in this *EOC*.

**More information.** For more information about this provision, or to request the Services, please call Member Services.

## **Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area**

For information about your coverage when you are away from home, visit our website at [kp.org/travel](http://kp.org/travel). You can also call the Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except closed holidays).

### **Receiving care in another Kaiser Permanente service area**

If you are visiting in another Kaiser Permanente service area, you may receive certain covered Services from designated providers in that other Kaiser Permanente service area, subject to exclusions, limitations, prior authorization or approval requirements, and reductions. For more information about receiving covered Services in another Kaiser Permanente service area, including provider and facility locations, please visit [kp.org/travel](http://kp.org/travel) or call our Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except closed holidays).

### **Receiving care outside of any Kaiser Permanente service area**

If you are traveling outside of any Kaiser Permanente service area, we cover Services as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section about

Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care and the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section about out-of-area dialysis care.

## **Your ID Card**

Each Member’s Kaiser Permanente ID card has a medical record number on it, which you will need when you call for advice, make an appointment, or go to a provider for covered care. When you get care, please bring your Kaiser Permanente ID card and a photo ID. Your medical record number is used to identify your medical records and membership information. Your medical record number should never change. Please call Member Services if we ever inadvertently issue you more than one medical record number or if you need to replace your Kaiser Permanente ID card.

Your ID card is for identification only. To receive covered Services, you must be a current Member. Anyone who is not a Member will be billed as a non-Member for any Services they receive. If you let someone else use your ID card, we may keep your ID card and terminate your membership as described under “Termination for Cause” in the “Termination of Membership” section.

## **Your Medicare card**

Do NOT use your red, white, and blue Medicare card for covered medical Services while you are a Member of this plan. If you use your Medicare card instead of your Senior Advantage membership card, you may have to pay the full cost of medical services yourself. Keep your Medicare card in a safe place. You may be asked to show it if you need hospice services or participate in routine research studies.

## **Getting Assistance**

We want you to be satisfied with the health care you receive from Kaiser Permanente. If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with your personal Plan Physician or with other Plan Providers who are treating you. They are committed to your satisfaction and want to help you with your questions.

## **Member Services**

Member Services representatives can answer any questions you have about your benefits, available Services, and the facilities where you can receive care. For example, they can explain the following:

- Your Health Plan benefits
- How to make your first medical appointment

- What to do if you move
- How to replace your Kaiser Permanente ID card

Many Plan Facilities have an office staffed with representatives who can provide assistance if you need help obtaining Services. At different locations, these offices may be called Member Services, Patient Assistance, or Customer Service. In addition, Member Services representatives are available to assist you seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. toll free at **1-800-443-0815** or **711** (TTY for the deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired). For your convenience, you can also contact us through our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org).

## **Cost Share estimates**

For information about estimates, see “Getting an estimate of your Cost Share” under “Your Cost Share” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

## **Plan Facilities**

Plan Medical Offices and Plan Hospitals are listed in the Provider Directory for your Home Region. The directory describes the types of covered Services that are available from each Plan Facility, because some facilities provide only specific types of covered Services. This directory is available on our website at [kp.org/facilities](http://kp.org/facilities). To obtain a printed copy, call Member Services. The directory is updated periodically. The availability of Plan Facilities may change. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

At most of our Plan Facilities, you can usually receive all of the covered Services you need, including specialty care, pharmacy, and lab work. You are not restricted to a particular Plan Facility, and we encourage you to use the facility that will be most convenient for you:

- All Plan Hospitals provide inpatient Services and are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Emergency Services are available from Plan Hospital Emergency Departments (for Emergency Department locations, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- Same-day Urgent Care appointments are available at many locations (for Urgent Care locations, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- Many Plan Medical Offices have evening and weekend appointments
- Many Plan Facilities have a Member Services office (for locations, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

- Plan Pharmacies are located at most Plan Medical Offices (refer to *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory* for pharmacy locations)

## **Provider Directory**

The *Provider Directory* lists our Plan Providers. It is subject to change and periodically updated. If you don't have our *Provider Directory*, you can get a copy by calling Member Services or by visiting our website at [kp.org/directory](http://kp.org/directory).

## **Pharmacy Directory**

The *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory* lists the locations of Plan Pharmacies, which are also called “network pharmacies.” The pharmacy directory provides additional information about obtaining prescription drugs. It is subject to change and periodically updated. If you don't have the *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory*, you can get a copy by calling Member Services or by visiting our website at [kp.org/directory](http://kp.org/directory).

## **Emergency Services and Urgent Care**

### **Emergency Services**

If you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 (where available) or go to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. You do not need prior authorization for Emergency Services. When you have an Emergency Medical Condition, we cover Emergency Services you receive from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers anywhere in the world.

Emergency Services are available from Plan Hospital Emergency Departments 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Post-Stabilization Care**

Post-Stabilization Care is Medically Necessary Services related to your Emergency Medical Condition that you receive in a hospital (including the Emergency Department) after your treating physician determines that your condition is Stabilized.

To request prior authorization, the Non-Plan Provider must call **1-800-225-8883** or the notification phone number on your Kaiser Permanente ID card *before* you receive the care. We will discuss your condition with the Non-Plan Provider. If we determine that you require

Post-Stabilization Care and that this care is part of your covered benefits, we will authorize your care from the Non-Plan Provider or arrange to have a Plan Provider (or other designated provider) provide the care with the treating physician's concurrence. If we decide to have a Plan Hospital, Plan Skilled Nursing Facility, or designated Non-Plan Provider provide your care, we may authorize special transportation services that are medically required to get you to the provider. This may include transportation that is otherwise not covered.

Be sure to ask the Non-Plan Provider to tell you what care (including any transportation) we have authorized because we will not cover unauthorized Post-Stabilization Care or related transportation provided by Non-Plan Providers. If you receive care from a Non-Plan Provider that we have not authorized, you may have to pay the full cost of that care if you are notified by the Non-Plan Provider or us about your potential liability.

### **Your Cost Share**

Your Cost Share for covered Emergency Services and Post-Stabilization Care is described in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. Your Cost Share is the same whether you receive the Services from a Plan Provider or a Non-Plan Provider. For example:

- If you receive Emergency Services in the Emergency Department of a Non-Plan Hospital, you pay the Cost Share for an Emergency Department visit as described under “Outpatient Care”
- If we gave prior authorization for inpatient Post-Stabilization Care in a Non-Plan Hospital, you pay the Cost Share for hospital inpatient care as described under “Hospital Inpatient Care”

### **Urgent Care**

#### **Inside your Home Region Service Area**

An Urgent Care need is one that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition. If you think you may need Urgent Care, call the appropriate appointment or advice phone number at a Plan Facility. For appointment and advice phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services.

In the event of unusual circumstances that delay or render impractical the provision of Services under this *EOC* (such as a major disaster, epidemic, war, riot, and civil insurrection), we cover Urgent Care inside your Home Region Service Area from a Non-Plan Provider.

## Out-of-Area Urgent Care

If you need Urgent Care due to an unforeseen illness or unforeseen injury, we cover Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your health from a Non-Plan Provider if all of the following are true:

- You receive the Services from Non-Plan Providers while you are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to your Home Region Service Area

You do not need prior authorization for Out-of-Area Urgent Care. We cover Out-of-Area Urgent Care you receive from Non-Plan Providers if the Services would have been covered under this *EOC* if you had received them from Plan Providers.

We do not cover follow-up care from Non-Plan Providers after you no longer need Urgent Care. To obtain follow-up care from a Plan Provider, call the appointment or advice phone number at a Plan Facility. For phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services.

## Your Cost Share

Your Cost Share for covered Urgent Care is the Cost Share required for Services provided by Plan Providers as described in this *EOC*. For example:

- If you receive an Urgent Care evaluation as part of covered Out-of-Area Urgent Care from a Non-Plan Provider, you pay the Cost Share for Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment as described under “Outpatient Care”
- If the Out-of-Area Urgent Care you receive includes an X-ray, you pay the Cost Share for an X-ray as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services” in addition to the Cost Share for the Urgent Care evaluation

Note: If you receive Urgent Care in an Emergency Department, you pay the Cost Share for an Emergency Department visit as described under “Outpatient Care.”

## Payment and Reimbursement

If you receive Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Urgent Care from a Non-Plan Provider as described in this “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section, or emergency ambulance Services described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section, ask the Non-Plan Provider to

submit a claim to us within 60 days or as soon as possible, but no later than 15 months after receiving the care (or up to 27 months according to Medicare rules, in some cases). If the provider refuses to bill us, send us the unpaid bill with a claim form. Also, if you receive Services from a Plan Provider that are prescribed by a Non-Plan Provider as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Urgent Care (for example, drugs), you may be required to pay for the Services and file a claim. To request payment or reimbursement, you must file a claim as described in the “Requests for Payment” section.

We will reduce any payment we make to you or the Non-Plan Provider by the applicable Cost Share. Also, in accord with applicable law, we will reduce our payment by any amounts paid or payable (or that in the absence of this plan would have been payable) for the Services under any insurance policy, or any other contract or coverage, or any government program except Medicaid.

## Benefits and Your Cost Share

This section describes the Services that are covered under this *EOC*.

Services are covered under this *EOC* as specifically described in this *EOC*. Services that are not specifically described in this *EOC* are not covered, except as required by federal law. Services are subject to exclusions and limitations described in the “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section. Except as otherwise described in this *EOC*, all of the following conditions must be satisfied:

- You are a Member on the date that you receive the Services
- The Services are Medically Necessary
- The Services are one of the following:
  - ◆ Preventive Services
  - ◆ health care items and services for diagnosis, assessment, or treatment
  - ◆ health education covered under “Health Education” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ other health care items and services
  - ◆ other services to treat Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18 or Severe Mental Illness

- The Services are provided, prescribed, authorized, or directed by a Plan Physician except for:
  - ◆ covered Services received outside of your Home Region Service Area, as described under “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
  - ◆ drugs prescribed by dentists, as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ emergency ambulance Services, as described under “Ambulance Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care, as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
  - ◆ eyeglasses and contact lenses after cataract surgery prescribed by Non-Plan Providers, as described under “Vision Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ out-of-area dialysis care, as described under “Dialysis Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials, as described under “Services Associated with Clinical Trials” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- You receive the Services from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except for:
  - ◆ authorized referrals, as described under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
  - ◆ covered Services received outside of your Home Region Service Area, as described under “Receiving Care Outside of Your Home Region Service Area” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
  - ◆ emergency ambulance Services, as described under “Ambulance Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care, as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
  - ◆ out-of-area dialysis care, as described under “Dialysis Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ prescription drugs from Non-Plan Pharmacies, as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
  - ◆ routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials, as described under

“Services Associated with Clinical Trials” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section

- The Medical Group has given prior authorization for the Services, if required, as described under “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” in the “How to Obtain Services” section

Please also refer to:

- The “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section for information about how to obtain covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care
- Our Provider Directory for the types of covered Services that are available from each Plan Facility, because some facilities provide only specific types of covered Services

## **Your Cost Share**

Your Cost Share is the amount you are required to pay for covered Services. The Cost Share for covered Services is listed in this *EOC*. For example, your Cost Share may be a Copayment or Coinsurance. If your coverage includes a Plan Deductible and you receive Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, your Cost Share for those Services will be Charges until you reach the Plan Deductible.

### **General rules, examples, and exceptions**

Your Cost Share for covered Services will be the Cost Share in effect on the date you receive the Services, except as follows:

- If you are receiving covered hospital inpatient Services on the effective date of this *EOC*, you pay the Cost Share in effect on your admission date until you are discharged if the Services were covered under your prior Health Plan evidence of coverage and there has been no break in coverage. However, if the Services were not covered under your prior Health Plan evidence of coverage, or if there has been a break in coverage, you pay the Cost Share in effect on the date you receive the Services
- For items ordered in advance, you pay the Cost Share in effect on the order date (although we will not cover the item unless you still have coverage for it on the date you receive it) and you may be required to pay the Cost Share when the item is ordered. For outpatient prescription drugs, the order date is the date that the pharmacy processes the order after receiving all of the information they need to fill the prescription

### **Payment toward your Cost Share (and when you may be billed)**

In most cases, your provider will ask you to make a payment toward your Cost Share at the time you receive Services. If you receive more than one type of Services (such as primary care treatment and laboratory tests), you may be required to pay separate Cost Share for each of those Services. Keep in mind that your payment toward your Cost Share may cover only a portion of your total Cost Share for the Services you receive, and you will be billed for any additional amounts that are due. The following are examples of when you may be asked to pay (or you may be billed for) Cost Share amounts in addition to the amount you pay at check-in:

- You receive non-preventive Services during a preventive visit. For example, you go in for a routine physical exam, and at check-in you pay your Cost Share for the preventive exam (your Cost Share may be “no charge”). However, during your preventive exam your provider finds a problem with your health and orders non-preventive Services to diagnose your problem (such as laboratory tests). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Cost Share for these additional non-preventive diagnostic Services
- You receive diagnostic Services during a treatment visit. For example, you go in for treatment of an existing health condition, and at check-in you pay your Cost Share for a treatment visit. However, during the visit your provider finds a new problem with your health and performs or orders diagnostic Services (such as laboratory tests). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Cost Share for these additional diagnostic Services
- You receive treatment Services during a diagnostic visit. For example, you go in for a diagnostic exam, and at check-in you pay your Cost Share for a diagnostic exam. However, during the diagnostic exam your provider confirms a problem with your health and performs treatment Services (such as an outpatient procedure). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Cost Share for these additional treatment Services
- You receive Services from a second provider during your visit. For example, you go in for a diagnostic exam, and at check-in you pay your Cost Share for a diagnostic exam. However, during the diagnostic exam your provider requests a consultation with a specialist. You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Cost Share for the consultation with the specialist

In some cases, your provider will not ask you to make a payment at the time you receive Services, and you will be billed for your Cost Share (for example, some

Laboratory Departments are not able to collect Cost Shares).

When we send you a bill, it will list Charges for the Services you received, payments and credits applied to your account, and any amounts you still owe. Your current bill may not always reflect your most recent Charges and payments. Any Charges and payments that are not on the current bill will appear on a future bill. Sometimes, you may see a payment but not the related Charges for Services. That could be because your payment was recorded before the Charges for the Services were processed. If so, the Charges will appear on a future bill. Also, you may receive more than one bill for a single outpatient visit or inpatient stay. For example, you may receive a bill for physician services and a separate bill for hospital services. If you don't see all the Charges for Services on one bill, they will appear on a future bill. If we determine that you overpaid and are due a refund, then we will send a refund to you within four weeks after we make that determination. If you have questions about a bill, please call the phone number on the bill.

In some cases, a Non-Plan Provider may be involved in the provision of covered Services at a Plan Facility or a contracted facility where we have authorized you to receive care. You are not responsible for any amounts beyond your Cost Share for the covered Services you receive at Plan Facilities or at contracted facilities where we have authorized you to receive care. However, if the provider does not agree to bill us, you may have to pay for the Services and file a claim for reimbursement. For information on how to file a claim, please see the “Requests for Payment” section.

**Primary Care Visits, Non-Physician Specialist Visits, and Physician Specialist Visits.** The Cost Share for a Primary Care Visit applies to evaluations and treatment provided by generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, or family practice, and by specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians. Some physician specialists provide primary care in addition to specialty care but are not designated as Primary Care Physicians. If you receive Services from one of these specialists, the Cost Share for a Physician Specialist Visit will apply to all consultations, evaluations, and treatment provided by the specialist except for routine preventive counseling and exams listed under “Preventive Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. For example, if your personal Plan Physician is a specialist in internal medicine or obstetrics/gynecology who is not a Primary Care Physician, you will pay the Cost Share for a Physician Specialist Visit for all consultations, evaluations, and treatment by the specialist except

routine preventive counseling and exams listed under “Preventive Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. The Non-Physician Specialist Visit Cost Share applies to consultations, evaluations, and treatment provided by non-physician specialists (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, optometrists, podiatrists, and audiologists).

**Noncovered Services.** If you receive Services that are not covered under this *EOC*, you may have to pay the full price of those Services. Payments you make for noncovered Services do not apply to any deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

### Getting an estimate of your Cost Share

If you have questions about the Cost Share for specific Services that you expect to receive or that your provider orders during a visit or procedure, please visit our website at [kp.org/memberestimates](http://kp.org/memberestimates) to use our cost estimate tool or call Member Services.

- If you have a Plan Deductible and would like an estimate for Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, please call **1-800-390-3507** (TTY users call **711**) Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- For all other Cost Share estimates, please call **1-800-443-0815**, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (TTY users should call **711**)

Cost Share estimates are based on your benefits and the Services you expect to receive. They are a prediction of cost and not a guarantee of the final cost of Services. Your final cost may be higher or lower than the estimate since not everything about your care can be known in advance.

### Copayments and Coinsurance

The Copayment or Coinsurance you must pay for each covered Service, after you meet any applicable deductible, is described in this *EOC*.

Note: If Charges for Services are less than the Copayment described in this *EOC*, you will pay the lesser amount.

### Outpatient Care

We cover the following outpatient care subject to the Cost Share indicated:

#### Office visits

- Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*: **no charge**

- Physician Specialist Visits that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*: **no charge**
- House calls by a Plan Physician (or a Plan Provider who is a registered nurse) inside your Home Region Service Area when care can best be provided in your home as determined by a Plan Physician:
  - ◆ Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits: **no charge**
  - ◆ Physician Specialist Visits: **no charge**
- Routine physical exams that are medically appropriate preventive care in accord with generally accepted professional standards of practice: **no charge**
- Family planning counseling, or internally implanted time-release contraceptives or intrauterine devices (IUDs) and office visits related to their administration and management: **no charge**
- After confirmation of pregnancy, the normal series of regularly scheduled preventive prenatal care exams and the first postpartum follow-up consultation and exam: **no charge**
- Voluntary termination of pregnancy and related Services: **no charge**
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy in accord with Medicare guidelines: **no charge**
- Group and individual physical therapy prescribed by a Plan Provider to prevent falls: **no charge**
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation day-treatment program in accord with Medicare guidelines: **no charge**
- For Northern California Members, manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation, in accord with Medicare guidelines, is covered when provided by a Plan Provider or a chiropractor if authorized by a Plan Provider: **no charge**. (For the list of participating ASH Plans providers, please refer to your *Provider Directory*)
- For Southern California Members, manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation, in accord with Medicare guidelines, is covered by a participating chiropractor of the American Specialty Health Plans of California, Inc. (ASH Plans): **no charge**. (A referral by a Plan Physician is not required. For the list of participating ASH Plans providers, refer to your *Provider Directory*)

#### Acupuncture Services

- Acupuncture for chronic low back pain up to 12 visits in 90 days, in accord with Medicare guidelines:

**no charge.** Chronic low back pain is defined as follows:

- ◆ lasting 12 weeks or longer
- ◆ non-specific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e. not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, disease, etc)
- ◆ not associated with surgery or pregnancy
- An additional eight sessions will be covered for those 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
- Acupuncture not covered by Medicare (typically provided only for the treatment of nausea or as part of a comprehensive pain management program for the treatment of chronic pain): **no charge**

### Emergency Services and Urgent Care

- Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Emergency Department visits: **no charge**

### If you are admitted from the Emergency Department.

If you are admitted to the hospital as an inpatient for covered Services (either within 24 hours for the same condition or after an observation stay), then the Services you received in the Emergency Department and observation stay, if applicable, will be considered part of your inpatient hospital stay. For the Cost Share for inpatient care, refer to “Hospital Inpatient Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. However, the Emergency Department Cost Share does apply if you are admitted for observation but are not admitted as an inpatient.

### Outpatient surgeries and procedures

- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Cost Share that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff

member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)

- Pre- and post-operative visits:
  - ◆ Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits: **no charge**
  - ◆ Physician Specialist Visits: **no charge**

### Administered drugs and products

Administered drugs and products are medications and products that require administration or observation by medical personnel. We cover these items when prescribed by a Plan Provider, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines, and they are administered to you in a Plan Facility or during home visits.

We cover the following Services and their administration in a Plan Facility at the Cost Share indicated:

- Whole blood, red blood cells, plasma, and platelets: **no charge**
- Allergy antigens (including administration): **no charge**
- Cancer chemotherapy drugs and adjuncts: **no charge**
- Drugs and products that are administered via intravenous therapy or injection that are not for cancer chemotherapy, including blood factor products and biological products (“biologics”) derived from tissue, cells, or blood: **no charge**
- Tuberculosis skin tests: **no charge**
- All other administered drugs and products: **no charge**

We cover drugs and products administered to you during a home visit at **no charge**.

Certain administered drugs are Preventive Services. Refer to “Preventive Services” for information on immunizations.

Note: Vaccines covered by Medicare Part D are not covered under this “Outpatient Care” section (instead, refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section).

### For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Bariatric Surgery
- Dental Services
- Dialysis Care
- Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use



- Fertility Services
- Health Education
- Hearing Services
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Care
- Meals
- Mental Health Services
- Ostomy, Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies
- Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services
- Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements
- Preventive Services
- Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Services Associated with Clinical Trials
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Transplant Services
- Transportation Services
- Vision Services
- Imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services, including MRI, CT, and PET scans
- Whole blood, red blood cells, plasma, platelets, and their administration
- Obstetrical care and delivery (including cesarean section). Note: If you are discharged within 48 hours after delivery (or within 96 hours if delivery is by cesarean section), your Plan Physician may order a follow-up visit for you and your newborn to take place within 48 hours after discharge (for visits after you are released from the hospital, please refer to “Outpatient Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy (including treatment in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation program) in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Respiratory therapy
- Medical social services and discharge planning

**Your Cost Share.** We cover hospital inpatient Services at **no charge**.

**For the following Services, refer to these sections**

**Hospital Inpatient Services**

We cover the following inpatient Services in a Plan Hospital, when the Services are generally and customarily provided by acute care general hospitals inside your Home Region Service Area:

- Room and board, including a private room if Medically Necessary
- Specialized care and critical care units
- General and special nursing care
- Operating and recovery rooms
- Services of Plan Physicians, including consultation and treatment by specialists
- Anesthesia
- Drugs prescribed in accord with our drug formulary guidelines (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the hospital, refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)
- Radioactive materials used for therapeutic purposes
- Durable medical equipment and medical supplies
- Bariatric surgical procedures (refer to “Bariatric Surgery”)
- Dental procedures (refer to “Dental Services”)
- Dialysis care (refer to “Dialysis Care”)
- Fertility Services related to diagnosis and treatment of infertility, artificial insemination, or assisted reproductive technology (refer to “Fertility Services”)
- Hospice care (refer to “Hospice Care”)
- Mental health Services (refer to “Mental Health Services”)
- Prosthetics and orthotics (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)
- Reconstructive surgery Services (refer to “Reconstructive Surgery”)
- Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services (refer to “Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution”)
- Services in connection with a clinical trial (refer to “Services in Connection with a Clinical Trial”)
- Skilled inpatient Services in a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to “Skilled Nursing Facility Care”)
- Substance use disorder treatment Services (refer to “Substance Use Disorder Treatment”)

- Transplant Services (refer to “Transplant Services”)

## **Ambulance Services**

### **Emergency**

We cover Services of a licensed ambulance anywhere in the world without prior authorization (including transportation through the 911 emergency response system where available) in the following situations:

- You reasonably believed that the medical condition was an Emergency Medical Condition which required ambulance Services
- Your treating physician determines that you must be transported to another facility because your Emergency Medical Condition is not Stabilized and the care you need is not available at the treating facility

If you receive emergency ambulance Services that are not ordered by a Plan Provider, you are not responsible for any amounts beyond your Cost Share for covered emergency ambulance Services. However, if the provider does not agree to bill us, you may have to pay for the Services and file a claim for reimbursement. For information on how to file a claim, please see the “Requests for Payment” section.

### **Nonemergency**

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover nonemergency ambulance Services in accord with Medicare guidelines if a Plan Physician determines that your condition requires the use of Services that only a licensed ambulance can provide and that the use of other means of transportation would endanger your health. These Services are covered only when the vehicle transports you to and from qualifying locations as defined by Medicare guidelines.

### **Your Cost Share**

You pay the following for covered ambulance Services:

- Emergency ambulance Services: **no charge**
- Nonemergency Services: **no charge**

### **Ambulance Services exclusions**

- Transportation by car, taxi, bus, gurney van, wheelchair van, and any other type of transportation (other than a licensed ambulance), even if it is the only way to travel to a Plan Provider, except as otherwise covered under “Transportation Services” in this section

## **Bariatric Surgery**

We cover hospital inpatient Services related to bariatric surgical procedures (including room and board, imaging, laboratory, other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services) when performed to treat obesity by modification of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutrient intake and absorption, if all of the following requirements are met:

- You complete the Medical Group–approved pre-surgical educational preparatory program regarding lifestyle changes necessary for long term bariatric surgery success
- A Plan Physician who is a specialist in bariatric care determines that the surgery is Medically Necessary

**Your Cost Share.** For covered Services related to bariatric surgical procedures that you receive, you will pay the **Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to a bariatric surgical procedure.** For example, see “Hospital Inpatient Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Care”)

## **Dental Services**

### **Dental Services for radiation treatment**

We cover services in accord with Medicare guidelines, including dental evaluation, X-rays, fluoride treatment, and extractions necessary to prepare your jaw for radiation therapy of cancer in your head or neck if a Plan Physician provides the Services or if the Medical Group authorizes a referral to a dentist for those Services (as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section).

### **Dental Services for transplants**

We cover dental services that are Medically Necessary to free the mouth from infection in order to prepare for a transplant covered under "Transplant Services" in this "Benefits" section, if a Plan Physician provides the Services or if the Medical Group authorizes a referral to a dentist for those Services (as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals"

under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section).

### **Dental anesthesia**

For dental procedures at a Plan Facility, we provide general anesthesia and the facility's Services associated with the anesthesia if all of the following are true:

- You are under age 7, or you are developmentally disabled, or your health is compromised
- Your clinical status or underlying medical condition requires that the dental procedure be provided in a hospital or outpatient surgery center
- The dental procedure would not ordinarily require general anesthesia

We do not cover any other Services related to the dental procedure, such as the dentist's Services, unless the Service is covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or for transplant services.

### **Your Cost Share**

You pay the following for dental Services covered under this "Dental Services" section:

- Non-Physician Specialist Visits with dentists for Services covered under this "Dental Services" section: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits for Services covered under this "Dental Services" section: **no charge**
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Cost Share that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this "Benefits and Your Cost Share" section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services")
- Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services): **no charge**

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Office visits not described in this "Dental Services" section (refer to "Outpatient Care")
- Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services")
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")

### **Dialysis Care**

We cover acute and chronic dialysis Services if all of the following requirements are met:

- You satisfy all medical criteria developed by the Medical Group
- The facility is certified by Medicare
- A Plan Physician provides a written referral for your dialysis treatment except for out-of-area dialysis care

We also cover hemodialysis and peritoneal home dialysis (including equipment, training, and medical supplies). Coverage is limited to the standard item of equipment or supplies that adequately meets your medical needs. We decide whether to rent or purchase the equipment and supplies, and we select the vendor. You must return the equipment and any unused supplies to us or pay us the fair market price of the equipment and any unused supply when we are no longer covering them.

### **Out-of-area dialysis care**

We cover dialysis (kidney) Services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area. If possible, before you leave the Service Area, please let us know where you are going so we can help arrange for you to have maintenance dialysis while outside your Home Region Service Area.

The procedure for obtaining reimbursement for out-of-area dialysis care is described in the "Requests for Payment" section.

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for these covered Services related to dialysis:

- Equipment and supplies for home hemodialysis and home peritoneal dialysis: **no charge**
- One routine outpatient visit per month with the multidisciplinary nephrology team for a consultation, evaluation, or treatment: **no charge**

- Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis treatment:  
**no charge**
- Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services): **no charge**

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Durable medical equipment for home use (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Hospital inpatient Services (refer to “Hospital Inpatient Services”)
- Office visits not described in this “Dialysis Care” section (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Kidney disease education (refer to “Health Education”)
- Outpatient laboratory (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

### **Dialysis care exclusions**

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment, supplies and features
- Nonmedical items, such as generators or accessories to make home dialysis equipment portable for travel

## **Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use**

### **DME coverage rules**

DME for home use is an item that meets the following criteria:

- The item is intended for repeated use
- The item is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose
- The item is generally useful only to an individual with an illness or injury
- The item is appropriate for use in the home (or another location used as your home as defined by Medicare)
- The item is expected to last at least 3 years

For a DME item to be covered, all of the following requirements must be met:

- Your *EOC* includes coverage for the requested DME item
- A Plan Physician has prescribed the DME item for your medical condition
- The item has been approved for you through the Plan’s prior authorization process, as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area

Coverage is limited to the standard item of equipment that adequately meets your medical needs. We decide whether to rent or purchase the equipment, and we select the vendor.

### **DME for diabetes**

We cover the following diabetes testing supplies and equipment and insulin-administration devices if all of the requirements described under “DME coverage rules” in this “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” section are met:

- Glucose monitors for diabetes testing and their supplies (such as glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices)
- Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for covered DME for diabetes (including repair or replacement of covered equipment):

- Glucose monitors for diabetes testing and their supplies (such as glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices): **no charge**
- Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump:  
**no charge**

### **Base DME Items**

We cover Base DME Items (including repair or replacement of covered equipment) if all of the requirements described under “DME coverage rules” in this “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” section are met. “Base DME Items” means the following items:

- Glucose monitors for diabetes blood testing and their supplies (such as blood glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices)
- Bone stimulator

- Canes (standard curved handle or quad) and replacement supplies
- Cervical traction (over door)
- Crutches (standard or forearm) and replacement supplies
- Dry pressure pad for a mattress
- Infusion pumps (such as insulin pumps) and supplies to operate the pump
- IV pole
- Nebulizer and supplies
- Phototherapy blankets for treatment of jaundice in newborns

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for covered Base DME Items: **no charge**.

### Other covered DME items

If all of the requirements described under “DME coverage rules” in this “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” section are met, we cover the following other DME items (including repair or replacement of covered equipment):

- Bed accessories for a hospital bed when bed extension is required
- Heel or elbow protectors to prevent or minimize advanced pressure relief equipment use
- Iontophoresis device to treat hyperhidrosis when antiperspirants are contraindicated and the hyperhidrosis has created medical complications (for example, skin infection) or preventing daily living activities
- Nontherapeutic continuous glucose monitoring devices and related supplies
- Peak flow meters
- Resuscitation bag if tracheostomy patient has significant secretion management problems, needing lavage and suction technique aided by deep breathing via resuscitation bag

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for other covered DME items: **no charge**.

### Outside your Home Region Service Area

We do not cover most DME for home use outside your Home Region Service Area. However, if you live outside your Home Region Service Area, we cover the following DME (subject to the Cost Share and all other coverage requirements that apply to DME for home use inside your Home Region Service Area) when the item is dispensed at a Plan Facility:

- Blood glucose monitors for diabetes blood testing and their supplies (such as blood glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices) from a Plan Pharmacy
- Canes (standard curved handle)
- Crutches (standard)
- Nebulizers and their supplies for the treatment of pediatric asthma
- Peak flow meters from a Plan Pharmacy

### For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Dialysis equipment and supplies required for home hemodialysis and home peritoneal dialysis (refer to “Dialysis Care”)
- Diabetes urine testing supplies and insulin-administration devices other than insulin pumps (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Durable medical equipment related to the terminal illness for Members who are receiving covered hospice care (refer to “Hospice Care”)
- Insulin and any other drugs administered with an infusion pump (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)

### DME for home use exclusions

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Dental appliances
- Items not intended for maintaining normal activities of daily living, such as exercise equipment (including devices intended to provide additional support for recreational or sports activities)
- Hygiene equipment
- Nonmedical items, such as sauna baths or elevators
- Modifications to your home or car, unless covered in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Devices for testing blood or other body substances (except diabetes blood glucose monitors and their supplies)
- Electronic monitors of the heart or lungs except infant apnea monitors
- Repair or replacement of equipment due to misuse

## **Fertility Services**

“Fertility Services” means treatments and procedures to help you become pregnant.

### **Diagnosis and treatment of infertility**

For purposes of this “Diagnosis and treatment of infertility” section, “infertility” means not being able to get pregnant or carry a pregnancy to a live birth after a year or more of regular sexual relations without contraception or having a medical or other demonstrated condition that is recognized by a Plan Physician as a cause of infertility. We cover the following:

- Services for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility
- Artificial insemination

You pay the following for covered infertility Services:

- Office visits: **no charge**
- Most outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or provided in any setting where a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Outpatient imaging: **no charge**
- Outpatient laboratory: **no charge**
- Outpatient administered drugs: **no charge**
- Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services): **no charge**

Note: Administered drugs and products are medications and products that require administration or observation by medical personnel. We cover these items when they are prescribed by a Plan Provider, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines, and they are administered to you in a Plan Facility.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Diagnostic Services provided by Plan Providers who are not physicians, such as EKGs and EEGs (refer to

“Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)

### **Fertility Services exclusions**

- Services to reverse voluntary, surgically induced infertility
- Semen and eggs (and Services related to their procurement and storage)
- Assisted reproductive technology Services, such as ovum transplants, gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT), in vitro fertilization (IVF), and zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT)

## **Health Education**

We cover a variety of health education counseling, programs, and materials that your personal Plan Physician or other Plan Providers provide during a visit covered under another part of this *EOC*.

We also cover a variety of health education counseling, programs, and materials to help you take an active role in protecting and improving your health, including programs for tobacco cessation, stress management, and chronic conditions (such as diabetes and asthma). Kaiser Permanente also offers health education counseling, programs, and materials that are not covered, and you may be required to pay a fee.

For more information about our health education counseling, programs, and materials, please contact a Health Education Department or Member Services or go to our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org).

Note: Our Health Education Department offers a comprehensive self-management workshop to help members learn the best choices in exercise, diet, monitoring, and medications to manage and control diabetes. Members may also choose to receive diabetes self-management training from a program outside our Plan that is recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and approved by Medicare. Also, our Health Education Department offers education to teach kidney care and help members make informed decisions about their care.

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Covered health education programs, which may include programs provided online and counseling over the phone: **no charge**
- Other covered individual counseling when the office visit is solely for health education: **no charge**

- Health education provided during an outpatient consultation or evaluation covered in another part of this *EOC*: **no additional Cost Share beyond the Cost Share required in that other part of this *EOC***
- Covered health education materials: **no charge**

## **Hearing Services**

We cover the following:

- Hearing exams with an audiologist to determine the need for hearing correction: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat hearing problems: **no charge**

### **Hearing aids**

We cover the following Services related to hearing aids:

- A **\$2,500 Allowance** for each ear toward the purchase price of a hearing aid (including fitting, counseling, adjustment, cleaning, and inspection) every 36 months when prescribed by a Plan Physician or by a Plan Provider who is an audiologist. We will cover hearing aids for both ears only if both aids are required to provide significant improvement that is not obtainable with only one hearing aid. We will not provide the Allowance if we have provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) a hearing aid within the previous 36 months. This also means that if your Group's non-Medicare plan includes coverage for hearing aids, the **\$2,500 Allowance** reflects the coordination of the two coverages, thus they cannot be combined. Also, the Allowance can only be used at the initial point of sale. If you do not use all of your Allowance at the initial point of sale, you cannot use it later

We select the provider or vendor that will furnish the covered hearing aids. Coverage is limited to the types and models of hearing aids furnished by the provider or vendor.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Services related to the ear or hearing other than those described in this section, such as outpatient care to treat an ear infection or outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this "Benefits and Your Cost Share" section)
- Cochlear implants and osseointegrated hearing devices (refer to "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices")

## **Hearing Services exclusions**

- Internally implanted hearing aids
- Replacement parts and batteries, repair of hearing aids, and replacement of lost or broken hearing aids (the manufacturer warranty may cover some of these)

## **Home-Delivered Meals**

Immediately following discharge from a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility as an inpatient, we cover up to three meals per day in a consecutive four-week period, once per calendar year as follows:

- When you are discharged from a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility, the meal delivery vendor will contact you to review your meal options and arrange meal delivery to your home in California. In most cases, the meals must be initiated within 30 days of discharge. You can contact Member Services if you have any questions about your meals coverage
- In addition to meals for general health, there are menus to support specific conditions and diets

**Your Cost Share.** We cover home-delivered meals at **no charge**.

### **Home-delivered meals exclusions**

We will not cover meals if more than 30 days have passed since your discharge (except in limited circumstances) or if you are discharged as follows:

- To another facility that provides meals (for example, inpatient rehabilitation)
- From a Non-Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility, Hospital Observation, Outpatient Surgery, or Emergency Department
- To a home outside of California

## **Home Health Care**

"Home health care" means Services provided in the home by nurses, medical social workers, home health aides, and physical, occupational, and speech therapists. We cover home health care only if all of the following are true:

- You are substantially confined to your home
- Your condition requires the Services of a nurse, physical therapist, or speech therapist or continued need for an occupational therapist (home health aide Services are not covered unless you are also getting covered home health care from a nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist that only a licensed provider can provide)

- A Plan Physician determines that it is feasible to maintain effective supervision and control of your care in your home and that the Services can be safely and effectively provided in your home
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area

The Medical Group must authorize any home health nursing or other care of at least eight continuous hours, in accord with “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section (that authorization procedure does not apply to home health nursing or other care of less than eight continuous hours).

**Your Cost Share.** We cover home health care Services at **no charge**.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Dialysis care (refer to “Dialysis Care”)
- Durable medical equipment (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies (refer to “Ostomy, Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies”)
- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy visits (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)

### **Home health care exclusions**

- Care in the home if the home is not a safe and effective treatment setting

### **Home Medical Care Not Covered by Medicare for Members Who Live in Certain Counties (Advanced Care at Home)**

We cover medical care in your home that is not otherwise covered by Medicare when found medically appropriate by a physician based on your health status to provide you with an alternative to receiving acute care in a hospital and post-acute care Services in the home to support your recovery. Services in the home must be:

- Prescribed by a network hospitalist who has determined that based on your health status, treatment

plan, and home setting that you can be treated safely and effectively in the home

- Elected by you because you prefer to receive the care described in your treatment plan in your home

Medically Home is our network provider and will provide the following services and items in your home in accord with your treatment plan for as long as they are prescribed by a network hospitalist:

- Home visits by RNs, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, respiratory therapists, nutritionist, home health aides, and other healthcare professionals in accord with the home care treatment plan and the provider's scope of practice and license
- Communication devices to allow you to contact Medically Home's command center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes needed communication technology to support reliable communication, and an PERS alert device to contact Medically Home's command center if you are unable to get to a phone
- The following equipment necessary to ensure that you are monitored appropriately in your home: blood pressure cuff/monitor, pulse oximeter, scale, and thermometer
- Mobile imaging and tests such as X-rays, labs, and EKGs
- The following safety items: shower stools, raised toilet seats, grabbers, long handle shoehorn, and sock aid
- Up to 21 meals per week while you are receiving acute care in the home

In addition, for Medicare-covered services and items listed below, the Cost-Sharing indicated elsewhere in this *EOC* does not apply when the Services and items are prescribed as part of your home treatment plan:

- Durable medical equipment
- Medical supplies
- Ambulance transportation to and from network facilities when ambulance transport is Medically Necessary
- Physician assistant and nurse practitioner house calls or office visits
- The following Services at a Plan Facility if the Services are part of your home treatment plan:
  - ◆ Network Emergency Department visits associated with this benefit
  - ◆ Physical, speech, or occupational therapy office visits
  - ◆ X-rays, labs, ultrasounds, and EKGs



The cost-sharing indicated elsewhere in this *EOC* will apply to all other Services and items that are not part of your home treatment plan (for example, DME unrelated to your home treatment plan) or are part of your home treatment plan, but are not provided in your home except as listed above. Note: For prescription drug Cost-Sharing information, refer to the “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section.

## **Hospice Care**

We cover the hospice Services listed below at **no charge** only if all of the following requirements are met:

- A Plan Physician has diagnosed you with a terminal illness and determines that your life expectancy is 12 months or less
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area (or inside California but within 15 miles or 30 minutes from your Home Region Service Area if you live outside your Home Region Service Area, and you have been a Senior Advantage Member continuously since before January 1, 1999, at the same home address)
- The Services are provided by a licensed hospice agency that is a Plan Provider
- A Plan Physician determines that the Services are necessary for the palliation and management of your terminal illness and related conditions

If all of the above requirements are met, we cover the following hospice Services, if necessary for your hospice care:

- Plan Physician Services
- Skilled nursing care, including assessment, evaluation, and case management of nursing needs, treatment for pain and symptom control, provision of emotional support to you and your family, and instruction to caregivers
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy for purposes of symptom control or to enable you to maintain activities of daily living
- Respiratory therapy
- Medical social services
- Home health aide and homemaker services
- Palliative drugs prescribed for pain control and symptom management of the terminal illness for up to a 100-day supply in accord with our drug formulary guidelines. You must obtain these drugs from a Plan Pharmacy. Certain drugs are limited to a maximum 30-day supply in any 30-day period (your Plan

Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs)

- Durable medical equipment
- Respite care when necessary to relieve your caregivers. Respite care is occasional short-term inpatient Services limited to no more than five consecutive days at a time
- Counseling and bereavement services
- Dietary counseling

We also cover the following hospice Services only during periods of crisis when they are Medically Necessary to achieve palliation or management of acute medical symptoms:

- Nursing care on a continuous basis for as much as 24 hours a day as necessary to maintain you at home
- Short-term inpatient Services required at a level that cannot be provided at home

## **Mental Health Services**

We cover Services specified in this “Mental Health Services” section only when the Services are for the diagnosis or treatment of Mental Disorders. A “Mental Disorder” is a mental health condition identified as a “mental disorder” in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision*, as amended in the most recently issued edition, (“*DSM*”) that results in clinically significant distress or impairment of mental, emotional, or behavioral functioning. We do not cover services for conditions that the *DSM* identifies as something other than a “mental disorder.” For example, the *DSM* identifies relational problems as something other than a “mental disorder,” so we do not cover services (such as couples counseling or family counseling) for relational problems.

“Mental Disorders” include the following conditions:

- Severe Mental Illness of a person of any age
- Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18

In addition to the Services described in this Mental Health Services section, we also cover other Services that are Medically Necessary to treat Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18 or Severe Mental Illness, if the Medical Group authorizes a written referral (as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section).

## Outpatient mental health Services

We cover the following Services when provided by Plan Physicians or other Plan Providers who are licensed health care professionals acting within the scope of their license:

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment
- Psychological testing when necessary to evaluate a Mental Disorder
- Outpatient Services for the purpose of monitoring drug therapy

## Intensive psychiatric treatment programs

We cover the following intensive psychiatric treatment programs at a Plan Facility, such as:

- Partial hospitalization
- Multidisciplinary treatment in an intensive outpatient program
- Psychiatric observation for an acute psychiatric crisis

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Individual mental health evaluation and treatment: **no charge**
- Group mental health treatment: **no charge**
- Partial hospitalization: **no charge**
- Other intensive psychiatric treatment programs: **no charge**

## Residential treatment

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover the following Services when the Services are provided in a licensed residential treatment facility that provides 24-hour individualized mental health treatment, the Services are generally and customarily provided by a mental health residential treatment program in a licensed residential treatment facility, and the Services are above the level of custodial care:

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment
- Medical services
- Medication monitoring
- Room and board
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Provider as part of your plan of care in the residential treatment facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the facility by medical personnel (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the residential treatment facility,

refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)

- Discharge planning

**Your Cost Share.** We cover residential mental health treatment Services at **no charge**.

## Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization

We cover care for acute psychiatric conditions in a Medicare-certified psychiatric hospital.

**Your Cost Share.** We cover inpatient psychiatric hospital Services at **no charge**.

## For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient laboratory (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

## Opioid Treatment Program Services

Members with opioid use disorder (OUD) can receive 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 and the dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable)
- Substance use counseling
- Individual and group therapy
- Toxicology testing
- Intake activities
- Periodic assessments
- Medicare Part B clinically administered drugs

**Your Cost Share:** You pay the following for these covered Services: **no charge**.

## **Ostomy, Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies**

We cover ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies if the following requirements are met:

- A Plan Physician has prescribed ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies for your medical condition
- The item has been approved for you through the Plan's prior authorization process, as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area

Coverage is limited to the standard item of equipment that adequately meets your medical needs. We decide whether to rent or purchase the equipment, and we select the vendor.

**Your Cost Share:** You pay the following for covered ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies: **no charge**.

### **Ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies exclusions**

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features

## **Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services**

We cover the following Services at the Cost Share indicated only when part of care covered under other headings in this "Benefits and Your Cost Share" section. The Services must be prescribed by a Plan Provider:

- Complex imaging (other than preventive) such as CT scans, MRIs, and PET scans: **no charge**
- Basic imaging Services, such as diagnostic and therapeutic X-rays, mammograms, and ultrasounds: **no charge**
- Nuclear medicine: **no charge**
- Routine preventive retinal photography screenings: **no charge**
- Routine laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of dialysis: **no charge**
- Hemoglobin (A1c) testing for diabetes, Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) testing for heart disease, International Normalized Ratio (INR) for persons

with liver disease or certain blood disorders, and glucose quantitative blood tests not covered at \$0 under Original Medicare: **no charge**

- All other laboratory tests (including tests for specific genetic disorders for which genetic counseling is available): **no charge**
- Diagnostic Services provided by Plan Providers who are not physicians (such as EKGs and EEGs): **no charge**
- Radiation therapy: **no charge**
- Ultraviolet light therapy treatments, including ultraviolet light therapy equipment for home use, if (1) the equipment has been approved for you through the Plan's prior authorization process, as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section and (2) the equipment is provided inside your Home Region Service Area. (Coverage for ultraviolet light therapy equipment is limited to the standard item of equipment that adequately meets your medical needs. We decide whether to rent or purchase the equipment, and we select the vendor. You must return the equipment to us or pay us the fair market price of the equipment when we are no longer covering it.): **no charge**

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Outpatient imaging and laboratory Services that are Preventive Services, such as routine mammograms, bone density scans, and laboratory screening tests (refer to "Preventive Services")
- Outpatient procedures that include imaging and diagnostic Services (refer to "Outpatient surgeries and procedures")
- Services related to diagnosis and treatment of infertility, artificial insemination, or assisted reproductive technology ("ART") Services (refer to "Fertility Services")

### **Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services exclusions**

- Ultraviolet light therapy comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Repair or replacement of ultraviolet light therapy equipment due to misuse

## **Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements**

We cover outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements specified in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section when prescribed as follows:

- Items prescribed by providers, within the scope of their licensure and practice, and in accord with our drug formulary guidelines
- Items prescribed by the following Non–Plan Providers unless a Plan Physician determines that the item is not Medically Necessary or the drug is for a sexual dysfunction disorder:
  - ◆ dentists if the drug is for dental care
  - ◆ Non–Plan Physicians if the Medical Group authorizes a written referral to the Non–Plan Physician (in accord with “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section) and the drug, supply, or supplement is covered as part of that referral
  - ◆ Non–Plan Physicians if the prescription was obtained as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section (if you fill the prescription at a Plan Pharmacy, you may have to pay Charges for the item and file a claim for reimbursement as described in the “Requests for Payment” section)
- The item meets the requirements of our applicable drug formulary guidelines (our Medicare Part D formulary or our formulary applicable to non–Part D items)
- You obtain the item at a Plan Pharmacy or through our mail-order service, except as otherwise described under “Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section. Refer to our **Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory** for the locations of Plan Pharmacies in your area. Plan Pharmacies can change without notice and if a pharmacy is no longer a Plan Pharmacy, you must obtain covered items from another Plan Pharmacy, except as otherwise described under “Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section
- Your prescriber must either accept Medicare or file documentation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services showing that he or she is qualified to write prescriptions, or your Part D claim will be denied. You should ask your prescribers the next time you call or visit if they meet this condition. If not,

please be aware it takes time for your prescriber to submit the necessary paperwork to be processed

In addition to our plan’s Part D and medical benefits coverage, if you have Medicare Part A, your drugs may be covered by Original Medicare if you are in Medicare hospice. For more information, please see “What if you’re in a Medicare-certified hospice” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section.

### **Obtaining refills by mail**

Most refills are available through our mail-order service, but there are some restrictions. A Plan Pharmacy, our **Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory**, or our website at [kp.org/refill](http://kp.org/refill) can give you more information about obtaining refills through our mail-order service. Please check with your local Plan Pharmacy if you have a question about whether your prescription can be mailed. Items available through our mail-order service are subject to change at any time without notice.

### **Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies**

Generally, we cover drugs filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy only when you are not able to use a Plan Pharmacy. If you cannot use a Plan Pharmacy, here are the circumstances when we would cover prescriptions filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy.

- The drug is related to covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section. Note: Prescription drugs prescribed and provided outside of the United States and its territories as part of covered Emergency Services or Urgent Care are covered up to a 30-day supply in a 30-day period. These drugs are covered under your medical benefits, and are not covered under Medicare Part D. Therefore, payments for these drugs do not count toward reaching the Part D Catastrophic Coverage Stage
- For Medicare Part D covered drugs, the following are additional situations when a Part D drug may be covered:
  - ◆ if you are traveling outside your Home Region Service Area, but in the United States and its territories, and you become ill or run out of your covered Part D prescription drugs. We will cover prescriptions that are filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy according to our Medicare Part D formulary guidelines
  - ◆ if you are unable to obtain a covered drug in a timely manner inside your Home Region Service Area because there is no Plan Pharmacy within a reasonable driving distance that provides 24-hour

service. We may not cover your prescription if a reasonable person could have purchased the drug at a Plan Pharmacy during normal business hours

- ◆ if you are trying to fill a prescription for a drug that is not regularly stocked at an accessible Plan Pharmacy or available through our mail-order pharmacy (including high-cost drugs)
- ◆ if you are not able to get your prescriptions from a Plan Pharmacy during a disaster

**In these situations, please check first with Member Services to see if there is a Plan Pharmacy nearby.**

You may be required to pay the difference between what you pay for the drug at the Non-Plan Pharmacy and the cost that we would cover at Plan Pharmacy.

**Payment and reimbursement.** If you go to a Non-Plan Pharmacy for the reasons listed, you may have to pay the full cost (rather than paying just your Copayment or Coinsurance) when you fill your prescription. You may ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost by submitting a request for reimbursement as described in the “Requests for Payment” section. If we pay for the drugs you obtained from a Non-Plan Pharmacy, you may still pay more for your drugs than what you would have paid if you had gone to a Plan Pharmacy because you may be responsible for paying the difference between Plan Pharmacy Charges and the price that the Non-Plan Pharmacy charged you.

**What if you're in a Medicare-certified hospice**

If you have Medicare Part A, drugs are never covered by both hospice and our plan at the same time. If you are enrolled in Medicare hospice and require an anti-nausea, laxative, pain medication, or anti-anxiety drug that is not covered by your hospice because it is unrelated to your terminal illness and related conditions, our plan must receive notification from either the prescriber or your hospice provider that the drug is unrelated before our plan can cover the drug. To prevent delays in receiving any unrelated drugs that should be covered by our plan, you can ask your hospice provider or prescriber to make sure we have the notification that the drug is unrelated before you ask a pharmacy to fill your prescription.

In the event you either revoke your hospice election or are discharged from hospice, our plan should cover all your drugs. To prevent any delays at a pharmacy when your Medicare hospice benefit ends, you should bring documentation to the pharmacy to verify your revocation or discharge. For more information about Medicare Part D coverage and what you pay, please see “Medicare Part D drugs” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section.

**Medicare Part D drugs**

Medicare Part D covers most outpatient prescription drugs if they are sold in the United States and approved for sale by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Our Part D formulary includes drugs that can be covered under Medicare Part D according to Medicare requirements and certain insulin administration devices (needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, and gauze) at **no charge** for up to a 100-day supply. Refer to our “Medicare Part D drug formulary (**2024 Comprehensive Formulary**)” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section for more information about this formulary.

**Keeping track of Medicare Part D drugs.** The **Part D Explanation of Benefits** is a document you will get for each month you use your Part D prescription drug coverage. The **Part D Explanation of Benefits** will tell you the total amount you, or others on your behalf, have spent on your prescription drugs and the total amount we have paid for your prescription drugs. A **Part D Explanation of Benefits** is also available upon request from Member Services.

**Medicare Part D drug formulary (2024 Comprehensive Formulary)**

Our Medicare Part D formulary is a list of covered drugs selected by our plan in consultation with a team of health care providers that represents the drug therapies believed to be a necessary part of a quality treatment program. Our formulary must meet requirements set by Medicare and is approved by Medicare. Our formulary includes drugs that can be covered under Medicare Part D according to Medicare requirements. For a complete, current listing of the Medicare Part D prescription drugs we cover, please visit our website at [kp.org/seniorrx](http://kp.org/seniorrx) or call Member Services.

The presence of a drug on our formulary does not necessarily mean that your Plan Physician will prescribe it for a particular medical condition. Our drug formulary guidelines allow you to obtain Medicare Part D prescription drugs if a Plan Physician determines that they are Medically Necessary for your condition. If you disagree with your Plan Physician’s determination, refer to “Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal” in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

**Continuity drugs.** If this *EOC* is amended to exclude a drug that we have been covering and providing to you under this *EOC*, we will continue to provide the drug if a prescription is required by law and a Plan Physician continues to prescribe the drug for the same condition

and for a use approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

**About specialty drugs.** Specialty drugs are high-cost drugs that are on our specialty drug list. If your Plan Physician prescribes more than a 30-day supply for an outpatient drug, you may be able to obtain more than a 30-day supply at one time, up to the day supply limit for that drug. However, most specialty drugs are limited to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period. Your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs.

The references in the formulary to preferred generic and generic or brand-name drugs and specialty tier drugs do not apply to you. All the drugs in the formulary are covered the same without regard for whether they are generic, brand, or specialty tier drugs. Please note that sometimes a drug may appear more than once on our **2024 Comprehensive Formulary**. This is because different restrictions or cost-sharing may apply based on factors such as the strength, amount, or form of the drug prescribed by your health care provider (for instance, 10 mg versus 100 mg; one per day versus two per day; tablet versus liquid).

You can get updated information about the drugs our plan covers by visiting our website at [kp.org/seniorrx](http://kp.org/seniorrx). You may also call Member Services to find out if your drug is on the formulary or to request an updated copy of our formulary.

We may make certain changes to our formulary during the year. Changes in the formulary may affect which drugs are covered and how much you will pay when filling your prescription. The kinds of formulary changes we may make include:

- Adding or removing drugs from the formulary
- Adding prior authorizations or other restrictions on a drug

If we remove drugs from the formulary or add prior authorizations or restrictions on a drug, and you are taking the drug affected by the change, you will be permitted to continue receiving that drug at the same level of Cost Share for the remainder of the calendar year. However, if a brand-name drug is replaced with a new generic drug, or our formulary is changed as a result of new information on a drug's safety or effectiveness, you may be affected by this change. We will notify you of the change at least 30 days before the date that the change becomes effective or provide you with at least a month's supply at the Plan Pharmacy. This will give you an opportunity to work with your physician to switch to a different drug that we cover or request an exception. (If a

drug is removed from our formulary because the drug has been recalled, we will not give 30 days' notice before removing the drug from the formulary. Instead, we will remove the drug immediately and notify members taking the drug about the change as soon as possible.)

If your drug isn't listed on your copy of our formulary, you should first check the formulary on our website, which we update when there is a change. In addition, you may call Member Services to be sure it isn't covered. If Member Services confirms that we don't cover your drug, you have two options:

- You may ask your Plan Physician if you can switch to another drug that is covered by us
- You or your Plan Physician may ask us to make an exception (a type of coverage determination) to cover your Medicare Part D drug. See the "Coverage Decisions, Complaints, and Appeals" section for more information on how to request an exception

**Transition policy.** If you recently joined our plan, you may be able to get a temporary supply of a Medicare Part D drug you were previously taking that may not be on our formulary or has other restrictions, during the first 90 days of your membership. Current members may also be affected by changes in our formulary from one year to the next. Members should talk to their Plan Physicians to decide if they should switch to a different drug that we cover or request a Part D formulary exception in order to get coverage for the drug. Refer to our formulary or our website, [kp.org/seniorrx](http://kp.org/seniorrx), for more information about our Part D transition coverage.

**Medicare Part D exclusions (non-Part D drugs).** By law, certain types of drugs are not covered by Medicare Part D. A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan can't cover a drug under Medicare Part D in the following situations:

- The drug would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B
- Drug purchased outside the United States and its territories
- Off-label uses (meaning for uses other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration) of a prescription drug, except in cases where the use is supported by certain reference books. Congress specifically listed the reference books that list whether the off-label use would be permitted. (These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the DRUGDEX Information System.) If the use is not supported by one of these references, known as compendia, then the drug is considered a non-Part D drug and cannot be covered under Medicare Part D coverage

In addition, by law, certain types of drugs or categories of drugs are not covered under Medicare Part D. These drugs include:

- Nonprescription drugs (also called over-the-counter drugs)
- Drugs when used to promote fertility
- Drugs when used for the relief of cough or cold symptoms
- Drugs when used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Drugs when used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction
- Drugs when used for treatment of anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer seeks to require that associated tests or monitoring services be purchased exclusively from the manufacturer as a condition of sale

Note: In addition to the coverage provided under this Medicare Part D plan, you also have coverage for non-Part D drugs described under “Home infusion therapy,” “Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B,” “Certain intravenous drugs, supplies, and supplements,” and “Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section. If a drug is not covered under Medicare Part D, refer to those headings for information about your non-Part D drug coverage.

**Other prescription drug coverage.** If you have additional health care or drug coverage from another plan besides your Group’s non-Medicare plan, you must provide that information to our plan. The information you provide helps us calculate how much you and others have paid for your prescription drugs. In addition, if you lose or gain additional health care or prescription drug coverage, please call Member Services to update your membership records.

### Home infusion therapy

We cover home infusion supplies and drugs at **no charge** if all of the following are true:

- Your prescription drug is on our Medicare Part D formulary
- We approved your prescription drug for home infusion therapy

- Your prescription is written by a network provider and filled at a network home-infusion pharmacy

### Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B

In addition to Medicare Part D drugs, we also cover the limited number of outpatient prescription drugs that are covered by Medicare Part B at **no charge for up to a 100-day supply** (except that certain self-administered intravenous drugs are provided up to a 30-day supply). The following are the types of drugs that Medicare Part B covers:

- Drugs that usually aren’t self-administered by the patient and are injected or infused while you are getting physician, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgical center services
- Drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were prescribed by a Plan Physician
- Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia
- Immunosuppressive drugs, if Medicare paid for the transplant (or a group plan was required to pay before Medicare paid for it)
- Insulin furnished through an item of durable medical equipment (such as a medically necessary insulin pump)
- Injectable osteoporosis drugs, if you are homebound, have a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and cannot self-administer the drug
- Antigens
- Certain oral anticancer drugs and anti-nausea drugs
- Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when Medically Necessary, topical anesthetics, and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (such as Epogen®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, or Darbepoetin Alfa)
- Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases

### Certain intravenous drugs, supplies, and supplements

We cover certain self-administered intravenous drugs, fluids, additives, and nutrients that require specific types of parenteral-infusion (such as an intravenous or intraspinal-infusion) at **no charge** for up to a 30-day supply. In addition, we cover the supplies and equipment required for the administration of these drugs at **no charge**.

## Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare

If a drug, supply, or supplement is not covered by Medicare Part B or D, we cover the following additional items in accord with our non–Part D drug formulary:

- Drugs for which a prescription is required by law that are not covered by Medicare Part B or D. We also cover certain drugs that do not require a prescription by law if they are listed on our drug formulary applicable to non–Part D items
- Diaphragms, cervical caps, contraceptive rings, and contraceptive patches
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered drugs, pen delivery devices, and visual aids required to ensure proper dosage (except eyewear), that are not covered by Medicare Part B or D
- Inhaler spacers needed to inhale covered drugs
- Ketone test strips and sugar or acetone test tablets or tapes for diabetes urine testing
- FDA-approved medications for tobacco cessation, including over-the-counter medications when prescribed by a Plan Physician

**Your Cost Share for other outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare.** Your Cost Share for these items is as follows:

- Items (that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*) **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Amino acid–modified products used to treat congenital errors of amino acid metabolism (such as phenylketonuria) and elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis: **no charge** for up to a 30-day supply
- Tobacco cessation drugs: **no charge**

**Non–Part D drug formulary.** The non–Part D drug formulary includes a list of drugs that our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has approved for our Members. Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, which is primarily composed of Plan Physicians, selects drugs for the drug formulary based on a number of factors, including safety and effectiveness as determined from a review of medical literature. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meets at least quarterly to consider additions and deletions based on new information or drugs that become available. To find out which drugs are on the formulary for your plan, please refer to the California Commercial HMO formulary on our website at [kp.org/formulary](http://kp.org/formulary). The formulary also discloses requirements or limitations that apply to specific drugs, such as whether there is a limit on the amount of the drug that can be dispensed and whether

the drug must be obtained at certain specialty pharmacies. If you would like to request a copy of this drug formulary, please call Member Services. Note: The presence of a drug on the drug formulary does not necessarily mean that it will be prescribed for a particular medical condition.

Drug formulary guidelines allow you to obtain nonformulary prescription drugs (those not listed on our drug formulary for your condition) if they would otherwise be covered and a Plan Physician determines that they are Medically Necessary. If you disagree with your Plan Physician’s determination that a nonformulary prescription drug is not Medically Necessary, you may file an appeal as described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section. Also, our non–Part D formulary guidelines may require you to participate in a behavioral intervention program approved by the Medical Group for specific conditions and you may be required to pay for the program.

**About specialty drugs.** Specialty drugs are high-cost drugs that are on our specialty drug list. If your Plan Physician prescribes more than a 30-day supply for an outpatient drug, you may be able to obtain more than a 30-day supply at one time, up to the day supply limit for that drug. However, most specialty drugs are limited to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period. Your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs.

**Manufacturer coupon program.** For outpatient prescription drugs or items that are covered under this "Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare" section and obtained at a Plan Pharmacy, you may be able to use approved manufacturer coupons as payment for the Cost Share that you owe, as allowed under Health Plan's coupon program. You will owe any additional amount if the coupon does not cover the entire amount of your Cost Share for your prescription. Certain health plan coverages are not eligible for coupons. You can get more information regarding the Kaiser Permanente coupon program rules and limitations at [kp.org/rxcoupons](http://kp.org/rxcoupons).

## Drug utilization review

We conduct drug utilization reviews to make sure that you are getting safe and appropriate care. These reviews are especially important if you have more than one doctor who prescribes your medications. We conduct drug utilization reviews each time you fill a prescription and on a regular basis by reviewing our records. During these reviews, we look for medication problems such as:

- Possible medication errors



- Duplicate drugs that are unnecessary because you are taking another drug to treat the same medical condition
- Drugs that are inappropriate because of your age or gender
- Possible harmful interactions between drugs you are taking
- Drug allergies
- Drug dosage errors
- Unsafe amounts of opioid pain medications

If we identify a medication problem during our drug utilization review, we will work with your doctor to correct the problem.

### **Drug management program**

We have a program that can help make sure our members safely use their prescription opioid medications, or other medications that are frequently abused. This program is called a Drug Management Program (DMP). If you use opioid medications that you get from several doctors or pharmacies, we may talk to your doctors to make sure your use is appropriate and medically necessary. Working with your doctors, if we decide you are at risk for misusing or abusing your opioid or benzodiazepine medications, we may limit how you can get those medications. The limitations may be:

- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from one pharmacy.
- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from one doctor.
- Limiting the amount of opioid or benzodiazepine medications we will cover for you.

If we decide that one or more of these limitations should apply to you, we will send you a letter in advance. The letter will have information explaining the terms of the limitations we think should apply to you. You will also have an opportunity to tell us which doctors or pharmacies you prefer to use. If you think we made a mistake or you disagree with our determination that you are at-risk for prescription drug abuse or the limitation, you and your prescriber have the right to ask us for an appeal. See the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section for information about how to ask for an appeal.

The DMP may not apply to you if you have certain medical conditions, such as cancer, you are receiving hospice, palliative, or end-of-life care, or you live in a long-term care facility.

### **Medication therapy management program**

We offer a medication therapy management program at no additional cost to Members who have multiple medical conditions, who are taking many prescription drugs, and who have high drug costs. This program was developed for us by a team of pharmacists and doctors. We use this medication therapy management program to help us provide better care for our members. For example, this program helps us make sure that you are using appropriate drugs to treat your medical conditions and help us identify possible medication errors.

If you are selected to join a medication therapy management program, we will send you information about the specific program, including information about how to access the program.

### **ID card at Plan Pharmacies**

You must present your Kaiser Permanente ID card when obtaining covered items from Plan Pharmacies, including those that are not owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente. If you do not have your ID card, the Plan Pharmacy may require you to pay Charges for your covered items, and you will have to file a claim for reimbursement as described in the “Requests for Payment” section.

### **Notes:**

- If Charges for a covered item are less than the Copayment, you will pay the lesser amount
- Durable medical equipment used to administer drugs, such as diabetes insulin pumps (and their supplies) and diabetes blood-testing equipment (and their supplies) are not covered under this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section (instead, refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)
- Except for vaccines covered by Medicare Part D, drugs administered to you in a Plan Medical Office or during home visits are not covered under this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section (instead, refer to “Outpatient Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)
- Drugs covered during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility are not covered under this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section (instead, refer to “Hospital Inpatient Care” and “Skilled Nursing Facility Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)

## Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements limitations

**Day supply limit.** Plan Physicians determine the amount of a drug or other item that is Medically Necessary for a particular day supply for you. Upon payment of the Cost Share specified in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section, you will receive the supply prescribed up to a 100-day supply in a 100-day period. However, the Plan Pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period at the Cost Share listed in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section if the Plan Pharmacy determines that the drug is in limited supply in the market or a 31-day supply in any 31-day period if the item is dispensed by a long term care facility’s pharmacy. Plan Pharmacies may also limit the quantity dispensed as described under “Utilization management.” If you wish to receive more than the covered day supply limit, then the additional amount is not covered and you must pay Charges for any prescribed quantities that exceed the day supply limit.

**Utilization management.** For certain items, we have additional coverage requirements and limits that help promote effective drug use and help us control drug plan costs. Examples of these utilization management tools are:

- **Quantity limits:** The Plan Pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed at the Cost Share specified in this “Outpatient Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section to a 30-day supply or less in any 30-day period for specific drugs. Your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs. In addition, we cover episodic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction up to a maximum of eight doses in any 30-day period, up to 16 doses in any 60-day period, or up to 27 doses in any 100-day period. Also, when there is a shortage of a drug in the marketplace and the amount of available supplies, we may reduce the quantity of the drug dispensed accordingly and charge one cost share
- **Generic substitution:** When there is a generic version of a brand-name drug available, Plan Pharmacies will automatically give you the generic version, unless your Plan Physician has specifically requested a formulary exception because it is Medically Necessary for you to receive the brand-name drug instead of the formulary alternative

## Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements exclusions

- Any requested packaging (such as dose packaging) other than the dispensing pharmacy’s standard packaging

- Compounded products unless the active ingredient in the compounded product is listed on one of our drug formularies
- Drugs prescribed to shorten the duration of the common cold
- Prescription drugs for which there is an over-the-counter equivalent (the same active ingredient, strength, and dosage form as the prescription drug). This exclusion does not apply to:
  - ◆ insulin
  - ◆ over-the-counter tobacco cessation drugs and contraceptive drugs
  - ◆ an entire class of prescription drugs when one drug within that class becomes available over-the-counter
  - ◆ drugs covered by Medicare Parts B or D

## Over-the-Counter (OTC) Health and Wellness

We cover OTC items listed in our OTC catalog for free home delivery at **no charge**. You may order OTC items up to the **\$70** quarterly benefit limit. Each order must be at least \$25. Your order may not exceed your quarterly benefit limit. Any unused portion of the quarterly benefit limit doesn't carry forward to the next quarter. (Your benefit limit resets on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1).

To view our catalog and place an order online, please visit [kp.org/otc/ca](http://kp.org/otc/ca). You may place an order over the phone or request a printed catalog be mailed to you by calling **1-833-569-2360 (TTY 711)**, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday.

## Preventive Services

We cover a variety of Preventive Services in accord with Medicare guidelines. The list of Preventive Services is subject to change by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. These Preventive Services are subject to all coverage requirements described in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section and all provisions in the “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section. If you have questions about Preventive Services, please call Member Services.

Note: If you receive any other covered Services that are not Preventive Services during or subsequent to a visit that includes Preventive Services on the list, you will pay the applicable Cost Share for those other Services. For example, if laboratory tests or imaging Services ordered during a preventive office visit are not Preventive

Services, you will pay the applicable Cost Share for those Services.

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for covered Preventive Services:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening prescribed during the one-time “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit: **no charge**
- Annual Wellness visit: **no charge**
- Bone mass measurement: **no charge**
- Breast cancer screening (mammograms): **no charge**
- Cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease): **no charge**
- Cardiovascular disease testing: **no charge**
- Cervical and vaginal cancer screening: **no charge**
- Colorectal cancer screening, including flexible sigmoidoscopies, colonoscopies, and fecal occult blood tests: **no charge**
- Depression screening: **no charge**
- Diabetes screening, including fasting glucose tests: **no charge**
- Diabetes self-management training: **no charge**
- Glaucoma screening: **no charge**
- HIV screening: **no charge**
- Immunizations (including the vaccine) covered by Medicare Part B such as Hepatitis B, influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 vaccines that are administered to you in a Plan Medical Office: **no charge**
- Lung cancer screening: **no charge**
- Medical nutrition therapy for kidney disease and diabetes: **no charge**
- Medicare diabetes prevention program: **no charge**
- Obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss: **no charge**
- Prostate cancer screening exams, including digital rectal exams and Prostate Specific Antigens (PSA) tests: **no charge**
- Screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse: **no charge**
- Screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and counseling to prevent STIs: **no charge**
- Smoking and tobacco use cessation (counseling to stop smoking or tobacco use): **no charge**
- “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit: **no charge**

## **Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices**

### **Prosthetic and orthotic devices coverage rules**

We cover the prosthetic and orthotic devices specified in this “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” section if all of the following requirements are met:

- The device is in general use, intended for repeated use, and primarily and customarily used for medical purposes
- The device is the standard device that adequately meets your medical needs
- You receive the device from the provider or vendor that we select
- The item has been approved for you through the Plan’s prior authorization process, as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area

Coverage includes fitting and adjustment of these devices, their repair or replacement, and Services to determine whether you need a prosthetic or orthotic device. If we cover a replacement device, then you pay the Cost Share that you would pay for obtaining that device.

### **Base prosthetic and orthotic devices**

If all of the requirements described under “Prosthetic and orthotic coverage rules” in this “Prosthetics and Orthotic Devices” section are met, we cover the items described in this “Base prosthetic and orthotic devices” section.

**Internally implanted devices.** We cover prosthetic and orthotic devices such as pacemakers, intraocular lenses, cochlear implants, osseointegrated hearing devices, and hip joints, in accord with Medicare guidelines, if they are implanted during a surgery that we are covering under another section of this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. We cover these devices at **no charge**.

**External devices.** We cover the following external prosthetic and orthotic devices at **no charge**:

- Prosthetics and orthotics in accord with Medicare guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, braces, prosthetic shoes, artificial limbs, and therapeutic footwear for severe diabetes-related foot disease in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Prosthetic devices and installation accessories to restore a method of speaking following the removal of all or part of the larynx (this coverage does not

include electronic voice-producing machines, which are not prosthetic devices)

- After Medically Necessary removal of all or part of a breast, prosthesis including custom-made prostheses when Medically Necessary
- Podiatric devices (including footwear) to prevent or treat diabetes-related complications when prescribed by a Plan Physician or by a Plan Provider who is a podiatrist
- Compression burn garments and lymphedema wraps and garments
- Enteral formula for Members who require tube feeding in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Enteral pump and supplies
- Tracheostomy tube and supplies
- Prostheses to replace all or part of an external facial body part that has been removed or impaired as a result of disease, injury, or congenital defect

#### **Other covered prosthetic and orthotic devices**

If all of the requirements described under “Prosthetic and orthotic coverage rules” in this “Prosthetics and Orthotic Devices” section are met, we cover the following items described in this “Other covered prosthetic and orthotic devices” section:

- Prosthetic devices required to replace all or part of an organ or extremity, in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Vacuum erection device for sexual dysfunction
- Certain surgical boots following surgery when provided during an outpatient visit
- Orthotic devices required to support or correct a defective body part, in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Covered special footwear when custom made for foot disfigurement due to disease, injury, or developmental disability

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for other covered prosthetic and orthotic devices: **no charge.**

#### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Eyeglasses and contact lenses, including contact lenses to treat aniridia or aphakia (refer to “Vision Services”)
- Eyewear following cataract surgery (refer to “Vision Services”)
- Hearing aids other than internally implanted devices described in this section (refer to “Hearing Services”)

- Injectable implants (refer to “Administered drugs and products” under “Outpatient Care”)

#### **Prosthetic and orthotic devices exclusions**

- Dental appliances
- Nonrigid supplies not covered by Medicare, such as elastic stockings and wigs, except as otherwise described above in this “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” section and the “Ostomy, Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies” section
- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Repair or replacement of device due to misuse
- Shoes, shoe inserts, arch supports, or any other footwear, even if custom-made, except footwear described above in this “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” section for diabetes-related complications and foot disfigurement
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices not intended for maintaining normal activities of daily living (including devices intended to provide additional support for recreational or sports activities)
- Nonconventional intraocular lenses (IOLs) following cataract surgery (for example, presbyopia-correcting IOLs). You may request and we may provide insertion of presbyopia-correcting IOLs or astigmatism-correcting IOLs following cataract surgery in lieu of conventional IOLs. However, you must pay the difference between Charges for nonconventional IOLs and associated services and Charges for insertion of conventional IOLs following cataract surgery

#### **Reconstructive Surgery**

We cover the following reconstructive surgery Services:

- Reconstructive surgery to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease, if a Plan Physician determines that it is necessary to improve function, or create a normal appearance, to the extent possible
- Following Medically Necessary removal of all or part of a breast, we cover reconstruction of the breast, surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, and treatment of physical complications, including lymphedemas

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for covered reconstructive surgery Services:

- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Cost Share that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services): **no charge**

**For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Office visits not described in this “Reconstructive Surgery” section (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Outpatient imaging and laboratory (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Prosthetics and orthotics (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

**Reconstructive surgery exclusions**

- Surgery that, in the judgment of a Plan Physician specializing in reconstructive surgery, offers only a minimal improvement in appearance

## **Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services**

Care in a Medicare-certified Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution (RNHCI) is covered by our Plan under certain conditions. Covered Services in an RNHCI are limited to nonreligious aspects of care. To be eligible for covered Services in a RNHCI, you must have a medical condition that would allow you to receive inpatient hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility care. You may get Services furnished in the home, but only items and Services ordinarily furnished by home health agencies that are not RNHCIs. In addition, you must sign a legal document that says you are conscientiously opposed to the acceptance of “nonexcepted” medical treatment. (“Excepted” medical treatment is a Service or treatment that you receive involuntarily or that is required under federal, state, or local law. “Nonexcepted” medical treatment is any other Service or treatment.) Your stay in the RNHCI is not covered by us unless you obtain authorization (approval) in advance from us.

Note: Covered Services are subject to the same limitations and Cost Share required for Services provided by Plan Providers as described in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

## **Services Associated with Clinical Trials**

We cover Services you receive in connection with a clinical trial if all of the following requirements are met:

- We would have covered the Services if they were not related to a clinical trial
- You are eligible to participate in the clinical trial according to the trial protocol with respect to treatment of cancer or other life-threatening condition (a condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the condition is interrupted), as determined in one of the following ways:
  - ◆ a Plan Provider makes this determination
  - ◆ you provide us with medical and scientific information establishing this determination
- If any Plan Providers participate in the clinical trial and will accept you as a participant in the clinical trial, you must participate in the clinical trial through a Plan Provider unless the clinical trial is outside the state where you live
- The clinical trial is an Approved Clinical Trial

“Approved Clinical Trial” means a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial related to the

prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening condition, and that meets one of the following requirements:

- The study or investigation is conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- The study or investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from having an investigational new drug application
- The study or investigation is approved or funded by at least one of the following:
  - ◆ the National Institutes of Health
  - ◆ the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - ◆ the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality
  - ◆ the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - ◆ a cooperative group or center of any of the above entities or of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs
  - ◆ a qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants
  - ◆ the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, but only if the study or investigation has been reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services determines meets all of the following requirements: (1) It is comparable to the National Institutes of Health system of peer review of studies and investigations and (2) it assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified people who have no interest in the outcome of the review

**Your Cost Share.** For covered Services related to a clinical trial, you will pay the **Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to a clinical trial.** For example, see “Hospital Inpatient Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services.

### Services covered by Medicare

If you do not meet the requirements above, you may be able to participate in a Medicare-approved clinical research study, Original Medicare (and not Senior Advantage) pays most of the routine costs for the covered Services you receive as part of the study. When you are in a clinical research study, you may stay enrolled in Senior Advantage and continue to get the rest of your care (the care that is not related to the study) through our plan.

If you want to participate in any Medicare-approved clinical research study, you do not need to tell us or to get approval from us or your Plan Provider. The providers that deliver your care as part of the clinical research study do not need to be part of our plan's network of providers. Although you do not need to get 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 that Medicare has not approved, you will be responsible for paying all costs for your participation in the study.

Once you join a Medicare-approved clinical research study, Original Medicare covers the routine items and Services you receive 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 is part of the research study
- Treatment of side effects and complications of the new care

After Medicare has paid its share of the cost for these Services, our plan will pay the difference between the cost-sharing in Original Medicare and your Cost Share as a Member of our plan. This means you will pay the same amount for the Services you receive as part of the study as you would if you received these Services from our plan. However, you are required to submit documentation showing how much cost sharing you paid. Please see the “Requests for Payment” section for more information for submitting requests for payment.

You can get more information about joining a clinical research study by visiting the Medicare website to read or download the publication “Medicare and Clinical Research Studies.” (The publication is available at <https://www.medicare.gov>.) You can also call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**.

### Services associated with clinical trials exclusions

When you are part of a clinical research study, neither Medicare nor our plan will pay for any of the following:

- The investigational Service
- The new item or service that the study is testing, unless Medicare would cover the item or service even if you were not in a study
- Items or services provided only to collect data, and not used in your direct health care

- Services that are customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge to enrollees in the clinical trial
- Items and services provided solely to determine trial eligibility

## **Skilled Nursing Facility Care**

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover skilled inpatient Services in a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility and in accord with Medicare guidelines. The skilled inpatient Services must be customarily provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility, and above the level of custodial or intermediate care.

We cover the following Services:

- Physician and nursing Services
- Room and board
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Physician as part of your plan of care in the Plan Skilled Nursing Facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the Plan Skilled Nursing Facility by medical personnel
- Durable medical equipment in accord with our prior authorization procedure if Skilled Nursing Facilities ordinarily furnish the equipment (refer to “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section)
- Imaging and laboratory Services that Skilled Nursing Facilities ordinarily provide
- Medical social services
- Whole blood, red blood cells, plasma, platelets, and their administration
- Medical supplies
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Respiratory therapy

**Your Cost Share.** We cover these Skilled Nursing Facility Services at **no charge**.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)

## **Non–Plan Skilled Nursing Facility care**

Generally, you will get your Skilled Nursing Facility care from Plan Facilities. However, under certain conditions listed below, you may be able to receive covered care from a non–Plan facility, 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)
- A Skilled Nursing Facility where your spouse is living at the time you leave the hospital

## **Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

We cover Services specified in this “Substance Use Disorder Treatment” section only when the Services are for the preventive, diagnosis, or treatment of Substance Use Disorders. A “Substance Use Disorder” is a condition identified as a “substance use disorder” in the most recently issued edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (“DSM”).

### **Outpatient substance use disorder treatment**

We cover the following Services for treatment of substance use disorders:

- Day-treatment programs
- Individual and group substance use disorder counseling by a qualified clinician, including a marriage and family therapist
- Intensive outpatient programs
- Medical treatment for withdrawal symptoms

**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Individual substance use disorder evaluation and treatment: **no charge**
- Group substance use disorder treatment: **no charge**
- Intensive outpatient and day-treatment programs: **no charge**

### **Residential treatment**

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover the following Services when the Services are provided in a licensed residential treatment facility that provides 24-hour individualized substance use disorder treatment, the Services are generally and customarily provided by a substance use disorder residential treatment program in a licensed residential treatment facility, and the Services are above the level of custodial care:

- Individual and group substance use disorder counseling
- Medical services
- Medication monitoring
- Room and board
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Provider as part of your plan of care in the residential treatment facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the facility by medical personnel (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the residential treatment facility, refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)
- Discharge planning

**Your Cost Share.** We cover residential substance use disorder treatment Services at **no charge**.

### **Inpatient detoxification**

We cover hospitalization in a Plan Hospital only for medical management of withdrawal symptoms, including room and board, Plan Physician Services, drugs, dependency recovery Services, education, and counseling.

**Your Cost Share.** We cover inpatient detoxification Services at **no charge**.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Outpatient laboratory (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient self-administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

### **Telehealth Visits**

Telehealth Visits between you and your provider are intended to make it more convenient for you to receive covered Services, when a Plan Provider determines it is medically appropriate for your medical condition. You have the option of receiving these services either through an in-person visit or via telehealth. You may receive covered Services via Telehealth Visits, when available and if the Services would have been covered under this *EOC* if provided in person. If you choose to receive Services via telehealth, then you must use a Plan

Provider that currently offers the service via telehealth. We offer the following telehealth Services:

- 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 receiving 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 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
- 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 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
- Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, internet, or electronic health record



**Your Cost Share.** You pay the following types for Telehealth Visits with Primary Care Physicians, Non-Physician Specialists, and Physician Specialists:

- Interactive video visits: **no charge**
- Scheduled telephone visits: **no charge**

## **Transplant Services**

We cover transplants of organs, tissue, or bone marrow in accord with Medicare guidelines and if the Medical Group provides a written referral for care to a transplant facility as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section.

After the referral to a transplant facility, the following applies:

- If either the Medical Group or the referral facility determines that you do not satisfy its respective criteria for a transplant, we will only cover Services you receive before that determination is made
- Health Plan, Plan Hospitals, the Medical Group, and Plan Physicians are not responsible for finding, furnishing, or ensuring the availability of an organ, tissue, or bone marrow donor
- In accord with our guidelines for Services for living transplant donors, we provide certain donation-related Services for a donor, or an individual identified by the Medical Group as a potential donor, whether or not the donor is a Member. These Services must be directly related to a covered transplant for you, which may include certain Services for harvesting the organ, tissue, or bone marrow and for treatment of complications. Please call Member Services for questions about donor Services

**Your Cost Share.** For covered transplant Services that you receive, you will pay the **Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to a transplant.** For example, see “Hospital Inpatient Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services.

We provide or pay for donation-related Services for actual or potential donors (whether or not they are Members) in accord with our guidelines for donor Services at **no charge**.

### **For the following Services, refer to these sections**

- Dental Services that are Medically Necessary to prepare for a transplant (refer to “Dental Services”)

- Outpatient imaging and laboratory (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Care”)

## **Transportation Services**

We cover transportation up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year, if you meet the following conditions:

- You are traveling to and from a network provider when provided by our designated transportation provider. Each stop will count towards one trip
- The ride is for Services covered under this *EOC*

For trips greater than 50 miles, you will need an approval from a provider indicating medical necessity to travel to a location beyond this limit.

To request **non-medical transportation (rideshare, taxi, or private transportation)**, please call our transportation provider at **1-877-930-1477 (TTY 711)**, Monday through Friday, 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You may also create an account with our transportation vendor and schedule rides online at **medicaltrip.net** or via their mobile app.

If you need to use **non-emergency medical transportation (wheelchair van or gurney van)** because you physically or medically are not able to get to your medical appointment by non-medical transportation (rideshare, taxi, or private transportation), please call **1-833-226-6760 (TTY 711)**, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call at least three business days before your appointment or as soon as you can when you have an urgent appointment. Please have all of the following when you call:

- Your Kaiser Permanente ID card
- The date and time of your medical appointments
- The address of where you need to be picked up and the address of where you are going
- If you will need a return trip
- If someone will be traveling with you (for example, a parent/legal guardian or caregiver)

**Your Cost Share:** You pay the following for covered transportation: **no charge**.

### For the following Services, refer to this section

- Emergency and non-emergency ambulance Services (refer to “Ambulance Services”)

### Transportation Services exclusion

Transportation will not be provided if:

- The ride is not for a service covered under this *EOC*

## Vision Services

We cover the following:

- Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist to determine the need for vision correction (including dilation Services when Medically Necessary) and to provide a prescription for eyeglass lenses: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **no charge**
- Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **no charge**

### Optical Services

We cover the Services described in this “Optical Services” section when received from Plan Medical Offices or Plan Optical Sales Offices.

#### *Eyeglasses and contact lenses following cataract surgery*

We cover at **no charge** one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses (including fitting or dispensing) following each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens at Plan Medical Offices or Plan Optical Sales Offices when prescribed by a physician or optometrist. When multiple cataract surgeries are needed, and you do not obtain eyeglasses or contact lenses between procedures, we will only cover one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after any surgery. If the eyewear you purchase costs more than what Medicare covers for someone who has Original Medicare (also known as “Fee-for-Service Medicare”), you pay the difference.

#### *Special contact lenses*

We cover the following:

- For aniridia (missing iris), we cover up to two Medically Necessary contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period when prescribed by a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist: **no charge**
- In accord with Medicare guidelines, we cover corrective lenses (including contact lens fitting and dispensing) and frames (and replacements) for Members who are aphakic (for example, who have had a cataract removed but do not have an implanted

intraocular lens (IOL) or who have congenital absence of the lens): **no charge**

### For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Services related to the eye or vision other than Services covered under this “Vision Services” section, such as outpatient surgery and outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section)

### Vision Services exclusions

- Contact lenses, including fitting and dispensing (except as described under this “Vision Services” section)
- Eyeglass lenses and frames (except for eyewear following cataract surgery, as described under this “Vision Services” section)
- Eye exams for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining contact lenses
- Low vision devices

## Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions

### Exclusions

The items and services listed in this “Exclusions” section are excluded from coverage. These exclusions apply to all Services that would otherwise be covered under this *EOC* regardless of whether the services are within the scope of a provider’s license or certificate. Additional exclusions that apply only to a particular benefit are listed in the description of that benefit in this *EOC*. These exclusions or limitations do not apply to Services that are Medically Necessary to treat Severe Mental Illness or Serious Emotional Disturbance of a Child Under Age 18.

### **Certain exams and Services**

Routine physical exams and other Services that are not Medically Necessary, such as when required (1) for obtaining or maintaining employment or participation in employee programs, (2) for insurance, credentialing or licensing, (3) for travel, or (4) by court order or for parole or probation.

## Chiropractic Services

Chiropractic Services and the Services of a chiropractor, except for manual manipulation of the spine as described under “Outpatient Care” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section or unless you have coverage for supplemental chiropractic Services as described in an amendment to this *EOC*.

## Cosmetic Services

Services that are intended primarily to change or maintain your appearance, including cosmetic surgery (surgery that is performed to alter or reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve appearance), except that this exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Services covered under “Reconstructive Surgery” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- The following devices covered under “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section: testicular implants implanted as part of a covered reconstructive surgery, breast prostheses needed after removal of all or part of a breast or lumpectomy, and prostheses to replace all or part of an external facial body part

## Custodial care

Assistance with activities of daily living (for example: walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, and taking medicine).

This exclusion does not apply to assistance with activities of daily living that is provided as part of covered hospice for Members who do not have Part A, Skilled Nursing Facility, or hospital inpatient care.

## Dental care

Dental care and dental X-rays, such as dental Services following accidental injury to teeth, dental appliances, dental implants, orthodontia, and dental Services resulting from medical treatment such as surgery on the jawbone and radiation treatment, except for Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or under “Dental Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

## Disposable supplies

Disposable supplies for home use, such as bandages, gauze, tape, antiseptics, dressings, Ace-type bandages, and diapers, underpads, and other incontinence supplies.

This exclusion does not apply to disposable supplies covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use,” “Home Health Care,” “Hospice Care,” “Ostomy,

Urological, and Specialized Wound Care Supplies,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

## Experimental or investigational Services

A Service is experimental or investigational if we, in consultation with the Medical Group, determine that one of the following is true:

- Generally accepted medical standards do not recognize it as safe and effective for treating the condition in question (even if it has been authorized by law for use in testing or other studies on human patients)
- It requires government approval that has not been obtained when the Service is to be provided

## Hair loss or growth treatment

Items and services for the promotion, prevention, or other treatment of hair loss or hair growth.

## Intermediate care

Care in a licensed intermediate care facility. This exclusion does not apply to Services covered under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use,” “Home Health Care,” and “Hospice Care” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section.

## Items and services that are not health care items and services

For example, we do not cover:

- Teaching manners and etiquette
- Teaching and support services to develop planning skills such as daily activity planning and project or task planning
- Items and services for the purpose of increasing academic knowledge or skills
- Teaching and support services to increase intelligence
- Academic coaching or tutoring for skills such as grammar, math, and time management
- Teaching you how to read, whether or not you have dyslexia
- Educational testing
- Teaching art, dance, horse riding, music, play, or swimming
- Teaching skills for employment or vocational purposes
- Vocational training or teaching vocational skills
- Professional growth courses
- Training for a specific job or employment counseling

- Aquatic therapy and other water therapy, except when ordered as part of a physical therapy program in accord with Medicare guidelines

### **Items and services to correct refractive defects of the eye**

Items and services (such as eye surgery or contact lenses to reshape the eye) for the purpose of correcting refractive defects of the eye such as myopia, hyperopia, or astigmatism.

### **Massage therapy**

Massage therapy is not covered.

### **Oral nutrition and weight loss aids**

Outpatient oral nutrition, such as dietary supplements, herbal supplements, formulas, food, and weight loss aids.

This exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Amino acid–modified products and elemental dietary enteral formula covered under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section
- Enteral formula covered under “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section

### **Residential care**

Care in a facility where you stay overnight, except that this exclusion does not apply when the overnight stay is part of covered care in a hospital, a Skilled Nursing Facility, inpatient respite care covered in the “Hospice Care” section for Members who do not have Part A, or residential treatment program Services covered in the “Substance Use Disorder Treatment” and “Mental Health Services” sections.

### **Routine foot care items and services**

Routine foot care items and services, except for Medically Necessary Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines.

### **Services not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration**

Drugs, supplements, tests, vaccines, devices, radioactive materials, and any other Services that by law require federal Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) approval in order to be sold in the U.S., but are not approved by the FDA. This exclusion applies to Services provided anywhere, even outside the U.S., unless the Services are covered under the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section.

### **Services and items not covered by Medicare**

Services and items that are not covered by Medicare, including services and items that aren’t reasonable and necessary, according to the standards of the Original Medicare plan, unless these Services are otherwise listed in this *EOC* as a covered Service.

### **Services performed by unlicensed people**

Services that are performed safely and effectively by people who do not require licenses or certificates by the state to provide health care services and where the Member’s condition does not require that the services be provided by a licensed health care provider.

### **Services related to a noncovered Service**

When a Service is not covered, all Services related to the noncovered Service are excluded, except for Services we would otherwise cover to treat complications of the noncovered Service or if covered in accord with Medicare guidelines. For example, if you have a noncovered cosmetic surgery, we would not cover Services you receive in preparation for the surgery or for follow-up care. If you later suffer a life-threatening complication such as a serious infection, this exclusion would not apply and we would cover any Services that we would otherwise cover to treat that complication.

### **Surrogacy**

Services for anyone in connection with a Surrogacy Arrangement, except for otherwise-covered Services provided to a Member who is a surrogate. Refer to “Surrogacy Arrangements” under “Reductions” in this “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section for information about your obligations to us in connection with a Surrogacy Arrangement, including your obligations to reimburse us for any Services we cover and to provide information about anyone who may be financially responsible for Services the baby (or babies) receive.

### **Travel and lodging expenses**

Travel and lodging expenses, except as described in our Travel and Lodging Program Description. The Travel and Lodging Program Description is available online at [kp.org/specialty-care/travel-reimbursements](http://kp.org/specialty-care/travel-reimbursements) or by calling Member Services.

### **Limitations**

We will make a good faith effort to provide or arrange for covered Services within the remaining availability of facilities or personnel in the event of unusual circumstances that delay or render impractical the provision of Services under this *EOC*, such as a major

disaster, epidemic, war, riot, civil insurrection, disability of a large share of personnel at a Plan Facility, complete or partial destruction of facilities, and labor dispute.

Under these circumstances, if you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital as described under “Emergency Services” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section, and we will provide coverage and reimbursement as described in that section.

Additional limitations that apply only to a particular benefit are listed in the description of that benefit in this EOC.

## **Coordination of Benefits**

If you have other medical or dental coverage besides your Group’s non-Medicare plan, it is important to use your other coverage in combination with your coverage as a Senior Advantage Member to pay for the care you receive. This is called “coordination of benefits” because it involves coordinating all of the health benefits that are available to you. Using all of the coverage you have helps keep the cost of health care more affordable for everyone.

You must tell us if you have other health care coverage, in addition to your Group’s non-Medicare plan, and let us know whenever there are any changes in your additional coverage. The types of additional coverage that you might have include the following:

- Coverage that you have from another employer’s group health care coverage for employees or retirees, either through yourself or your spouse
- Coverage that you have under workers’ compensation because of a job-related illness or injury, or under the Federal Black Lung Program
- Coverage you have for an accident where no-fault insurance or liability insurance is involved
- Coverage you have through Medicaid
- Coverage you have through the “TRICARE for Life” program (veteran’s benefits)
- Coverage you have for dental insurance or prescription drugs
- “Continuation coverage” you have through COBRA (COBRA is a law that requires employers with 20 or more employees to let employees and their dependents keep their group health coverage for a time after they leave their group health plan under certain conditions)

When you have additional health care coverage besides your Group’s non-Medicare plan, how we coordinate your benefits as a Senior Advantage Member with your benefits from your other coverage depends on your situation. With coordination of benefits, you will often get your care as usual from Plan Providers, and the other coverage you have will simply help pay for the care you receive. In other situations, such as benefits that we don’t cover, you may get your care outside of our plan directly through your other coverage.

In general, the coverage that pays its share of your bills first is called the “primary payer.” Then the other company or companies that are involved (called the “secondary payers”) each pay their share of what is left of your bills. Often your other coverage will settle its share of payment directly with us and you will not have to be involved. However, if payment owed to us is sent directly to you, you are required under Medicare law to give this payment to us. When you have additional coverage, whether we pay first or second, or at all, depends on what type or types of additional coverage you have and the rules that apply to your situation. Many of these rules are set by Medicare. Some of them take into account whether you have a disability or have end-stage renal disease, or how many employees are covered by an employer’s group plan.

If you have additional health coverage besides your Group’s non-Medicare plan, please call Member Services to find out which rules apply to your situation, and how payment will be handled.

## **Reductions**

### **Employer responsibility**

For any Services that the law requires an employer to provide, we will not pay the employer, and, when we cover any such Services, we may recover the value of the Services from the employer.

### **Government agency responsibility**

For any Services that the law requires be provided only by or received only from a government agency, we will not pay the government agency, and, when we cover any such Services, we may recover the value of the Services from the government agency.

### **Injuries or illnesses alleged to be caused by third parties**

Third parties who cause you injury or illness (and/or their insurance companies) usually must pay first before Medicare or our plan. Therefore, we are entitled to pursue these primary payments. If you obtain a judgment or settlement from or on behalf of a third party who

allegedly caused an injury or illness for which you received covered Services, you must ensure we receive reimbursement for those Services. Note: This “Injuries or illnesses alleged to be caused by third parties” section does not affect your obligation to pay your Cost Share for these Services.

To the extent permitted or required by law, we shall be subrogated to all claims, causes of action, and other rights you may have against a third party or an insurer, government program, or other source of coverage for monetary damages, compensation, or indemnification on account of the injury or illness allegedly caused by the third party. We will be so subrogated as of the time we mail or deliver a written notice of our exercise of this option to you or your attorney.

To secure our rights, we will have a lien and reimbursement rights to the proceeds of any judgment or settlement you or we obtain against a third party that results in any settlement proceeds or judgment, from other types of coverage that include but are not limited to: liability, uninsured motorist, underinsured motorist, personal umbrella, workers’ compensation, personal injury, medical payments and all other first party types. The proceeds of any judgment or settlement that you or we obtain shall first be applied to satisfy our lien, regardless of whether you are made whole and regardless of whether the total amount of the proceeds is less than the actual losses and damages you incurred. We are not required to pay attorney fees or costs to any attorney hired by you to pursue your damages claim. If you reimburse us without the need for legal action, we will allow a procurement cost discount. If we have to pursue legal action to enforce its interest, there will be no procurement discount.

Within 30 days after submitting or filing a claim or legal action against a third party, you must send written notice of the claim or legal action to:

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*

Equian  
Kaiser Permanente - Northern California Region  
Subrogation Mailbox  
P.O. Box 36380  
Louisville, KY 40233  
Fax: 1-502-214-1137

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*

The Rawlings Group  
Subrogation Mailbox  
P.O. Box 2000  
LaGrange, KY 40031  
Fax: 1-502-753-7064

In order for us to determine the existence of any rights we may have and to satisfy those rights, you must complete and send us all consents, releases, authorizations, assignments, and other documents, including lien forms directing your attorney, the third party, and the third party’s liability insurer to pay us directly. You may not agree to waive, release, or reduce our rights under this provision without our prior, written consent.

If your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator asserts a claim against a third party based on your injury or illness, your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator and any settlement or judgment recovered by the estate, parent, guardian, or conservator shall be subject to our liens and other rights to the same extent as if you had asserted the claim against the third party. We may assign our rights to enforce our liens and other rights.

### **Surrogacy Arrangements**

If you enter into a Surrogacy Arrangement and you or any other payee are entitled to receive payments or other compensation under the Surrogacy Arrangement, you must reimburse us for covered Services you receive related to conception, pregnancy, delivery, or postpartum care in connection with that arrangement (“Surrogacy Health Services”) to the maximum extent allowed under California Civil Code Section 3040. Note: This “Surrogacy Arrangements” section does not affect your obligation to pay your Cost Share for these Services. After you surrender a baby to the legal parents, you are not obligated to reimburse us for any Services that the baby receives (the legal parents are financially responsible for any Services that the baby receives).

By accepting Surrogacy Health Services, you automatically assign to us your right to receive payments

that are payable to you or any other payee under the Surrogacy Arrangement, regardless of whether those payments are characterized as being for medical expenses. To secure our rights, we will also have a lien on those payments and on any escrow account, trust, or any other account that holds those payments. Those payments (and amounts in any escrow account, trust, or other account that holds those payments) shall first be applied to satisfy our lien. The assignment and our lien will not exceed the total amount of your obligation to us under the preceding paragraph.

Within 30 days after entering into a Surrogacy Arrangement, you must send written notice of the arrangement, including all of the following information:

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of the other parties to the arrangement
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any escrow agent or trustee
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of the intended parents and any other parties who are financially responsible for Services the baby (or babies) receive, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for any health insurance that will cover Services that the baby (or babies) receive
- A signed copy of any contracts and other documents explaining the arrangement
- Any other information we request in order to satisfy our rights

You must send this information to:

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*

Equian

Kaiser Permanente – Northern California Region

Surrogacy Mailbox

P.O. Box 36380

Louisville, KY 40233

Fax: 1-502-214-1137

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*

The Rawlings Group

Surrogacy Mailbox

P.O. Box 2000

LaGrange, KY 40031

Fax: 1-502-753-7064

You must complete and send us all consents, releases, authorizations, lien forms, and other documents that are reasonably necessary for us to determine the existence of any rights we may have under this “Surrogacy Arrangements” section and to satisfy those rights. You may not agree to waive, release, or reduce our rights under this “Surrogacy Arrangements” section without our prior, written consent.

If your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator asserts a claim against another party based on the Surrogacy Arrangement, your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator and any settlement or judgment recovered by the estate, parent, guardian, or conservator shall be subject to our liens and other rights to the same extent as if you had asserted the claim against the other party. We may assign our rights to enforce our liens and other rights.

If you have questions about your obligations under this provision, please call Member Services.

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

For any Services for conditions arising from military service that the law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide, we will not pay the Department of Veterans Affairs, and when we cover any such Services we may recover the value of the Services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **Workers’ compensation or employer’s liability benefits**

Workers’ compensation usually must pay first before Medicare or our plan. Therefore, we are entitled to pursue primary payments under workers’ compensation or employer’s liability law. You may be eligible for payments or other benefits, including amounts received as a settlement (collectively referred to as “Financial Benefit”), under workers’ compensation or employer’s liability law. We will provide covered Services even if it is unclear whether you are entitled to a Financial Benefit, but we may recover the value of any covered Services from the following sources:

- From any source providing a Financial Benefit or from whom a Financial Benefit is due
- From you, to the extent that a Financial Benefit is provided or payable or would have been required to be provided or payable if you had diligently sought to establish your rights to the Financial Benefit under any workers’ compensation or employer’s liability law

## Requests for Payment

### Requests for Payment of Covered Services or Part D drugs

#### **If you pay our share of the cost of your covered services or Part D drugs, or if you receive a bill, you can ask us for payment**

Sometimes when you get medical care or a Part D drug, you may need to pay the full cost. Other times, you may find that you have paid more than you expected under the coverage rules of our plan. In these cases, you can ask us to pay you back (paying you back is often called “reimbursing” you). It is your right to be paid back by our plan whenever you’ve paid more than your share of the cost for medical services or Part D drugs that are covered by our plan. There may be deadlines that you must meet to get paid back.

There may also be times when you get a bill from a provider for the full cost of medical care you have received or possibly for more than your share of cost sharing as discussed in this document. First try to resolve the bill with the provider. If that does not work, send the bill to us instead of paying it. We will look at the bill and decide whether the services should be covered. If we decide they should be covered, we will pay the provider directly. If we decide not to pay it, we will 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.

Here are examples of situations in which you may need to ask us to pay you back or to pay a bill you have received:

**When you’ve received emergency, urgent, or dialysis care from a Non-Plan Provider.** Outside the service area, you can receive emergency or urgently needed services from any provider, whether or not the provider is a Plan Provider. In these cases:

- You are 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 receive 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 have made
- You may get a bill from the provider asking for payment that you think you do not owe. Send us this bill, along with documentation of any payments you have already made
  - ◆ if the provider is owed anything, we will pay the provider directly

- ◆ if you have already paid more than your share of the cost of the service, we will determine how much you owed and pay you back for our share of the cost

**When a Plan Provider sends you a bill you think you should not pay.** Plan Providers should always bill us 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 Share amount when you get covered Services. We do not allow providers to add additional separate charges, called balance billing. This protection (that you never pay more than your Cost Share amount) applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service, and even if there is a dispute and we don’t pay certain provider charges
- Whenever you get a bill from a Plan Provider that you think is more than you should pay, send us the bill. We will contact the provider directly and resolve the billing problem
- If you have already paid a bill to a Plan Provider, but you feel that you paid too much, send us the bill along with documentation of any payment you have made and ask us to pay you back the difference between the amount you paid and the amount you owed under our plan

#### **If you are 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 of your covered Services or Part D drugs after your enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back for our share of the costs. You will need to submit paperwork such as receipts and bills for us to handle the reimbursement.

**When you use a Non-Plan Pharmacy to get a prescription filled.** If you go to a Non-Plan, the pharmacy may not be able to submit the claim directly to us. When that happens, you will have to pay the full cost of your prescription.

Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Remember that we only cover out of network pharmacies in limited circumstances.

**When you pay the full cost for a prescription because you don’t have your plan membership card with you.** If you do not have your plan membership card with you, you can ask the pharmacy to call us or to look up your plan enrollment information. However, if the pharmacy cannot get the enrollment information they need right



away, you may need to pay the full cost of the prescription yourself.

Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost.

**When you pay the full cost for a prescription in other situations.** You may pay the full cost of the prescription because you find that the drug is not covered for some reason.

- For example, the drug may not be on our **2024 Comprehensive Formulary**; or it could have a requirement or restriction that you didn't know about or don't think should apply to you. If you decide to get the drug immediately, you may need to pay the full cost for it
- Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back. In some situations, we may need to get more information from your doctor in order to pay you back for our share of the cost

**When you pay copayments under a drug manufacturer patient assistance program.** If you get help from, and pay copayments under, a drug manufacturer patient assistance program outside our plan's benefit, you may submit a paper claim to have your out-of-pocket expense count toward qualifying you for catastrophic coverage.

- Save your receipt and send a copy to us

All of the examples above are types of coverage decisions. This means that if we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. The "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section has information about how to make an appeal.

## **How to Ask Us to Pay You Back or to Pay a Bill You Have Received**

You may request 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 have 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 (for Part C medical claims) and within 36 months (for Part D drug claims) of the date you received the service, item, or drug.

To make sure you are 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 will help us process the information faster. You can file a claim to request payment by:

To file a claim, this is what you need to do:

- Completing and submitting our electronic form at ([kp.org](http://kp.org)) and upload supporting documentation
- Either download a copy of the form from our website ([kp.org](http://kp.org)) or call Member Services and ask them to send you the form. Mail the completed form to our Claims Department address listed below
- If you are unable to get the form, you can file your request for payment by sending us the following information to our Claims Department address listed below:
  - ◆ a statement with the following information:
    - your name (member/patient name) and medical/health record number
    - the date you received the services
    - where you received the services
    - who provided the services
    - why you think we should pay for the services
    - your signature and date signed. (If you want someone other than yourself to make the request, we will also need a completed "Appointment of Representative" form, which is available at [kp.org](http://kp.org))
  - ◆ a copy of the bill, your medical record(s) for these services, and your receipt if you paid for the services
- Mail your request for payment of medical care together with any bills or paid receipts to us at this address:

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*

Kaiser Permanente  
Claims Administration - NCAL  
P.O. Box 12923  
Oakland, CA 94604-2923

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*

Kaiser Permanente  
Claims Administration - SCAL  
P.O. Box 7004  
Downey, CA 90242-7004

To request payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed by a Plan Provider and obtained from a Plan Pharmacy, write to the address below. For all other Part D requests, send your request to the address above.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Medicare Part D Unit  
P.O. Box 23170  
Oakland, CA 94623-0170

## **We Will Consider Your Request for Payment and Say Yes or No**

### **We check to see whether we should cover the service or Part D drug and how much we owe**

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

- If we decide that the medical care or Part D drug is covered and you followed all the rules, we will pay for our share of the cost. If you have already paid for the service or Part D drug, we will mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. If you have not paid for the service or Part D drug yet, we will mail the payment directly to the provider
- If we decide that the medical care or Part D drug is not covered, or you did not follow all the rules, we will not pay for our share of the cost. We will send you a letter explaining the reasons why we are not sending the payment and your right to appeal that decision

### **If we tell you that we will not pay for all or part of the medical care or Part D drug, you can make an appeal**

If you think we have made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or the amount we are paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you are 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 about how to make this appeal, go to the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

## **Other Situations in Which You Should Save Your Receipts and Send Copies to Us**

### **In some cases, you should send copies of your receipts to us to help us track your out-of-pocket drug costs**

There are some situations when you should let us know about payments you have made for your covered Part D prescription drugs. In these cases, you are not asking us for payment. Instead, you are telling us about your payments so that we can calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly. This may help you to qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly.

Here is one situation when you should send us copies of receipts to let us know about payments you have made for your drugs:

- **When you get a drug through a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer.** Some members are enrolled in a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer that is outside our plan benefits. If you get any drugs through a program offered by a drug manufacturer, you may pay a copayment to the patient assistance program
  - ◆ save your receipt and send a copy to us so that we can have your out-of-pocket expenses count toward qualifying you for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage
  - ◆ note: Because you are getting your drug through the patient assistance program and not through our plan’s benefits, we will not pay for any share of these drug costs. But sending a copy of the receipt allows us to calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly and may help you qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly

Since you are not asking for payment in the case described above, this situation is not considered a coverage decision. Therefore, you cannot make an appeal if you disagree with our decision.

## **Your Rights and Responsibilities**

### **We must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities as a Member of our plan**

#### **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 CD)**

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 are not 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. This document is available in Spanish by calling Member Services. We can also give you information in braille, large print, or CD at no cost if you need it. We are required to give you information about our plan’s

benefits in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call Member Services.

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

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you, seeing a women's health specialist, or finding a network specialist, please call to file a grievance with Member Services. You may 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**.

### **Debemos proporcionar la información de un modo adecuado para usted y conforme a su sensibilidad cultural (en idiomas distintos al inglés, en letra grande, en braille o en CD)**

Nuestro plan está obligado a garantizar que todos los servicios, tanto clínicos como no clínicos, se proporcionen de una manera culturalmente competente y que sean accesibles para todas las personas inscritas, incluidas las que tienen un dominio limitado del inglés, capacidades limitadas para leer, una incapacidad auditiva o diversos antecedentes culturales y étnicos. Algunos ejemplos de cómo nuestro plan puede cumplir estos requisitos de accesibilidad incluyen, entre otros, proporcionar servicios de traducción, servicios de interpretación, de teletipo o TTY (teléfono de texto o teletipo).

Nuestro plan tiene servicios de interpretación disponibles para responder las preguntas de los miembros que no hablan inglés. Este documento está disponible en español llamando a Servicio a los Miembros. También podemos darle información en letra grande, braille o en CD sin costo si la necesita. Tenemos la obligación de darle información acerca de los beneficios de nuestro plan en un formato que sea accesible y adecuado para usted. Para obtener información de una forma que se adapte a sus necesidades, llame a Servicio a los Miembros.

Nuestro plan está obligado a ofrecer a las mujeres inscritas la opción de acceder directamente a un especialista en salud femenina dentro de la red para los servicios de atención médica preventiva y de rutina para la mujer.

Si los proveedores de nuestra red para una especialidad no están disponibles, es nuestra responsabilidad buscar proveedores fuera de la red que le proporcionen la atención necesaria. En este caso, usted solo pagará el costo compartido dentro de la red. Si se encuentra en una situación en la que no hay especialistas dentro de nuestra red que cubran el servicio que necesita, llámenos para recibir información sobre a dónde acudir para obtener este servicio con un costo compartido dentro de la red.

Si tiene algún problema para obtener información de nuestro plan en un formato que sea accesible y adecuado para usted, para ver a un especialista en salud femenina o para encontrar un especialista de la red, llame a Servicio a los Miembros para presentar una queja. También puede presentar una queja ante Medicare, llamando al **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** o directamente en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles al **1-800-368-1019** o TTY **1-800-537-7697**.

### **We must ensure that you get timely access to your covered services and Part D drugs**

You have the right to choose a primary care provider (PCP) in our network to provide and arrange for your covered services. You also have the right to go to a women's health specialist (such as a gynecologist), a mental health services provider, and an optometrist without a referral, as well as other providers described in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

You have the right to get appointments and covered services from our network of providers within a reasonable amount of time. This includes the right to get timely services from specialists when you need that care. You also have the right to get your prescriptions filled or refilled at any of our network pharmacies without long delays.

If you think that you are not getting your medical care or Part D drugs within a reasonable amount of time, "How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service, or other concerns" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you what you can do.

### **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 our 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 Practices, that tells you 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 by someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you first
- Your health information is shared with your Group only with your authorization or as otherwise permitted by law
- There are certain exceptions that do not require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law
  - ◆ we are required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care
  - ◆ because you are a Member of our plan through Medicare, we are required to give Medicare your health information, including information about your Part D prescription drugs. 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 has been shared with others**

You have the right to look at your medical records held by our plan, and to get a copy of your records. We are 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 will 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 are not routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, please call Member Services.

### **We must give you information about our plan, our Plan 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, please call Member Services:

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about our plan's financial condition
- **Information about our network providers and pharmacies**
  - ◆ you have the right to get information about the qualifications of the providers and pharmacies in our network and how we pay the providers in our network
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage**
  - ◆ the "How to Obtain Services" and "Benefits and Your Cost Share" sections provide information regarding medical services
  - ◆ the "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits and Your Cost Share" section provides information about coverage for certain drugs
  - ◆ if you have questions about the rules or restrictions, please call Member Services
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it**
  - ◆ the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section provides information on asking for a written explanation on why a medical service or Part D drug is not covered, or if your coverage is restricted
  - ◆ the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section also provides information on asking us to change a decision, also called an appeal

### **We must support your right to make decisions about your care**

#### **You have the right to know your treatment options and participate in decisions about your health care**

You have the right to get full information from your doctors and other health care providers when you go for

medical care. 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 of your choices.** You have the right to be told about all of the treatment options that are recommended for your condition, no matter what they cost or whether they are covered by our plan. It also includes being told about programs our plan offers to help members manage their medications and use drugs safely
- **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. You also have the right to stop taking your medication. Of course, if you refuse treatment or stop taking a medication, you accept full responsibility for what happens to your body as a result

### **You have the right to give instructions about what is to be done if you are not able to 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 are in this situation. This means that, 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

The legal documents that you can use to give your directions in advance of these situations are called **advance directives**. There are different types of advance directives and different names for them. Documents called **living will** and **power of attorney for health care** are examples of advance directives.

If you want to use an **advance directive** to give your instructions, here is what to do:

- **Get the form.** You can get an advance directive, a form from your lawyer, from a social worker, or from some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare. You can also contact Member Services to ask for the forms
- **Fill it out and sign it.** Regardless of where you get this form, keep in mind that it is a legal document. You should consider having a lawyer help you prepare it
- **Give copies to appropriate people.** You should 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 are going to be hospitalized, and you have signed an advance directive, take a copy with you to the hospital.

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

**Remember, it is your choice whether you want to fill out an advance directive** (including whether you want to sign one if you are in the hospital). According to law, no one can deny you care or discriminate against you based on whether or not you have signed an advance directive.

### **What if your instructions are not followed?**

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital did not follow the instructions in it, you may file a complaint with the Quality Improvement Organization listed in the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section.

### **You have the right to make complaints and to ask us to reconsider decisions we have made**

If you have any problems, concerns, or complaints and need to request coverage, or make an appeal, the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section of this document tells you what you can do.

Whatever you do—ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint—we are required to treat you fairly.

## What can you do if you believe you are being treated unfairly or your rights are not being respected?

### If it is about discrimination, call the Office for Civil Rights

If you believe you have been treated unfairly, your dignity has not been recognized, or your rights have not been respected due to your race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, sexual orientation, or national origin, you should 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.

### Is it about something else?

If you believe you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected, and it's not about discrimination, you can get help dealing with the problem you are having:

- You can call Member Services
- You can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. For details, go to the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- Or you can call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY **1-877-486-2048**)

### How to get more information about your rights

There are several places where you can get more information about your rights:

- **You can call Member Services**
- **You can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program.** For details, go to the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- **You can contact Medicare:**
  - ◆ you can visit the Medicare website to read or download the publication **Medicare Rights & Protections**. (The publication is available at <https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11534-Medicare-Rights-and-Protections.pdf>)
  - ◆ or you can call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY **1-877-486-2048**)

### Information about new technology assessments

Rapidly changing technology affects health care and medicine as much as any other industry. To determine whether a new drug or other medical development has long-term benefits, our plan carefully monitors and evaluates new technologies for inclusion as covered benefits. These technologies include medical procedures, medical devices, and new drugs.

## You can make suggestions about rights and responsibilities

As a Member of our plan, you have the right to make recommendations about the rights and responsibilities included in this section. Please call Member Services with any suggestions.

## You have some 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, please call Member Services.

- **Get familiar with your covered services and the rules you must follow to get these covered services.** Use this *EOC* to learn what is covered for you and the rules you need to follow to get your covered services
  - ◆ the "How to Obtain Services" and "Benefits and Your Cost Share" sections give details about your medical services
  - ◆ the "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits and Your Cost Share" section gives details about your Part D prescription drug coverage
- **If you have any other health insurance coverage or prescription drug coverage in addition to our plan, you are required to tell us.**
  - ◆ the "Exclusion, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section tells you about coordinating these benefits
- **Tell your doctor and other health care providers that you are enrolled in our plan.** Show your plan membership card whenever you get your medical care or Part D drugs
- **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 care providers about your health problems. Follow the treatment plans and instructions that you and your doctors agree upon
  - ◆ make sure your doctors know all of the drugs you are taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements
  - ◆ if you have any questions, be sure to ask and get an answer you can understand
- **Be considerate.** We expect all 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 are responsible for these payments:
  - ◆ you must continue to pay a premium for your Medicare Part B to remain a Member of our plan
  - ◆ for most of your Services or Part D drugs covered by our plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the Service or Part D drug
  - ◆ if you are required to pay the extra amount for Part D because of your yearly income, you must continue to pay the extra amount directly to the government to remain a Member of our plan
- **If you move within your Home Region 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 of your plan’s Service Area,** you cannot remain a member of our plan
- If you move, it is also important to tell Social Security (or the Railroad Retirement Board)

## Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints

### What to Do if You Have a Problem or Concern

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

The guide under “To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use?” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section will help you identify the right process to use and what you should do.

This section describes the procedures under this Senior Advantage *EOC* when Medicare is secondary. You must refer to your non-Medicare plan document which provides your primary Group coverage for the dispute resolution procedures applicable to your non-Medicare plan.

### **What about the legal terms?**

There are legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people and can be hard to understand.

To make things easier, this section:

- Uses simpler words in place of certain legal terms. For example, this section generally says making a complaint rather than filing a grievance, coverage decision rather than organization determination or coverage determination, or at-risk determination, and independent review organization instead of Independent Review Entity.
- It also uses abbreviations as little as possible.

However, it can be helpful, and sometimes quite important, for you to know the correct legal terms. Knowing which terms to use will help you communicate more accurately to get the right help or information for your situation. To help you know which terms to use, we include legal terms when we give the details for handling specific types of situations.

### **Where To Get More Information and Personalized Assistance**

We are always available to help you. Even if you have a complaint about our treatment of you, we are obligated to honor your right to complain. Therefore, you should always reach out to Member Services for help. But in some situations you may also want help or guidance from someone who is not connected with us. Below are two entities that can assist you.

#### **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**

Each state has a government program with trained counselors. The program is not 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 are having. They can also answer your questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

The services of SHIP counselors are free. You will find phone numbers and website URLs in the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section.

## Medicare

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

- You can call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY **1-877-486-2048**)
- You can also visit the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>)

## **To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use?**

If you have a problem or concern, you only need to read the parts of this section that apply to your situation. The guide that follows will help.

### **Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?**

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

- **Yes.** Go on to “A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals”
- **No.** Skip ahead to “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns”

## **A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals**

### **Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals—the big picture**

Coverage decisions and appeals deal with problems related to your benefits and coverage for your medical care (services, items and Part B prescription drugs, including payment). To keep things simple, we generally refer to medical items, services and Medicare Part B prescription 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 prior to receiving benefits**

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical care. For example, if your Plan Physician refers you to a medical specialist not inside the network, this referral is considered a favorable coverage decision unless either your Plan Physician can show that you received a standard denial notice for this medical specialist, or the *EOC* 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 will cover a particular medical service or refuses to provide medical care you think that you need. In other words, if you want to know if we will cover a medical care before you receive it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you.

We are making a coverage decision for you whenever we decide what is covered for you and how much we pay. In some cases, we might decide medical care is not covered or is no longer covered by Medicare 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 a benefit is received, and you are not satisfied, you can appeal the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made. Under certain circumstances, which we discuss later, you can request 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 have made to check to see if we were properly 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 will 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 that is not connected to us.

- You do not 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 do not fully agree with your Level 1 appeal
- See “Step-by-step: How a Level 2 appeal is done” of this chapter for more information about Level 2 appeals



- For Part D drug appeals, if we say no to all or part of your appeal you will need to ask for a Level 2 appeal. Part D appeals are discussed further in “Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal” of this section)

If you are not satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal. (“Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” in this section explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes).

### **How to get help when you are 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:

- You can call us at **Member Services**
- You can get **free help** from your **State Health Insurance Assistance 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. Please call Member Services and ask for the **Appointment of Representative** form. (The form is also available on Medicare’s website at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf> or on our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org))
  - ◆ for medical care or Medicare Part B prescription drugs, your doctor can request 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
  - ◆ for Part D prescription drugs, your doctor or other prescriber can request a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your Level 1 appeal is denied, your doctor or prescriber can request a Level 2 appeal
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** If you want to, 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 other person to be your representative, call Member Services and ask for the Appointment of Representative form. (The form is also available on Medicare’s website at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf> or on our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org).) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person whom you would like to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form

- ◆ while we can accept an appeal request without the form, we cannot begin or complete our review until we receive it. If we do not receive the form within 44 calendar days after receiving your appeal request (our deadline for making a decision on your appeal), your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we will 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 may 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 are not required to hire a lawyer to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision

### **Which section gives the details for your situation?**

There are four different situations that involve coverage decisions and appeals. Since each situation has different rules and deadlines, we give the details for each one in a separate section:

- “Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal of a Coverage Decision”
- “Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal”
- “How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon”
- “How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage is Ending Too Soon” (applies only to these services: home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services)

If you’re not sure which section you should be using, please call Member Services. You can also get help or information from government organizations such as your SHIP.

### **Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal of a Coverage Decision**

**This section tells what to do if you have problems getting coverage for medical care or if you want us to pay you back for our share of the cost of your care**

This section is about your benefits for medical care. These benefits are described in the “Benefits and Your

Cost Share” section. In some cases, different rules apply to a request for a Medicare Part B prescription drug. In those cases, we will explain how the rules for Medicare Part B prescription drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells you what you can do if you are in any of the following situations:

- You are not getting certain medical care you want, and you believe that this is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision**
- We will not approve the medical care your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe that this care is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision**
- You have received medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, but we have said we will not pay for this care. **Make an appeal**
- You have received and paid for medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, and you want to ask us to reimburse you for this care. **Send us the bill**
- You are being told that coverage for certain medical care you have 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**

**Note:** If the coverage that will be stopped is for hospital Services, home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services, you need to read “How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon” and “How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage is Ending Too Soon” of this section. Special rules apply to these types of care.

### Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision

When a coverage decision involves your medical care, it 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 14 days 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. In order to get a fast coverage decision, you must meet two requirements:

- ◆ you may only ask for coverage for medical items and/or services not requests for payment for items and/or services already received

- ◆ 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 function
- If your doctor tells us that your health requires a fast coverage decision, we will 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 will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision. If we do not approve a fast coverage decision, we will send you a letter that:
  - ◆ explains that we will use the standard deadlines
  - ◆ explains if your doctor asks for the fast coverage decision, we will 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 requested

**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. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section 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 will give you an answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request for a medical item or service. If your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug, we will give you an answer within 72 hours after we receive 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 days if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we will tell you in writing. We can’t take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug
- ◆ if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a fast complaint. We will 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. See “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer

Service, or Other Concerns” of this section for information on complaints.)

For fast coverage decisions, we use an expedited time frame.

A fast coverage decision means we will answer within 72 hours if your request is for a medical item or service. If your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug, we will 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 days. If we take extra days, we will tell you in writing. We can’t take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug
- ◆ if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a fast complaint. See “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns” of this section for information on complaints.) We will call you as soon as we make the decision.
- ◆ if we do not give you our answer within 72 hours (or if there is an extended time period, by the end of that period), or within 24 hours if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug, you have the right to appeal. “Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal” below tells you how to make an appeal
- ◆ If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will 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 are going on to Level 1 of the appeals process

### Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal

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 days or 7 days for Part B drugs. A fast appeal is generally made within 72 hours.**

- If you are appealing a decision we made about coverage for care that you have not yet received, you and/or your doctor will need to decide if you need a

fast appeal. If your doctor tells us that your health requires a fast appeal, we will give you a fast appeal

- The requirements for getting a fast appeal are the same as those for getting a fast coverage decision in “Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal” of this section

Step 2: Ask our plan for an appeal or a fast appeal

- If you are asking for a standard appeal, submit your standard appeal in writing. You may also ask for an appeal by calling us. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information
- If you are asking for a fast appeal, make your appeal in writing or call us. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information
- You must make your appeal request within 60 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 requesting 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 are 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 we are reviewing your appeal, we take a careful look at all of the information. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request
- We will gather more information if needed possibly contacting you or your doctor

### Deadlines for a fast appeal

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your appeal. We will give you our answer sooner if your health 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 days if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we will tell you in writing. We can’t take extra time if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug

- ◆ if we do not give you an answer within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we are required to automatically send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. “Step-by-Step: How a Level 2 Appeal is Done” explains the Level 2 appeal process
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize or provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will 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 receives your appeal

### Deadlines for a standard appeal

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer within 30 calendar days after we receive your appeal. If your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug you have not yet received, we will give you our answer within 7 calendar days after we receive your appeal. We will 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 will tell you in writing. We can’t take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug
  - ◆ if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a fast complaint. When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (See “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section)
  - ◆ if we do not give you an answer by the deadline (or by the end of the extended time period), we will send your request to a Level 2 appeal, where an independent review organization will review the appeal. Later in this section, we talk about this review organization and explain the Level 2 appeal process
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, 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 Medicare Part B prescription drug

- If our plan says **no** to part or all of what your appeal, we will automatically send your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal

### Step-by-step: How a Level 2 appeal is done

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

The independent review organization is an independent organization hired by Medicare. It is not connected with us and is not 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 will 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 are 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 of the information related to your appeal

### If you had a fast appeal at Level 1, you will also have a fast appeal at Level 2

- For the fast appeal, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal within 72 hours of when it receives your appeal
- However, 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 Medicare Part B prescription drug

### If you had a standard appeal at Level 1, you will also have a standard appeal at Level 2

- For the standard appeal, if your request is for a medical item or service, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal within 30 calendar days of when it receives your appeal. If your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug, the review organization must give you an answer to your

Level 2 appeal within 7 calendar days of when it receives your appeal

- However, 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 Medicare Part B prescription drug

### Step 2: The independent review organization gives you their answer

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

- If the 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 receive the decision from the review organization for standard requests. For expedited requests, we have 72 hours from the date we receive the decision from the review organization
- If the review organization says **yes** to part or all of a request for a Medicare Part B prescription drug, we must authorize or provide the Medicare Part B prescription drug within 72 hours after we receive the decision from the review organization for standard requests. For expedited requests, we have 24 hours from the date we receive the decision from the 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 should not be approved. (This is called **upholding the decision** or **turning down your appeal**)
- In this care, the independent review organization will send you a letter:
  - ◆ explaining its decision
  - ◆ notifying you of the 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

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

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five 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. "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section explains the Levels 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes

### What if you are asking us to pay you for our share of a bill you have received for medical care?

The "Requests for Payment" section describes when you may need to ask for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have received from a provider. It also tells you 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 are asking for a coverage decision. To make this decision, we will check to see if the medical care you paid for is covered. We will also check to see if you followed all 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 all the rules, we will send you the payment for our share of the cost within 60 calendar days after we receive your request. If you haven't paid for the medical care, we will send the payment directly to the provider
- If we say **no** to your request: If the medical care is not covered, or you did not follow all the rules, we will not send payment. Instead, we will send you a letter that says we will not pay for the medical care and the reasons why

If you do not agree with our decision to turn you down, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you are asking us to change the coverage decision we made when we turned down your request for payment.

To make this appeal, follow the process for appeals that we describe in "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal." For appeals concerning reimbursement, please note:

- We must give you our answer within 60 calendar days after we receive your appeal. If you are asking us to pay you back for medical care you have already received and paid for yourself, you are not 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

requested to you or to the provider within 60 calendar days

## **Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal**

### **What to do if you have problems getting a Part D drug or you want us to pay you back for a Part D drug**

Your benefits include coverage for many prescription drugs. To be covered, the drug must be used for a medically accepted indication. (A “medically accepted indication” is a use of the drug that is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books.) For details about Part D drugs, rules, restrictions, and costs, please see “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section. **This section is about your Part D drugs only.** To keep things simple, we generally say drug in the rest of this section, instead of repeating covered outpatient prescription drug or Part D drug every time. We also use the term “Drug List” instead of List of Covered Drugs or **2024 Comprehensive Formulary**.

- If you do not know if a drug is covered or if you meet the rules, you can ask us. Some drugs require that you get approval from us before we will cover it
- If your pharmacy tells you that your prescription cannot be filled as written, the pharmacy will give you a written notice explaining how to contact us to ask for a coverage decision

### **Part D coverage decisions and appeals**

An initial coverage decision about your Part D drugs is called a **coverage determination**.

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your drugs. This section tells what you can do if you are in any of the following situations:

- Asking us to cover a Part D drug that is not on our **2024 Comprehensive Formulary**. **Ask for an exception**
- Asking us to waive a restriction on our plan’s coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get). **Ask for an exception**
- Asking to pay a lower cost-sharing amount for a covered drug on a higher cost-sharing tier. **Ask for an exception**
- Asking us to get pre-approval for a drug. **Ask for a coverage decision**
- Pay for a prescription drug you already bought. **Ask us to pay you back**

If you disagree with a coverage decision we have made, you can appeal our decision.

This section tells you both how to ask for coverage decisions and how to request an appeal.

### **What is an exception?**

Asking for coverage of a drug that is not on the Drug List is sometimes called asking for a **formulary exception**.

Asking for removal of a restriction on coverage for a drug is sometimes called asking for a **formulary exception**.

If a drug is not covered in the way you would like it to be covered, you can ask us to make an **exception**. An exception is a type of coverage decision.

For us to consider your exception request, your doctor or other prescriber will need to explain the medical reasons why you need the exception approved. Here are two examples of exceptions that you or your doctor or other prescriber can ask us to make:

- **Covering a Part D drug for you that is not on our “Drug List.”** If we agree to cover a drug that is not on the “Drug List,” you will need to pay the Cost Share amount that applies to drugs in the brand-name drug tier. You cannot ask for an exception to the Copayment or Coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the drug
- **Removing a restriction for a covered Part D drug.** “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section describes the extra rules or restrictions that apply to certain drugs on our “Drug List.” If we agree to make an exception and waive a restriction for you, you can ask for an exception to the Copayment or

Coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the Part D drug

### Important things to know about asking for Part D exceptions

Your doctor must tell us the medical reasons

Your doctor or other prescriber must give us a statement that explains the medical reasons for requesting a Part D exception. For a faster decision, include this medical information from your doctor or other prescriber when you ask for the exception.

Typically, our “Drug List” includes more than one drug for treating a particular condition. These different possibilities are called **alternative** drugs. If an alternative drug would be just as effective as the drug you are requesting and would not cause more side effects or other health problems, we will generally not approve your request for an exception. If you ask us for a tiering exception, we will generally not approve your request for an exception unless all the alternative drugs in the lower cost-sharing tier(s) won’t work as well for you or are likely to cause an adverse reaction or other harm.

We can say **yes** or **no** to your request

- If we approve your request for a Part D exception, our approval usually is valid until the end of the plan year. This is true as long as your doctor continues to prescribe the drug for you and that drug continues to be safe and effective for treating your condition
- If we say **no** to your request, you can ask for another review by making an appeal

### Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception

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

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

Standard coverage decisions are made within **72 hours** after we receive your doctor's statement. Fast coverage decisions are made within **24 hours** after we receive your doctor's statement.

**If your health requires it, ask us to give you a fast coverage decision. To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet two requirements:**

- You must be asking for a drug you have not yet received. (You cannot ask for a fast coverage decision to be paid back for a drug you have already bought)
- Using the standard deadlines could cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to function

- **If your doctor or other prescriber tells us that your health requires a fast coverage decision**, we will automatically give you a fast coverage decision
- **If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own**, without your doctor's or prescriber's support, we will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision. If we do not approve a fast coverage decision, we will send you a letter that:
  - ◆ explains that we will use the standard deadlines
  - ◆ explains if your doctor or other prescriber asks for the fast coverage decision, we will automatically give you a fast coverage decision
  - ◆ tells you how you can file a fast complaint about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you requested. We will answer your complaint within 24 hours of receipt

**Step 2: Request a standard coverage decision or a fast coverage decision**

Start by calling, writing, or faxing OptumRx Prior Authorization Member Services Desk to make your request for us to authorize or provide coverage for the medical care you want. You can also access the coverage decision process through our website. We must accept any written request, including a request submitted on the CMS Model Coverage Determination Request form, which is available on our website. “How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision about your Part D prescription drugs” in the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information. To assist us in processing your request, please be sure to include your name, contact information, and information identifying which denied claim is being appealed.

You, or your doctor (or other prescriber), or your representative can do this. You can also have a lawyer act on your behalf. “How to Get Help When You are Asking for a Coverage Decision or Making an Appeal” of this section tells how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative.

- If you are requesting a Part D exception, provide the supporting statement which is the medical reasons for the exception. Your doctor or other prescriber can fax or mail the statement to us. Or your doctor or other prescriber can tell us on the phone and follow up by faxing or mailing a written statement if necessary

Step 3: We consider your request and we give you our answer

#### Deadlines for a fast coverage decision

- We must generally give you our answer within 24 hours after we receive your request.
  - ◆ for exceptions, we will give you our answer within 24 hours after we receive your doctor’s supporting statement. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to
  - ◆ if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 24 hours after we receive your request or doctor’s statement supporting your request
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how you can appeal

#### Deadlines for a standard coverage decision about a Part D drug you have not yet received

- We must generally give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your request.
  - ◆ for exceptions, we will give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your doctor’s supporting statement. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to
  - ◆ if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your request or doctor’s statement supporting your request
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how you can appeal

#### Deadlines for a standard coverage decision about payment for a drug you have already bought

- We must give you our answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request
  - ◆ if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we are also required to make payment to you within 14 calendar days after we receive your request
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how you can appeal

Step 4: If we say **no** to your coverage request, you decide if you want to make an 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 drug coverage you want. If you make an appeal, it means you are going to Level 1 of the appeals process.

#### Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal

An appeal to our plan about a Part D drug coverage decision is called a plan **redetermination**. A fast appeal is also called an **expedited redetermination**.

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

**A standard appeal is usually made within 7 days. A fast appeal is generally made within 72 hours. If your health requires it, ask for a fast appeal**

- If you are appealing a decision we made about a drug you have not yet received, you and your doctor or other prescriber will need to decide if you need a fast appeal
- The requirements for getting a “fast appeal” are the same as those for getting a fast coverage decision in “Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception” of this section

Step 2: You, your representative, doctor, or other prescriber must contact us and make your Level 1 appeal. If your health requires a quick response, you must ask for a fast appeal

- For standard appeals, submit a written request. “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” has contact information



- For fast appeals either submit your appeal in writing or call us at **1-800-443-0815**. “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” has contact information
- We must accept any written request, including a request submitted on the CMS Model Coverage Determination Request Form, which is available on our website. Please be sure to include your name, contact information, and information regarding your claim to assist us in processing your request
- You must make your appeal request within 60 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 requesting an appeal
- You can ask for a copy of the information in your appeal and add more information. You and your doctor may add more information to support your appeal. We are 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 we are reviewing your appeal, we take another careful look at all of the information about your coverage request. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said **no** to your request. We may contact you or your doctor or other prescriber to get more information

### Deadlines for a fast appeal

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your appeal. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to
  - ◆ if we do not give you an answer within 72 hours, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how you can appeal our decision

### Deadlines for a standard appeal for a drug you have not yet received

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer within 7 calendar days after we receive your appeal. We will give you our decision sooner if you have not received the drug yet and your health condition requires us to do so
  - ◆ if we do not give you a decision within 7 calendar days, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage as quickly as your health requires, but no later than 7 calendar days after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how you can appeal our decision

### Deadlines for a standard appeal about payment for a drug you have already bought

- We must give you our answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request
  - ◆ If we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization
- If our answer is **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we are also required to make payment to you within 30 calendar days after we receive your request
- If our answer is **no** to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how you can appeal our decision

### Step 4: If we say **no** to your appeal, you decide if you want to continue with the appeals process and make another appeal

- If you decide to make another appeal, it means your appeal is going on to Level 2 of the appeals process

### Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal

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

**The independent review organization is an independent organization hired by Medicare.** It is not connected with us and is not 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:** You (or your representative or your doctor or other prescriber) must contact the independent review organization and ask for a review of your case

- If we say **no** to your Level 1 appeal, the written notice we send you will include instructions on how to make a Level 2 appeal with the independent review organization. These instructions will tell who can make this Level 2 appeal, what deadlines you must follow, and how to reach the review organization. If, however, we did not complete our review within the applicable timeframe, or make an unfavorable decision regarding **at-risk** determination under our drug management program, we will automatically forward your claim to the IRE
- We will 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 are 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

**Step 2:** The independent review organization reviews your appeal

Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal.

#### **Deadlines for fast appeal**

- If your health requires it, ask the independent review organization for a fast appeal
- If the organization agrees to give you a fast appeal, the organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal within 72 hours after it receives your appeal request

#### **Deadlines for standard appeal**

- For standard appeals, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal within 7 calendar days after it receives your appeal if it is for a drug you have not yet received. If you are requesting that we pay you back for a drug you have already bought, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal within 14 calendar days after it receives your request

**Step 3:** The independent review organization give you their answer

#### **For fast appeals:**

- If the independent review organization says **yes** to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the drug coverage that was approved by the review organization within 24 hours after we receive the decision from the review organization

#### **For standard appeals:**

- If the independent review organization says **yes** to part or all of your request for coverage, we must provide the drug coverage that was approved by the review organization within 72 hours after we receive the decision from the review organization
- If the independent review organization says **yes** to part or all of your request to pay you back for a drug you already bought, we are required to send payment to you within 30 calendar days after we receive the decision from the review organization

#### **What if the review organization says *no* to your appeal?**

If this organization says **no** to your appeal, it means the organization agrees with our decision not to approve your request (or part of your request.) (This is called **upholding the decision**. It is also called **turning down your appeal**.) In this case, the independent review organization will send you a letter:

- Explaining its decision
- Notifying you of the right to a Level 3 appeal if the dollar value of the drug coverage you are requesting meets a certain minimum. If the dollar value of the drug coverage you are requesting is too low, you cannot make another appeal and the decision at Level 2 is final
- Telling you the dollar value that must be in dispute to continue with the appeals process

**Step 4:** If your case meets the requirements, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five 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. “Taking Your

Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

### **How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think You Are Being Discharged Too Soon**

When you are admitted to a hospital, you have the right to get all of your covered hospital Services that are necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury.

During your covered hospital stay, your doctor and the hospital staff will be working with you to prepare for the day when you will leave the hospital. They will 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 are being asked to leave the hospital too soon, you can ask for a longer hospital stay and your request will be considered

### **During your inpatient hospital stay, you will get a written notice from Medicare that tells about your rights**

Within two days of being admitted to the hospital, you will 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 do not get the notice from someone at the hospital (for example, a caseworker or nurse), ask any hospital employee for it. If you need help, please call Member Services or **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY **1-877-486-2048**).

- **Read this notice carefully and ask questions if you don’t understand it. It tells you:**
  - ◆ your right to receive 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 the quality of your hospital Services
  - ◆ your right to request an immediate review of the decision to discharge you if you think you are being discharged from the hospital too soon. This is a formal, legal way to ask for a delay in your discharge date so that we will cover your hospital care for a longer time

- **You will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you received 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 have received the information about your rights. The notice does not give your discharge date. Signing the notice does not mean you are agreeing on a discharge date
- **Keep your copy** of the notice handy so you will 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 two days before your discharge date, you will get another copy before you are scheduled to be discharged
  - ◆ to look at a copy of this notice in advance, you can call Member Services or **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also see the notice online at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/HospitalDischargeAppealNotices.html>

### **Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal to change your hospital discharge date**

If you want to ask for your inpatient hospital services to be covered by us for a longer time, you will 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 at any time, please call Member Services. Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, a government organization that provides personalized assistance

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 are not 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 received (*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 the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section

**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 may 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 do not meet this deadline, and you decide to stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, you may have to pay all of the costs for hospital Services you receive after your planned discharge date
- If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization and you still wish to appeal, you must make an appeal directly to our plan instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see “What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 appeal?”

Once you request an immediate review of your hospital discharge, the Quality Improvement Organization will contact us. By noon of the day after we are contacted, we will 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 is right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.

You can get a sample of the *Detailed Notice of Discharge* by calling Member Services or **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**). Or you can see a sample notice online at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/HospitalDischargeAppealNotices.html>

**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 may do so if you wish
- The reviewers will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that the hospital and we have given to them
- By noon of the day after the reviewers told us of your appeal, you will get a written notice from us that gives you your planned discharge date. This notice also explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it is 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 review organization says **yes**, we must keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as these services are medically necessary
- You will have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as Cost Share, if applicable). In addition, there may be limitations on your covered hospital services

**What happens if the answer is no?**

- If the review organization says **no**, they are 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 review organization says **no** to your appeal and you decide to stay in the hospital, then you may have to pay the full cost of hospital Services you receive 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 has said no to your appeal, and you stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, then you can make another appeal. Making another appeal means you are going on to **Level 2** of the appeals process

### **Step-by-step: 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 their 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 that 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 of 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 their decision**

#### **If the review organization says yes**

- We must reimburse you for our share of the costs of hospital Services you have received 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 Services for as long as it is medically necessary
- You must continue to pay your share of the costs, and coverage limitations may apply

#### **If the 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 wish to continue with the review process

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

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five 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. The “Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

### **What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 appeal to change your hospital discharge date?**

A fast review (or fast appeal) is also called an **expedited appeal**.

**You can appeal to us instead**

As explained above, you must act quickly to start your Level 1 appeal of your hospital discharge date. If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Review Organization, there is another way to make your appeal. If you use this other way of making your appeal, the first two levels of appeal are different.

### **Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 alternate appeal**

**Step 1: Contact us and ask for a fast review**

- **Ask for a fast review.** This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the fast deadlines rather than the standard deadlines. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information

**Step 2: We do a fast review of your planned discharge date, checking to see if it was medically appropriate**

- During this review, we take a look at all of the information about your hospital stay. We check to see if your planned discharge date was medically appropriate. We will see if the decision about when you should leave the hospital was fair and followed all the rules

**Step 3: We give you our decision within 72 hours after you ask for a fast review**

- If we say **yes** to your appeal, it means we have agreed with you that you still need to be in the hospital after the discharge date. We will keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as they are medically necessary. It also means that we have agreed to reimburse you for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. (You must pay your share of the costs, and there may be coverage limitations that apply)

- If we say **no** to your appeal, we are saying that your planned discharge date was medically appropriate. Our coverage for your inpatient hospital services ends as of the day we said coverage would end
- **If you stayed in the hospital after your planned discharge date, then you may have to pay the full cost of hospital Services you received after the planned discharge date**

Step 4: If we say **no** to your appeal, your case will automatically be sent on to the next level of the appeals process

### **Step-by-step: Level 2 alternate appeal process**

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

The independent review organization is an independent organization hired by Medicare. It is not connected with our plan and is not 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: We will automatically forward your case to the independent review organization

We are required to send the information for your Level 2 appeal to the independent review organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying **no** to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section tells you how to make a complaint.)

Step 2: The independent review organization does a fast review of your appeal. The reviewers give you an answer within 72 hours

- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal of your hospital discharge
- If this organization says **yes** to your appeal, then we must pay you back for our share of the costs of hospital Services you received since the date of your planned discharge. We must also continue our plan’s coverage of your inpatient hospital services for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover your services

- If this organization says **no** to your appeal, it means they agree that your planned hospital discharge date was medically appropriate
  - ◆ the written notice you get from the independent review organization will tell how to start a Level 3 appeal with the review process which is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator

Step 3: If the independent review organization turns down your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal). If reviewers say **no** to your Level 2 appeal, you decide whether to accept their decision or go on to Level 3 appeal
- “Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

### **How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage Is Ending Too Soon**

#### **Home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services**

When you are getting covered **home health services, Skilled Nursing Facility 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 is time to stop covering any of the three types of care for you, we are required to tell you in advance. When your coverage for that care ends, we will stop paying our share of the cost for your care.

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

#### **We will tell you in advance when your coverage will be ending**

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

- **You receive a notice in writing** at least two days before our plan is going to stop covering your care. The notice tells you:
  - ◆ the date when we will stop covering the care for you
  - ◆ how to request a fast-track appeal to request us to keep covering your care for a longer period of time
- **You, or someone who is acting on your behalf, will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you received it.** Signing the notice shows only that you have received the information about when your coverage will stop. Signing it does not mean you agree with the plan’s decision to stop care

### **Step-by-step: 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 will 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 at any time, please call Member Services. Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, a government organization that provides personalized assistance

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 who are 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 are not 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 received (*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 the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section

#### **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 for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, and you still wish to file an appeal, you must make an appeal directly to us instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see “Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time”

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

The *Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage* provides 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 may do so if you wish
- The review organization will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that our plan has given to them
- By the end of the day the reviewers tell us of your appeal, you will 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 their 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 is medically necessary
- You will have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as Cost Share, if applicable). 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 have 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, then you will 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

### **Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time**

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 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 that 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 of the information related to your appeal

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

### **What happens if the review organization says yes?**

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

### **What happens if the 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 wish to continue with the review process. It will give you the details about how to go on 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 will need to decide whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels of appeal after Level 2, for a total of five 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. “Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

### **What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 appeal?**

You can appeal to us instead

As explained above, you must act quickly to contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your first appeal (within a day or two, at the most). If you miss the deadline for contacting this organization, there is another way to make your appeal. If you use this other way of making your appeal, the first two levels of appeal are different.

### **Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 alternate appeal**

A fast review (or fast appeal) is also called an **expedited appeal**.

Step 1: Contact us and ask for a fast review

- **Ask for a fast review.** This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the fast deadlines rather than the standard deadlines. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information

Step 2: We do a fast review of the decision we made about when to end coverage for your services

- During this review, we take another look at all of the information about your case. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we set the date for ending our plan’s coverage for services you were receiving

Step 3: We give you our decision within 72 hours after you ask for a fast review

- If we say **yes** to your appeal, it means we have agreed with you that you need services longer, and will keep providing your covered services for as long as it is medically necessary. It also means that we have agreed to reimburse you for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said



your coverage would end. (You must pay your share of the costs and there may be coverage limitations that apply)

- If we say **no** to your appeal, then your coverage will end on the date we told you and we will not pay any share of the costs after this date
- If you continued to get 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, then you will have to pay the full cost of this care

Step 4: If we say **no** to your fast appeal, your case will automatically go on to the next level of the appeals process

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

### **Step-by-step: Level 2 alternate appeal process**

During the Level 2 Appeal, the independent review organization reviews the decision we made to your fast appeal. This organization decides whether the decision should be changed. **The independent review organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare.** This organization is not connected with our plan and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to handle the job of being the independent review organization. Medicare oversees its work.

Step 1: We will automatically forward your case to the independent review organization

We are required to send the information for your Level 2 appeal to the independent review organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying **no** to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. “How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section tells how to make a complaint.)

Step 2: The independent review organization does a fast review of your appeal. The reviewers give you an answer within 72 hours

- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal
- If this organization says **yes** to your appeal, then we must pay you back for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. We must also continue to cover

the care for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover your services

- If this organization says **no** to your appeal, it means they agree with the decision our plan made to your first appeal and will not change it
  - ◆ the notice you get from the independent review organization will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to go on to a Level 3 appeal

Step 3: If the independent review organization says **no** to your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels of appeal after Level 2, for a total of five 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
- A Level 3 appeal is reviewed by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. “Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond” in this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

## **Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond**

### **Levels of Appeal 3, 4, and 5 for Medical Service Requests**

This section may be appropriate for you if you have made a Level 1 appeal and a Level 2 appeal, and both of your appeals have been turned down.

If the dollar value of the item or medical service you have 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 cannot appeal any further. The written response you receive to your Level 2 appeal will explain how to make a Level 3 appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last three levels of appeal work in much the same way. Here is 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 is 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 receiving the Administrative Law Judge's or attorney adjudicator's decision
  - ◆ if we decide to appeal the decision, we will 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 this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over
  - ◆ if you do not 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 will 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 receiving the Council's decision
  - ◆ if we decide to appeal the decision, we will 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 do not 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 on 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 of 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

**Appeal Levels 3, 4, and 5 for Part D Drug Requests**

This section may be appropriate for you if you have made a Level 1 appeal and a Level 2 appeal, and both of your appeals have been turned down.

If the value of the Part D drug you have appealed meets a certain dollar amount, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar amount is less, you cannot appeal any further. The written response you receive to your Level 2 appeal will explain whom to contact and what to do to ask for a Level 3 appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last three levels of appeal work in much the same way. Here is 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 answer is ***yes***, the appeals process is over. We must authorize or provide the drug coverage that was approved by the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days after we receive the decision
- If the answer is ***no***, 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 do not 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**, the appeals process is over. We must authorize or provide the drug coverage that was approved by the Council within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days after we receive the decision
- If the answer is **no**, 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 do not 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 or denies your request to review the appeal, the notice will tell you whether the rules allow you to go on to a Level 5 appeal. It will also tell you whom to contact and what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal

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

- A judge will review all of 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

**How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns**

**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:

- **Quality of your medical care**
  - ◆ are you unhappy with the quality of care you have received (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 Member Services?

- ◆ do you feel you are 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 Member Services 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 our plan**
  - ◆ did we fail to give you a required notice?
  - ◆ is our written information hard to understand?

**Timeliness (these types of complaints are all related to the timeliness of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals)**

If you have asked for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think that we are not responding quickly enough, you can make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples:

- You asked us for a “fast coverage decision” or a “fast appeal,” and we have said no, you can make a complaint
- You believe we are not meeting the deadlines for coverage decisions or appeals; you can make a complaint
- You believe we are not meeting deadlines for covering or reimbursing you for certain medical services or Part D 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

**Step-by-step: making a complaint**

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

## Step 1: Contact us promptly – either by phone or in writing

- Usually calling Member Services is the first step. If there is anything else you need to do, Member Services will let you know
- If you do not wish to call (or you called and were not satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us. If you put your complaint in writing, we will respond to you in writing. We will also respond in writing when you make a complaint by phone if you request a written response or your complaint is related to quality of care
- If you have a complaint, we will try to resolve your complaint over the phone. If we cannot resolve your complaint over the phone, we have a formal procedure to review your complaints. Your grievance must explain your concern, such as why you are dissatisfied with the services you received. Please see the “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section for whom you should contact if you have a complaint
  - ◆ you must submit your grievance to us (orally or in writing) within 60 calendar days of the event or incident. We must address your grievance as quickly as your health requires, but no later than 30 calendar days after receiving your complaint. We may extend the time frame to make our decision by up to 14 calendar days if you ask for an extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest
  - ◆ you can file a fast grievance about our decision not to expedite a coverage decision or appeal, or if we extend the time we need to make a decision about a coverage decision or appeal. We must respond to your fast grievance within 24 hours
- 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 will 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 will tell you in writing
- **If you are making a complaint because we denied your request for a fast coverage decision or a fast appeal, we will automatically give you a fast**

**complaint.** If you have a fast complaint, it means we will give you an answer within 24 hours

- **If we do not agree** with some or all of your complaint or don’t take responsibility for the problem you are complaining about, we will include our reasons in the response to you

## 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 two 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. The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section has contact information
- **Or you can make your complaint to both the Quality Improvement Organization and us at the same time**

## 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 <https://www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx>. You may also call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY/TDD users should call **1-877-486-2048**.

## Additional Review

You may have certain additional rights if you remain dissatisfied after you have exhausted our internal claims and appeals procedure, and if applicable, external review:

- If your Group’s benefit plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), you may file a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA. To understand these rights, you should check with your Group or contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration (part of the U.S. Department of Labor) at 1-866-444-EBSA (1-866-444-3272)
- If your Group’s benefit plan is not subject to ERISA (for example, most state or local government plans and church plans), you may have a right to request review in state court

## **Binding Arbitration**

For all claims subject to this “Binding Arbitration” section, both Claimants and Respondents give up the right to a jury or court trial and accept the use of binding arbitration. Insofar as this “Binding Arbitration” section applies to claims asserted by Kaiser Permanente Parties, it shall apply retroactively to all unresolved claims that accrued before the effective date of this *EOC*. Such retroactive application shall be binding only on the Kaiser Permanente Parties.

### **Scope of arbitration**

Any dispute shall be submitted to binding arbitration if all of the following requirements are met:

- The claim arises from or is related to an alleged violation of any duty incident to or arising out of or relating to this *EOC* or a Member Party’s relationship to Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (“Health Plan”), including any claim for medical or hospital malpractice (a claim that medical services or items were unnecessary or unauthorized or were improperly, negligently, or incompetently rendered), for premises liability, or relating to the coverage for, or delivery of, services or items, irrespective of the legal theories upon which the claim is asserted
- The claim is asserted by one or more Member Parties against one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties or by one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties against one or more Member Parties
- Governing law does not prevent the use of binding arbitration to resolve the claim

Members enrolled under this *EOC* thus give up their right to a court or jury trial, and instead accept the use of binding arbitration except that the following types of claims are not subject to binding arbitration:

- Claims within the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court
- Claims subject to a Medicare appeal procedure as applicable to Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage Members
- Claims that cannot be subject to binding arbitration under governing law

As referred to in this “Binding Arbitration” section, “Member Parties” include:

- A Member
- A Member’s heir, relative, or personal representative
- Any person claiming that a duty to them arises from a Member’s relationship to one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties

“Kaiser Permanente Parties” include:

- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
- Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
- The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.
- Southern California Permanente Medical Group
- The Permanente Federation, LLC
- The Permanente Company, LLC
- Any Southern California Permanente Medical Group or The Permanente Medical Group physician
- Any individual or organization whose contract with any of the organizations identified above requires arbitration of claims brought by one or more Member Parties
- Any employee or agent of any of the foregoing

“Claimant” refers to a Member Party or a Kaiser Permanente Party who asserts a claim as described above. “Respondent” refers to a Member Party or a Kaiser Permanente Party against whom a claim is asserted.

### **Rules of Procedure**

Arbitrations shall be conducted according to the *Rules for Kaiser Permanente Member Arbitrations Overseen by the Office of the Independent Administrator* (“Rules of Procedure”) developed by the Office of the Independent Administrator in consultation with Kaiser Permanente and the Arbitration Oversight Board. Copies of the Rules of Procedure may be obtained from Member Services.

### **Initiating arbitration**

Claimants shall initiate arbitration by serving a Demand for Arbitration. The Demand for Arbitration shall include the basis of the claim against the Respondents; the amount of damages the Claimants seek in the arbitration; the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Claimants and their attorney, if any; and the names of all Respondents. Claimants shall include in the Demand for Arbitration all claims against Respondents that are based on the same incident, transaction, or related circumstances.

### **Serving demand for arbitration**

Health Plan, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., Southern California Permanente Medical Group, The Permanente Federation, LLC, and The Permanente Company, LLC, shall be served with a Demand for Arbitration by mailing the Demand for Arbitration addressed to that Respondent in care of:

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Legal Department, Professional & Public Liability  
1 Kaiser Plaza, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Legal Department, Professional & Public Liability  
393 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, CA 91188

Service on that Respondent shall be deemed completed when received. All other Respondents, including individuals, must be served as required by the California Code of Civil Procedure for a civil action.

### **Filing fee**

The Claimants shall pay a single, nonrefundable filing fee of \$150 per arbitration payable to “Arbitration Account” regardless of the number of claims asserted in the Demand for Arbitration or the number of Claimants or Respondents named in the Demand for Arbitration.

Any Claimant who claims extreme hardship may request that the Office of the Independent Administrator waive the filing fee and the neutral arbitrator’s fees and expenses. A Claimant who seeks such waivers shall complete the Fee Waiver Form and submit it to the Office of the Independent Administrator and simultaneously serve it upon the Respondents. The Fee Waiver Form sets forth the criteria for waiving fees and is available by calling Member Services.

### **Number of arbitrators**

The number of arbitrators may affect the Claimants’ responsibility for paying the neutral arbitrator’s fees and expenses (see the Rules of Procedure).

If the Demand for Arbitration seeks total damages of \$200,000 or less, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one neutral arbitrator, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing after a dispute has arisen and a request for binding arbitration has been submitted that the arbitration shall be heard by two party arbitrators and one neutral arbitrator. The neutral arbitrator shall not have authority to award monetary damages that are greater than \$200,000.

If the Demand for Arbitration seeks total damages of more than \$200,000, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one neutral arbitrator and two party arbitrators, one jointly appointed by all Claimants and one jointly appointed by all Respondents. Parties who are entitled to select a party arbitrator may agree to waive

this right. If all parties agree, these arbitrations will be heard by a single neutral arbitrator.

### **Payment of arbitrators’ fees and expenses**

Health Plan will pay the fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator under certain conditions as set forth in the Rules of Procedure. In all other arbitrations, the fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator shall be paid one-half by the Claimants and one-half by the Respondents.

If the parties select party arbitrators, Claimants shall be responsible for paying the fees and expenses of their party arbitrator and Respondents shall be responsible for paying the fees and expenses of their party arbitrator.

### **Costs**

Except for the aforementioned fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator, and except as otherwise mandated by laws that apply to arbitrations under this “Binding Arbitration” section, each party shall bear the party’s own attorneys’ fees, witness fees, and other expenses incurred in prosecuting or defending against a claim regardless of the nature of the claim or outcome of the arbitration.

### **General provisions**

A claim shall be waived and forever barred if (1) on the date the Demand for Arbitration of the claim is served, the claim, if asserted in a civil action, would be barred as to the Respondent served by the applicable statute of limitations, (2) Claimants fail to pursue the arbitration claim in accord with the Rules of Procedure with reasonable diligence, or (3) the arbitration hearing is not commenced within five years after the earlier of (a) the date the Demand for Arbitration was served in accord with the procedures prescribed herein, or (b) the date of filing of a civil action based upon the same incident, transaction, or related circumstances involved in the claim. A claim may be dismissed on other grounds by the neutral arbitrator based on a showing of a good cause. If a party fails to attend the arbitration hearing after being given due notice thereof, the neutral arbitrator may proceed to determine the controversy in the party’s absence.

The California Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 (including any amendments thereto), including sections establishing the right to introduce evidence of any insurance or disability benefit payment to the patient, the limitation on recovery for non-economic losses, and the right to have an award for future damages conformed to periodic payments, shall apply to any claims for professional negligence or any other claims as permitted or required by law.

Arbitrations shall be governed by this “Binding Arbitration” section, Section 2 of the Federal Arbitration Act, and the California Code of Civil Procedure provisions relating to arbitration that are in effect at the time the statute is applied, together with the Rules of Procedure, to the extent not inconsistent with this “Binding Arbitration” section. In accord with the rule that applies under Sections 3 and 4 of the Federal Arbitration Act, the right to arbitration under this “Binding Arbitration” section shall not be denied, stayed, or otherwise impeded because a dispute between a Member Party and a Kaiser Permanente Party involves both arbitrable and nonarbitrable claims or because one or more parties to the arbitration is also a party to a pending court action with another party that arises out of the same or related transactions and presents a possibility of conflicting rulings or findings.

## Termination of Membership

Your Group is required to inform the Subscriber of the date your membership terminates. Your membership termination date is the first day you are not covered (for example, if your termination date is January 1, 2025, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2024). When a Subscriber’s membership ends, the memberships of any Dependents end at the same time. You will be billed as a non-Member for any Services you receive after your membership terminates. Health Plan and Plan Providers have no further liability or responsibility under this *EOC* after your membership terminates, except:

- As provided under “Payments after Termination” in this “Termination of Membership” section
- If you are receiving covered Services as an acute care hospital inpatient on the termination date, we will continue to cover those hospital Services (but not physician Services or any other Services) until you are discharged

Until your membership terminates, you remain a Senior Advantage Member and must continue to receive your medical care from us, except as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section about Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care and the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section about out-of-area dialysis care.

Note: If you enroll in another Medicare Health Plan or a prescription drug plan, your Senior Advantage membership will terminate as described under “Disenrolling from Senior Advantage” in this “Termination of Membership” section. Such a

termination will not affect your enrollment in your Group’s non-Medicare plan.

## Termination Due to Loss of Eligibility

If you no longer meet the eligibility requirements described under “Who Is Eligible” in the “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section your Group will notify you of the date that your membership will end. Your membership termination date is the first day you are not covered. For example, if your termination date is January 1, 2025, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2024.

Also, we will terminate your Senior Advantage membership under this *EOC* on the last day of the month if you:

- Are temporarily absent from your Home Region Service Area for more than six months in a row
- Permanently move from your Home Region Service Area
- No longer have Medicare Part B
- Medicare becomes primary, for example, when you retire
- Enroll in another Medicare Health Plan (for example, a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Medicare prescription drug plan). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will automatically terminate your Senior Advantage membership when your enrollment in the other plan becomes effective
- Are not a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will notify us if you are not eligible to remain a Member on this basis. We must disenroll you if you do not meet this requirement

In addition, if you are required to pay the extra Part D amount because of your income and you do not pay it, Medicare will disenroll you from our Senior Advantage Plan and you will lose prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you lose eligibility for Senior Advantage due to any of these circumstances, you will be able to continue membership under your Group’s non-Medicare plan, or if you retire, you may be able to enroll in a different Senior Advantage plan either through your Group (if available) or as discussed under “Conversion to an Individual Plan” below. Please contact your Group for information.

## **Termination of Agreement**

If your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates for any reason, your membership ends on the same date. Your Group is required to notify Subscribers in writing if its *Agreement* with us terminates.

## **Disenrolling from Senior Advantage**

You may terminate (disenroll from) your Senior Advantage membership and remain a Member through your Group's non-Medicare plan at any time. Your disenrollment effective date will be the first day of the month following our receipt of your disenrollment request.

You may request disenrollment by calling toll free 1-800-MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or sending written notice to the following address:

*For Northern California Members:*

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 232400  
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

*For Southern California Members:*

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 232407  
San Diego, CA 92193-2407

**Other Medicare Health Plans.** If you want to enroll in another Medicare Health Plan or a Medicare prescription drug plan, you should first confirm with the other plan and your Group that you are able to enroll. Your new plan or your Group will tell you the date when your membership in the new plan begins and your Senior Advantage membership will end on that same day (your disenrollment date).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will let us know if you enroll in another Medicare Health Plan, so you will not need to send us a disenrollment request.

**Original Medicare.** If you request disenrollment from Senior Advantage and you do not enroll in another Medicare Health Plan, you will automatically be enrolled in Original Medicare when your Senior Advantage membership terminates (your disenrollment date). On your disenrollment date, you can start using your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get services under Original Medicare. You will not get anything in writing that tells you that you have Original Medicare after you disenroll. If you choose Original Medicare and you want

to continue to get Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, you will need to enroll in a prescription drug plan.

If you receive Extra Help from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs, and you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

**Note:** If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 or more days in a row, you may need to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

## **Termination of Contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

If our contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to offer Senior Advantage terminates, your Senior Advantage membership will terminate on the same date. We will send you advance written notice and advise you of your health care options. However, you will still be enrolled under your Group's non-Medicare plan.

## **Termination for Cause**

We may terminate your membership by sending you advance written notice if you commit one of the following acts:

- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive, to the extent that your continued enrollment seriously impairs our ability to arrange or provide medical care for you or for our other members. We cannot make you leave our Senior Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first
- If you let someone else use your Plan membership card to get medical care. We cannot make you leave our Senior Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first. If you are disenrolled for this reason, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may refer your case to the Inspector General for additional investigation
- You commit theft from Health Plan, from a Plan Provider, or at a Plan Facility
- You intentionally misrepresent membership status or commit fraud in connection with your obtaining membership. We cannot make you leave our Senior



Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first

- If you become incarcerated (go to prison)
- You knowingly falsify or withhold information about other parties that provide reimbursement for your prescription drug coverage

If we terminate your membership for cause, you will not be allowed to enroll in Health Plan in the future until you have completed a Member Orientation and have signed a statement promising future compliance. We may report fraud and other illegal acts to the authorities for prosecution.

### **Termination for Nonpayment of Premiums**

If your Group fails to pay us Premiums for your Family, we may terminate the memberships of everyone in your Family.

### **Termination of a Product or all Products**

We may terminate a particular product or all products offered in the group market as permitted or required by law. If we discontinue offering a particular product in the group market, we will terminate just the particular product by sending you written notice at least 90 days before the product terminates. If we discontinue offering all products in the group market, we may terminate your Group's *Agreement* by sending you written notice at least 180 days before the *Agreement* terminates.

### **Payments after Termination**

If we terminate your membership for cause or for nonpayment, we will:

- Refund any amounts we owe your Group for Premiums paid after the termination date
- Pay you any amounts we have determined that we owe you for claims during your membership in accord with the "Requests for Payment" section. We will deduct any amounts you owe Health Plan or Plan Providers from any payment we make to you

### **Review of Membership Termination**

If you believe that we terminated your Senior Advantage membership because of your ill health or your need for care, you may file a complaint as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

## **Continuation of Membership**

If your membership under your Group's non-Medicare plan ends, you may be eligible to maintain Health Plan membership without a break in coverage (group coverage) or you may be eligible to convert to an individual (nongroup) plan.

### **Continuation of Group Coverage**

#### **COBRA**

You may be able to continue your coverage under this Senior Advantage *EOC* for a limited time after you would otherwise lose eligibility, if required by the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act ("COBRA"). COBRA applies to most employees (and most of their covered family Dependents) of most employers with 20 or more employees.

If your Group is subject to COBRA and you are eligible for COBRA coverage, in order to enroll, you must submit a COBRA election form to your Group within the COBRA election period. Please ask your Group for details about COBRA coverage, such as how to elect coverage, how much you must pay for coverage, when coverage and Premiums may change, and where to send your Premium payments.

As described in "Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan" in this "Continuation of Membership" section, you may be able to convert to an individual (nongroup) plan if you don't apply for COBRA coverage, or if you enroll in COBRA and your COBRA coverage ends.

#### **Coverage for a disabling condition**

If you became Totally Disabled while you were a Member under your Group's *Agreement* with us and while the Subscriber was employed by your Group, and your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates and is not renewed, we will cover Services for your totally disabling condition until the earliest of the following events occurs:

- 12 months have elapsed since your Group's *Agreement* with us terminated
- You are no longer Totally Disabled
- Your Group's *Agreement* with us is replaced by another group health plan without limitation as to the disabling condition

Your coverage will be subject to the terms of this *EOC*, including Cost Share, but we will not cover Services for any condition other than your totally disabling condition.

For Subscribers and adult Dependents, “Totally Disabled” means that, in the judgment of a Medical Group physician, an illness or injury is expected to result in death or has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months, and makes the person unable to engage in any employment or occupation, even with training, education, and experience.

For Dependent children, “Totally Disabled” means that, in the judgment of a Medical Group physician, an illness or injury is expected to result in death or has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months and the illness or injury makes the child unable to substantially engage in any of the normal activities of children in good health of like age.

To request continuation of coverage for your disabling condition, you must call Member Services within 30 days after your Group’s *Agreement* with us terminates.

### **Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan**

After your Group notifies us to terminate your Group membership, we will send a termination letter to the Subscriber’s address of record. The letter will include information about options that may be available to you to remain a Health Plan Member.

#### **Kaiser Permanente Conversion Plan**

If you want to remain a Health Plan Member, one option that may be available is our Senior Advantage Individual Plan. You may be eligible to enroll in our individual plan if you no longer meet the eligibility requirements described under “Who Is Eligible” in the “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section. Individual plan coverage begins when your Group coverage ends. The premiums and coverage under our individual plan are different from those under this *EOC* and will include Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

However, if you are no longer eligible for Senior Advantage and Group coverage, you may be eligible to convert to our non-Medicare individual plan, called “Kaiser Permanente Individual–Conversion Plan.” You may be eligible to enroll in our Individual–Conversion Plan if we receive your enrollment application within 63 days of the date of our termination letter or of your membership termination date (whichever date is later).

You may not be eligible to convert if your membership ends for the reasons stated under “Termination for Cause” or “Termination of *Agreement*” in the “Termination of Membership” section.

## **Miscellaneous Provisions**

### **Administration of Agreement**

We may adopt reasonable policies, procedures, and interpretations to promote orderly and efficient administration of your Group’s *Agreement*, including this *EOC*.

### **Amendment of Agreement**

Your Group’s *Agreement* with us will change periodically. If these changes affect this *EOC*, your Group is required to inform you in accord with applicable law and your Group’s *Agreement*.

### **Applications and Statements**

You must complete any applications, forms, or statements that we request in our normal course of business or as specified in this *EOC*.

### **Assignment**

You may not assign this *EOC* or any of the rights, interests, claims for money due, benefits, or obligations hereunder without our prior written consent.

### **Attorney and Advocate Fees and Expenses**

In any dispute between a Member and Health Plan, the Medical Group, or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, each party will bear its own fees and expenses, including attorneys’ fees, advocates’ fees, and other expenses.

### **Claims Review Authority**

We are responsible for determining whether you are entitled to benefits under this *EOC* and we have the discretionary authority to review and evaluate claims that arise under this *EOC*. We conduct this evaluation independently by interpreting the provisions of this *EOC*. We may use medical experts to help us review claims. If coverage under this *EOC* is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”) claims procedure regulation (29 CFR 2560.503-1), then we are a “named claims fiduciary” to review claims under this *EOC*.

## **EOC Binding on Members**

By electing coverage or accepting benefits under this *EOC*, all Members legally capable of contracting, and the legal representatives of all Members incapable of contracting, agree to all provisions of this *EOC*.

## **ERISA Notices**

This “ERISA Notices” section applies only if your Group’s health benefit plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). We provide these notices to assist ERISA-covered groups in complying with ERISA. Coverage for Services described in these notices is subject to all provisions of this *EOC*.

### **Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act**

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the birthing person or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the birthing person’s or newborn’s attending provider, after consulting with the birthing person, from discharging the birthing person or their newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### **Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act**

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act. For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed, surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, prostheses, and treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas. These benefits will be provided subject to the same Cost Share applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan.

## **Governing Law**

Except as preempted by federal law, this *EOC* will be governed in accord with California law and any provision that is required to be in this *EOC* by state or

federal law shall bind Members and Health Plan whether or not set forth in this *EOC*.

## **Group and Members Not Our Agents**

Neither your Group nor any Member is the agent or representative of Health Plan.

## **No Waiver**

Our failure to enforce any provision of this *EOC* will not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision, or impair our right thereafter to require your strict performance of any provision.

## **Notices Regarding Your Coverage**

Our notices to you will be sent to the most recent address we have for the Subscriber. The Subscriber is responsible for notifying us of any change in address. Subscribers who move should call Member Services and Social Security toll free at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY users call **1-800-325-0778**) as soon as possible to give us their new address. If a Member does not reside with the Subscriber, or needs to have confidential information sent to an address other than the Subscriber’s address, they should contact Member Services to discuss alternate delivery options.

Note: When we tell your Group about changes to this *EOC* or provide your Group other information that affects you, your Group is required to notify the Subscriber within 30 days after receiving the information from us. The Subscriber is also responsible for notifying Group of any change in contact information.

## **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, Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage, 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.

## **Overpayment Recovery**

We may recover any overpayment we make for Services from anyone who receives such an overpayment or from

any person or organization obligated to pay for the Services.

## **Public Policy Participation**

The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Board of Directors establishes public policy for Health Plan. A list of the Board of Directors is available on our website at [kp.org](http://kp.org) or from Member Services. If you would like to provide input about Health Plan public policy for consideration by the Board, please send written comments to:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Office of Board and Corporate Governance  
Services  
One Kaiser Plaza, 19th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **Telephone Access (TTY)**

If you use a text telephone device (TTY, also known as TDD) to communicate by phone, you can use the California Relay Service by calling 711.

## **Important Phone Numbers and Resources**

### **Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage**

#### **How to contact our plan's Member Services**

For assistance, please call or write to our plan's Member Services. We will be happy to help you.

#### **Member Services – contact information**

**Call 1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.

**TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Write** Your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

**Website** [kp.org](http://kp.org)

### **How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your Services**

- A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical services
- An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made
- 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 does not involve coverage or payment disputes

For more information about asking for coverage decisions or making appeals or complaints about your medical care, see the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

### **Coverage decisions, appeals, or complaints for Services – contact information**

**Call 1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint qualifies for a fast decision as described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section, call the Expedited Review Unit at **1-888-987-7247**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

**TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Fax** If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, fax your request to our Expedited Review Unit at **1-888-987-2252**.

**Write** For a **standard coverage decision or complaint**, write to your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

For a **standard appeal**, write to the address shown on the denial notice we send you.

If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, write to:

Kaiser Permanente  
Expedited Review Unit  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**Medicare Website.** You can submit a complaint about our Plan directly to Medicare. To submit an online

complaint to Medicare, go to <https://www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx>.

### How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision about your Part D prescription drugs

- A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your prescription drugs covered under the Part D benefit included in your plan

For more information about asking for coverage decisions about your Part D prescription drugs, see the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

### Coverage decisions for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*

**Call 1-877-645-1282**

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*

**Call 1-888-791-7213**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Fax 1-844-403-1028**

**Write** OptumRx  
c/o Prior Authorization  
P.O. Box 2975  
Mission, KS 66201

**Website** [kp.org](http://kp.org)

### How to contact us when you are making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs

- An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made

For more information about making appeals about your Part D prescription drugs, see the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section. You may call us if you have questions about our appeals process.

### Appeals for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

**Call 1-866-206-2973**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Fax 1-866-206-2974**

**Write** Kaiser Permanente  
Medicare Part D Unit  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**Website** [kp.org](http://kp.org)

### How to contact us when you are making a complaint about your Part D prescription drugs

You can make a complaint about us or one of our network pharmacies, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes. (If your problem is about our plan’s coverage or payment, you should look at the section above about requesting coverage decisions or making appeals.) For more information about making a complaint about your Part D prescription drugs, see the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

### Complaints for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

**Call 1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If your complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, call the Part D Unit at **1-866-206-2973**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. See the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section to find out if your issue qualifies for a fast decision.

**TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Fax** If your complaint qualifies for a fast review, fax your request to our Part D Unit at **1-866-206-2974**.

**Write** For a **standard complaint**, write to your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

If your complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, write to:

Kaiser Permanente  
Medicare Part D Unit  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**Medicare Website.** You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit an online complaint to Medicare, go to <https://www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx>.

### **Where to send a request asking us to pay for our share of the cost for Services or a Part D drug you have received**

If you have received a bill or paid for services (such as a provider bill) that you think we should pay for, you may need to ask us for reimbursement or to pay the provider bill. See the “Requests for Payment” section.

Note: If you send us a payment request and we deny any part of your request, you can appeal our decision. See the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section for more information.

### **Payment Requests – contact information**

#### **Call 1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Note: If you are requesting payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed by a Plan Provider and obtained from a Plan Pharmacy, call our Part D unit at **1-866-206-2973**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **TTY 711**

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*For Northern California Home Region Members:*

#### **Write For medical care:**

Kaiser Permanente  
Claims Department  
P.O. Box 12923  
Oakland, CA 94604-2923

*For Southern California Home Region Members:*

#### **Write For medical care:**

Kaiser Permanente  
Claims Department  
P.O. Box 7004  
Downey, CA 90242-7004

#### **For Part D drugs:**

If you are requesting payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed and provided by a Plan Provider, you can fax your request to 1-866-206-2974 or mail it to:

Kaiser Permanente  
Medicare Part D Unit  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Website [kp.org](http://kp.org)

## **Medicare**

### **How to get help and information directly from the federal Medicare program**

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 (sometimes called CMS). This agency contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations, including our plan.

### **Medicare – contact information**

#### **Call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-633-4227**

Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### **TTY 1-877-486-2048**

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.

Website <https://www.Medicare.gov>

This is the official government website for Medicare. It gives you up-to-date information about Medicare and current Medicare issues. It also has information about hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities. It includes documents you can print directly from your computer. You can also find Medicare contacts in your state.

The Medicare website also has detailed information about your Medicare eligibility and enrollment options with the following tools:

**Medicare Eligibility Tool:** Provides Medicare eligibility status information.

**Medicare Plan Finder:** Provides personalized information about available Medicare prescription drug plans, Medicare Health Plans, and Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policies in your area. These tools provide an *estimate* of what your out-of-pocket costs might be in different Medicare plans.

You can also use the website to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about our plan.

**Tell Medicare about your complaint:** You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to <https://www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx>. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program.

If you don't have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you visit this website using its computer. Or, you can call Medicare and tell them what information you are looking for. They will find the information on the website and review the information with you. You can call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **State Health Insurance Assistance Program**

### **Free help, information, and answers to your questions about Medicare**

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. In California, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program is called the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP).

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

HICAP counselors can help you understand your Medicare rights, help you make complaints about your Services or treatment, and help you straighten out

problems with your Medicare bills. HICAP counselors can also help you with Medicare questions or problems and help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans.

### **Method to access SHIP and other resources:**

- Visit <https://www.shiphelp.org>
- Click on **SHIP Locator** in middle of page
  - Select your state from the list. This will take you to a page with phone numbers and resources specific to your state

### **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (California's State Health Insurance Assistance Program) – contact information**

**Call** 1-800-434-0222

Calls to this number are free.

**TTY** 711

**Write** Your HICAP office for your county.

**Website** [www.aging.ca.gov/HICAP/](http://www.aging.ca.gov/HICAP/)

## **Quality Improvement Organization**

### **Paid by Medicare to check on the quality of care for people with Medicare**

There is a designated Quality Improvement Organization for serving Medicare beneficiaries in each state. For California, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Livanta.

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

You should contact Livanta in any of these situations:

- You have a complaint about the quality of care you have received
- 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 are ending too soon

## **Livanta (California’s Quality Improvement Organization) – contact information**

**Call 1-877-588-1123**

Calls to this number are free. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends and holidays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**TTY 1-855-887-6668**

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

**Write** Livanta  
BFCC – QIO Program  
10820 Guilford Road, Suite 202  
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701–1105

**Website** [www.livantaqio.com/en](http://www.livantaqio.com/en)

## **Social Security**

Social Security is responsible for determining eligibility and handling enrollment for Medicare. U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who are 65 or older, or who have a disability or end stage renal disease and meet certain conditions, are eligible for Medicare. If you are already getting Social Security checks, enrollment into Medicare is automatic. If you are not getting Social Security checks, you have to enroll in Medicare. To apply for Medicare, you can call Social Security or visit your local Social Security office.

Social Security is also responsible for determining who has to pay an extra amount for their Part D drug coverage because they have a higher income. If you got a letter from Social Security telling you that you have to pay the extra amount and have questions about the amount or if your income went down because of a life-changing event, you can call Social Security to ask for reconsideration.

If you move or change your mailing address, it is important that you 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.

You can use Social Security’s automated telephone services and get recorded information 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** <https://www.ssa.gov>

## **Medicaid**

### **A joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources**

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.

In addition, there are programs offered through Medicaid that help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These “Medicare Savings Programs” help people with limited income and resources save money each year:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Helps pay Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, and other Cost Share. 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 its programs, contact Medi-Cal.

## **Medi-Cal (California’s Medicaid program) – contact information**

**Call 1-800-430-4263**

Calls to this number are free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**TTY 1-800-430-7077**

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.



**Write** CA Department of Health Care Services  
Health Care Options  
P.O. Box 989009  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9850

**Website** [www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov/](http://www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov/)

## **Railroad Retirement Board**

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 have questions regarding your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

If you receive your Medicare through the Railroad Retirement Board, it is important that you let them know if you move or change your mailing address.

### **Railroad Retirement Board – contact information**

**Call** 1-877-772-5772

Calls to this number are free. If you press “0,” you may 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.

If you press “1,” you may access the automated RRB HelpLine and 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 with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are *not* free.

**Website** [rrb.gov/](http://rrb.gov/)

## **Group Insurance or Other Health Insurance from an Employer**

If you have any questions about your employer-sponsored Group plan, please contact your Group’s benefits administrator. You can ask about your employer or retiree health benefits, any contributions toward the Group’s premium, eligibility, and enrollment periods.

If you have other prescription drug coverage through your (or your spouse’s) employer or retiree group, please contact that group’s benefits administrator. The benefits administrator can help you determine how your current prescription drug coverage will work with our plan.

# Notice of Nondiscrimination

Kaiser Permanente complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Kaiser Permanente does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. We also:

- Provide no cost aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters.
  - Written information in other formats, such as large print, audio, and accessible electronic formats.
- Provide no cost language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters.
  - Information written in other languages.

If you need these services, call Member Services at **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

If you believe that Kaiser Permanente has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with our Civil Rights Coordinator by writing to One Kaiser Plaza, 12th Floor, Suite 1223, Oakland, CA 94612 or calling Member Services at the number listed above. You can file a grievance by mail or phone. If you need help filing a grievance, our Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, **1-800-368-1019**, **1-800-537-7697** (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.



## Multi-Language Insert

### Multi-language Interpreter Services

**English:** We have free interpreter services to answer any questions you may have about our health or drug plan. To get an interpreter, just call us at **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**). Someone who speaks English/Language can help you. This is a free service.

**Spanish:** Tenemos servicios de intérprete sin costo alguno para responder cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre nuestro plan de salud o medicamentos. Para hablar con un intérprete, por favor llame al **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**). Alguien que hable español le podrá ayudar. Este es un servicio gratuito.

**Chinese Mandarin:** 我们提供免费的翻译服务，帮助您解答关于健康或药物保险的任何疑问。如果您需要此翻译服务，请致电 **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**)。我们的中文工作人员很乐意帮助您。这是一项免费服务。

**Chinese Cantonese:** 您對我們的健康或藥物保險可能存有疑問，為此我們提供免費的翻譯服務。如需翻譯服務，請致電 **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**)。我們講中文的人員將樂意為您提供幫助。這是一項免費服務。

**Tagalog:** Mayroon kaming libreng serbisyo sa pagsasaling-wika upang masagot ang anumang mga katanungan ninyo hinggil sa aming planong pangkalusugan o panggamot. Upang makakuha ng tagasaling-wika, tawagan lamang kami sa **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**). Maaari kayong tulungan ng isang nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog. Ito ay libreng serbisyo.

**French:** Nous proposons des services gratuits d'interprétation pour répondre à toutes vos questions relatives à notre régime de santé ou d'assurance-médicaments. Pour accéder au service d'interprétation, il vous suffit de nous appeler au **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**). Un interlocuteur parlant Français pourra vous aider. Ce service est gratuit.

**Vietnamese:** Chúng tôi có dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí để trả lời các câu hỏi về chương sức khỏe và chương trình thuốc men. Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên xin gọi **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**) sẽ có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt giúp đỡ quý vị. Đây là dịch vụ miễn phí.

**German:** Unser kostenloser Dolmetscherservice beantwortet Ihren Fragen zu unserem Gesundheits- und Arzneimittelplan. Unsere Dolmetscher erreichen Sie unter **1-800-443-0815** (TTY **711**). Man wird Ihnen dort auf Deutsch weiterhelfen. Dieser Service ist kostenlos.

**Korean:** 당사는 의료 보험 또는 약품 보험에 관한 질문에 대해 드리고자 무료 통역 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다. 통역 서비스를 이용하려면 전화 **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)** 번으로 문의해 주십시오. 한국어를 하는 담당자가 도와 드릴 것입니다. 이 서비스는 무료로 운영됩니다.

**Russian:** Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно страхового или медикаментного плана, вы можете воспользоваться нашими бесплатными услугами переводчиков. Чтобы воспользоваться услугами переводчика, позвоните нам по телефону **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. Вам окажет помощь сотрудник, который говорит по-русски. Данная услуга бесплатная.

**Arabic:** إننا نقدم خدمات المترجم الفوري المجانية للإجابة عن أي أسئلة تتعلق بالصحة أو جدول الأدوية لدينا. للحصول على مترجم فوري، ليس عليك سوى الاتصال بنا على **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. سيقوم شخص ما يتحدث العربية بمساعدتك. هذه خدمة مجانية.

**Hindi:** हमारे स्वास्थ्य या दवा की योजना के बारे में आपके किसी भी प्रश्न के जवाब देने के लिए हमारे पास मुफ्त दुभाषिया सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं. एक दुभाषिया प्राप्त करने के लिए, बस हमें **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)** पर फोन करें. कोई व्यक्ति जो हिन्दी बोलता है आपकी मदद कर सकता है. यह एक मुफ्त सेवा है.

**Italian:** È disponibile un servizio di interpretariato gratuito per rispondere a eventuali domande sul nostro piano sanitario e farmaceutico. Per un interprete, contattare il numero **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. Un nostro incaricato che parla Italianovi fornirà l'assistenza necessaria. È un servizio gratuito.

**Portuguese:** Dispomos de serviços de interpretação gratuitos para responder a qualquer questão que tenha acerca do nosso plano de saúde ou de medicação. Para obter um intérprete, contacte-nos através do número **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. Irá encontrar alguém que fale o idioma Português para o ajudar. Este serviço é gratuito.

**French Creole:** Nou genyen sèvis entèprèt gratis pou reponn tout kesyon ou ta genyen konsènan plan medikal oswa dwòg nou an. Pou jwenn yon entèprèt, jis rele nou nan **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. Yon moun ki pale Kreyòl kapab ede w. Sa a se yon sèvis ki gratis.

**Polish:** Umożliwiamy bezpłatne skorzystanie z usług tłumacza ustnego, który pomoże w uzyskaniu odpowiedzi na temat planu zdrowotnego lub dawkowania leków. Aby skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza znającego język polski, należy zadzwonić pod numer **1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)**. Ta usługa jest bezpłatna.

**Japanese:** 当社の健康 健康保険と薬品 処方薬プランに関するご質問にお答えするために、無料の通訳サービスがあります。通訳をご用命になるには、**1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711)** にお電話ください。日本語を話す人 者が支援いたします。これは無料のサービスです。