



**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Northern California Region**

A nonprofit corporation

EOC #4 - Kaiser Permanente Traditional HMO Plan Evidence of Coverage for KYOCERA SLD LASER, INC.

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January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

Member Services

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

1-800-464-4000 (TTY users call **711**)

[kp.org](https://www.kp.org)

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Cost Share Summary

This “Cost Share Summary” is part of your Evidence of Coverage (*EOC*) and is meant to explain the amount you will pay for covered Services under this plan. It does not provide a full description of your benefits. For a full description of your benefits, including any limitations and exclusions, please read this entire *EOC*, including any amendments, carefully.

Accumulation Period

The Accumulation Period for this plan is January 1 through December 31.

Deductibles and Out-of-Pocket Maximums

For Services that apply to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum, you will not pay any more Cost Share for the rest of the Accumulation Period once you have reached the amounts listed below.

If your Group's plan changes during an Accumulation Period, your deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums may increase or decrease, which may change the total amount you must accumulate to reach the deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums during that Accumulation Period.

Amounts Per Accumulation Period	Self-Only Coverage (a Family of one Member)	Family Coverage Each Member in a Family of two or more Members	Family Coverage Entire Family of two or more Members
Plan Deductible	None	None	None
Drug Deductible	None	None	None
Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum (“OOPM”)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000

Cost Share Summary Tables by Benefit

How to read the Cost Share summary tables

Each table below explains the Cost Share for a category of benefits. Specific Services related to the benefit are described in the first column of each table. For a detailed description of coverage for a particular benefit, refer to the same benefit heading in the “Benefits” section of this *EOC*.

- **Copayment / Coinsurance.** This column describes the Cost Share you will pay for Services after you have met your Plan Deductible or Drug Deductible, if applicable. (Please see the “Deductibles and Out-of-Pocket Maximums” section above to determine if your plan includes deductibles.) If the Services are not covered in your plan, this column will read “Not covered.” If we provide an Allowance that you can use toward the cost of the Services, this column will include the Allowance.
- **Subject to Deductible.** This column explains whether the Cost Share you pay for Services is subject to a Plan Deductible or Drug Deductible. If the Services are subject to a deductible, you will pay Charges for those Services until you have met your deductible. If the Services are subject to a deductible, there will be a “✓” or “D” in this column, depending on which deductible applies (“✓” for Plan Deductible, “D” for Drug Deductible). If the Services do not apply to a deductible, or if your plan does not include a deductible, this column will be blank. For a more detailed explanation of deductibles, refer to “Plan Deductible” and “Drug Deductible” in the “Benefits” section of this *EOC*.
- **Applies to OOPM.** This column explains whether the Cost Share you pay for Services counts toward the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum (“OOPM”) after you have met any applicable deductible. If the Services count toward the Plan OOPM, there will be a “✓” in this column. If the Services do not count toward the Plan OOPM, this column will be blank. For a more detailed explanation of the Plan OOPM, refer to “Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum” in the “Benefits” section of this *EOC*.

Administered drugs and products

Description of Administered Drugs and Products Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
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		✓
All other administered drugs and products	No charge		✓
Drugs and products administered to you during a home visit	No charge		✓

Ambulance Services

Description of Ambulance Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Emergency ambulance Services	\$50 per trip		✓
Nonemergency ambulance and psychiatric transport van Services	\$50 per trip		✓

Dialysis care

Description of Dialysis Care Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
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 at a Plan Facility	\$20 per visit		✓

Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for home use

Description of DME Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Blood glucose monitors for diabetes blood testing and their supplies	20% Coinsurance		✓
Peak flow meters	20% Coinsurance		✓
Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump	20% Coinsurance		✓
Other Base DME Items as described in this <i>EOC</i>	20% Coinsurance		✓
Supplemental DME items as described in this <i>EOC</i>	20% Coinsurance		
Retail-grade milk pumps	No charge		✓
Hospital-grade milk pumps	No charge		✓

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

Description of Emergency Services and Urgent Care	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Emergency department visits	\$200 per visit		✓
Urgent Care visits	\$20 per visit		✓

Note: If you are admitted to the hospital as an inpatient from the emergency department, the emergency department visits Cost Share above does not apply. Instead, the Services you received in the emergency department, including any observation stay, if applicable, will be considered part of your hospital inpatient stay. For the Cost Share for inpatient Services, refer to “Hospital inpatient Services” in this “Cost Share Summary.” The emergency department Cost Share does apply if you are admitted for observation but are not admitted as an inpatient.

Fertility Services***Diagnosis and treatment of Infertility***

Description of Diagnosis and Treatment of Infertility Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Office visits	50% Coinsurance		

Description of Diagnosis and Treatment of Infertility Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures (including imaging and diagnostic Services) when performed in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or any setting where a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or minimize discomfort	50% Coinsurance		
Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient imaging	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient laboratory	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient administered drugs	50% Coinsurance		
Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services)	50% Coinsurance		

Artificial insemination

Description of Artificial Insemination Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Office visits	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures (including imaging and diagnostic Services) when performed in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or any setting where a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or minimize discomfort	50% Coinsurance		
Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient imaging	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient laboratory	50% Coinsurance		
Outpatient administered drugs	50% Coinsurance		

Description of Artificial Insemination Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Hospital inpatient Services (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, other diagnostic and treatment Services, and Plan Physician Services)	50% Coinsurance		

Assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services

Description of ART Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services such as invitro fertilization (“IVF”), gamete intra-fallopian transfer (“GIFT”), or zygote intrafallopian transfer (“ZIFT”)	Not covered		

Health education

Description of Health Education Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Covered health education programs, which may include programs provided online and counseling over the phone	No charge		✓
Individual counseling during an office visit related to tobacco cessation	No charge		✓
Individual counseling during an office visit related to diabetes management	No charge		✓
Other covered individual counseling when the office visit is solely for health education	No charge		✓
Covered health education materials	No charge		✓

Hearing Services

Description of Hearing Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Hearing exams with an audiologist to determine the need for hearing correction	\$20 per visit		✓
Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat hearing problems	\$20 per visit		✓
Hearing aids, including, fitting, counseling, adjustment, cleaning, and inspection	Not covered		

Home health care

Description of Home Health Care Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Home health care Services (100 visits per Accumulation Period)	No charge		✓

Hospice care

Description of Hospice Care Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Hospice Services	No charge		✓

Hospital inpatient Services

Description of Hospital Inpatient Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Hospital inpatient stays	\$250 per admission		✓

Injury to teeth

Description of Injury to Teeth Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Accidental injury to teeth	Not covered		

Mental health Services

Description of Mental Health Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Inpatient mental health hospital stays	\$250 per admission		✓
Individual mental health evaluation and treatment	\$20 per visit		✓
Group mental health treatment	\$10 per visit		✓
Partial hospitalization	No charge		✓
Other intensive psychiatric treatment programs	No charge		✓
Residential mental health treatment Services	No charge		✓

Description of Mental Health Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder	No charge		✓
Electroconvulsive therapy	\$20 per visit		✓
Transcranial magnetic stimulation	\$20 per visit		✓

Office visits

Description of Office Visit Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits that are not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	\$20 per visit		✓
Physician Specialist Visits that are not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	\$20 per visit		✓
Group appointments that are not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	\$10 per visit		✓
Acupuncture Services	\$20 per visit		✓

Ostomy and urological supplies

Description of Ostomy and Urological Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Ostomy and urological supplies as described in this <i>EOC</i>	No charge		✓

Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services

Description of Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
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		✓

Description of Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Routine retinal photography screenings	No charge		✓
Routine laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of dialysis	No charge		✓
Over-the-counter COVID-19 tests obtained from Plan Providers as described in this EOC (up to a total of 8 tests from Plan Providers and Non-Plan Providers per calendar month)	No charge		✓
Over-the-counter COVID-19 tests obtained from Non-Plan Providers as described in this EOC (up to a total of 8 tests from Plan Providers and Non-Plan Providers per calendar month, not to exceed \$12 per test, including all fees and taxes, if you obtain the test from a Non-Plan Provider)	50% Coinsurance		
Laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 obtained from Plan Providers	No charge		✓
Laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 obtained from Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care)	50% Coinsurance		
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 treatments (including ultraviolet light therapy equipment as described in this EOC)	No charge		✓

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements

If the “Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy” column in this section provides Cost Share for a 30-day supply and your Plan Physician prescribes more than this, you may be able to obtain more than a 30-day supply at one time up to the day supply limit for that drug. Applicable Cost Share will apply. For example, two 30-day copayments may be due when picking up a 60-day prescription, three copayments may be due when picking up a 100-day prescription at the pharmacy.

Most items

Description of Most Items	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Items on Tier 1 not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	\$10 for up to a 30-day supply	\$20 for up to a 100-day supply		✓
Items on Tier 2 not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	\$30 for up to a 30-day supply	\$60 for up to a 100-day supply		✓
Items on Tier 4 not described elsewhere in this “Cost Share Summary”	20% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$250) for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓

Base drugs, supplies, and supplements

Description of Base Drugs, Supplies and Supplements	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Hematopoietic agents for dialysis	No charge for up to a 30-day supply	Not available		✓
Elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis	No charge for up to a 30-day supply	Not available		✓
All other items on Tier 1 as described in this <i>EOC</i>	\$10 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
All other items on Tier 2 as described in this <i>EOC</i>	\$30 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
All other items on Tier 4 as described in this <i>EOC</i>	20% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$250) for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓

Anticancer drugs and certain critical adjuncts following a diagnosis of cancer

Description of Anticancer Drugs and Certain Critical Adjuncts	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Oral anticancer drugs on Tier 1	\$10 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Oral anticancer drugs on Tier 2	\$30 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Oral anticancer drugs on Tier 4	20% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$250) for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Non-oral anticancer drugs on Tier 1	\$10 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Non-oral anticancer drugs on Tier 2	\$30 for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Non-oral anticancer drugs on Tier 4	20% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$250) for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓

Home infusion drugs

Description of Home Infusion Drugs	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Home infusion drugs	No charge for up to a 30-day supply	Not available		✓
Supplies necessary for administration of home infusion drugs	No charge	No charge		✓

Home infusion drugs are self-administered intravenous drugs, fluids, additives, and nutrients that require specific types of parenteral-infusion, such as an intravenous or intraspinal-infusion.

Certain state-mandated items

Description of Certain State-Mandated Items	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Amino acid–modified products used to treat congenital errors of amino acid metabolism (such as phenylketonuria)	No charge for up to a 30-day supply	Not available		✓
Therapeutics for COVID-19 obtained from Plan Providers	No charge for up to a 30-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
Therapeutics for COVID-19 obtained from Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care)	50% Coinsurance for up to a 30-day supply	Not available		
Ketone test strips and sugar or acetone test tablets or tapes for diabetes urine testing	No charge for up to a 100-day supply	Not available		✓
Insulin-administration devices: pen delivery devices, disposable needles and syringes, and visual aids required to ensure proper dosage (except eyewear)	\$10 for up to a 100-day supply	Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓

For drugs related to the treatment of diabetes (for example, insulin), and for continuous insulin delivery devices that use disposable items such as patches or pods, refer to the “Most items” table above. For insulin pumps, refer to the “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for home use” table above.

Contraceptive drugs and devices

Description of Contraceptive Drugs and Devices	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
The following hormonal contraceptive items on Tier 1: • Rings • Patches • Oral contraceptives	No charge for up to a 365-day supply	No charge for up to a 365-day supply Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
The following contraceptive items on Tier 1: • Spermicide • Sponges • Contraceptive gel	No charge for up to a 100-day supply	Not available		✓

Description of Contraceptive Drugs and Devices	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
The following hormonal contraceptive items on Tier 2: • Rings • Patches • Oral contraceptives	No charge for up to a 365-day supply	No charge for up to a 365-day supply Availability for mail order varies by item. Talk to your local pharmacy		✓
The following contraceptive items on Tier 2: • Spermicide • Sponges • Contraceptive gel	No charge for up to a 100-day supply	Not available		✓
Emergency contraception	No charge	Not available		✓
Diaphragms, cervical caps, and up to a 30-day supply of condoms	No charge	Not available		✓

Certain preventive items

Description of Certain Preventive Items	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Items on our Preventive Services list on our website at kp.org/prevention when prescribed by a Plan Provider	No charge for up to a 100-day supply	Not available		✓

Fertility and sexual dysfunction drugs

Description of Fertility and Sexual Dysfunction Drugs	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Drugs on Tier 1 prescribed to treat Infertility or in connection with covered artificial insemination Services	50% Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply	50% Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply		
Drugs on Tier 2 and Tier 4 prescribed to treat Infertility or in connection with covered artificial insemination Services	50% Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply	50% Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply		
Drugs on Tier 1 prescribed in connection with covered assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services	Not covered	Not covered		

Description of Fertility and Sexual Dysfunction Drugs	Cost Share at a Plan Pharmacy	Cost Share by Mail	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Drugs on Tier 2 and Tier 4 prescribed in connection with covered assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services	Not covered	Not covered		
Drugs on Tier 1 prescribed for sexual dysfunction disorders	50% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$50) for up to a 100-day supply	50% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$50) for up to a 100-day supply		✓
Drugs on Tier 2 and Tier 4 prescribed for sexual dysfunction disorders	50% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$100) for up to a 100-day supply	50% Coinsurance (not to exceed \$100) for up to a 100-day supply		✓

Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures

Description of Outpatient Surgery and Outpatient Procedure Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures (including imaging and diagnostic Services) when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or any setting where a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or minimize discomfort	\$20 per procedure		✓
Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above	\$20 per procedure		✓

Preventive Services

Description of Preventive Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Routine physical exams, including well-woman, postpartum follow-up, and preventive exams for Members age 2 and older	No charge		✓
Well-child preventive exams for Members through age 23 months	No charge		✓
Normal series of regularly scheduled preventive prenatal care exams after confirmation of pregnancy	No charge		✓
Immunizations (including the vaccine) administered to you in a Plan Medical Office	No charge		✓

Description of Preventive Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Immunizations (including the vaccine) for COVID-19 administered by Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care)	50% Coinsurance		
Tuberculosis skin tests	No charge		✓
Screening and counseling Services when provided during a routine physical exam or a well-child preventive exam, such as obesity counseling, routine vision and hearing screenings, alcohol and substance abuse screenings, health education, depression screening, and developmental screenings to diagnose and assess potential developmental delays	No charge		✓
Screening colonoscopies	No charge		✓
Screening flexible sigmoidoscopies	No charge		✓
Routine imaging screenings such as mammograms	No charge		✓
Bone density CT scans	No charge		✓
Bone density DEXA scans	No charge		✓
Routine laboratory tests and screenings, such as cancer screening tests, sexually transmitted infection (“STI”) tests, cholesterol screening tests, and glucose tolerance tests	No charge		✓
Other laboratory screening tests, such as fecal occult blood tests and hepatitis B screening tests	No charge		✓

Prosthetic and orthotic devices

Description of Prosthetic and Orthotic Device Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
External prosthetic and orthotic devices as described in this <i>EOC</i>	No charge		✓
Supplemental prosthetic and orthotic devices as described in this <i>EOC</i>	No charge		✓

Rehabilitative and habilitative Services

Description of Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Individual outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy	\$20 per visit		✓
Group outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy	\$10 per visit		✓
Physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation day-treatment program	\$20 per day		✓

Reproductive Health Services

Family planning Services

Description of Family Planning Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Family planning counseling	No charge		✓
Injectable contraceptives, internally implanted time-release contraceptives or intrauterine devices (“IUDs”) and office visits related to their insertion, removal, and management when provided to prevent pregnancy	No charge		✓
Sterilization procedures for Members assigned female at birth if performed in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room	No charge		✓
All other sterilization procedures for Members assigned female at birth	No charge		✓
Sterilization procedures for Members assigned male at birth if performed in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room	No charge		✓
All other sterilization procedures for Members assigned male at birth	No charge		✓

Abortion and abortion-related Services

Description of abortion and abortion-related Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Surgical abortion	No charge		✓
Prescription drugs, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines	No charge		✓

Description of abortion and abortion-related Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Other abortion-related Services	No charge		✓

Plan Doula services

Description of Plan Doula services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Initial, prenatal, or postpartum visits	No charge		✓
Support during labor and delivery	No charge		✓

Skilled nursing facility care

Description of Skilled Nursing Facility Care Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Skilled nursing facility Services up to 100 days per benefit period*	No charge		✓

*A benefit period begins on the date you are admitted to a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility at a skilled level of care. A benefit period ends on the date you have not been an inpatient in a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility, receiving a skilled level of care, for 60 consecutive days. A new benefit period can begin only after any existing benefit period ends. A prior three-day stay in an acute care hospital is not required.

Substance use disorder treatment

Description of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Inpatient detoxification	\$250 per admission		✓
Individual substance use disorder evaluation and treatment	\$20 per visit		✓
Group substance use disorder treatment	\$5 per visit		✓
Intensive outpatient and day-treatment programs	No charge		✓
Methadone maintenance treatment	No charge		✓
Residential substance use disorder treatment	\$100 per admission		✓

Telehealth visits

Interactive video visits

Description of Interactive Video Visit Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits	No charge		✓
Physician Specialist Visits	No charge		✓

Scheduled telephone visits

Description of Scheduled Telephone Visit Services	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits	No charge		✓
Physician Specialist Visits	No charge		✓

Vision Services for Adult Members

Description of Vision Services for Adult Members	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist to determine the need for vision correction and to provide a prescription for eyeglass lenses	No charge		✓
Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye	\$20 per visit		✓
Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye	\$20 per visit		✓
Aniridia lenses: up to two Medically Necessary contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period	No charge		✓
Aphakia lenses: up to six Medically Necessary aphakic contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period	No charge		✓
Low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing)	Not covered		

Vision Services for Pediatric Members

Description of Vision Services for Pediatric Members	Copayment / Coinsurance	Subject to Deductible	Applies to OOPM
Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist to determine the need for vision correction and to provide a prescription for eyeglass lenses	No charge		✓
Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye	\$20 per visit		✓
Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye	\$20 per visit		✓
Aniridia lenses: up to two Medically Necessary contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period	No charge		✓
Aphakia lenses: up to six Medically Necessary aphakic contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period	No charge		✓
Low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing)	Not covered		

CARE Plan

The California Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (“CARE”) Act established a system for individuals with severe mental illness to be evaluated and given a treatment plan developed by a county behavioral health agency (“CARE Plan”). If a Member has a court-approved CARE Plan, we cover the Services required under that plan when provided by Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers at **no charge**, with the exception of prescription drugs. Prescription drugs required under a court-approved CARE Plan are subject to the same Cost Share as drugs prescribed by Plan Providers, as described in this Cost Share Summary, and are also subject to prior authorization by Health Plan. To inform us that you have a court-approved CARE Plan, please call Member Services.

Introduction

This *Evidence of Coverage* (“*EOC*”) describes the health care coverage of this Kaiser Permanente Traditional HMO Plan provided under the *Group Agreement* (“*Agreement*”) between Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (“Health Plan”) and the entity with which Health Plan has entered into the *Agreement* (your “Group”).

This *EOC* is part of the *Agreement* between Health Plan and your Group. 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.

Once enrolled in other coverage made available through Health Plan, that other plan’s evidence of coverage cannot be cancelled without cancelling coverage under this *EOC*, unless the change is made during open enrollment or a special enrollment period.

For benefits provided under any other program offered by your Group (for example, workers compensation benefits), refer to your Group’s materials.

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* 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.

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

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 Service Area” 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 our Service Area, which is described in the “Definitions” section. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside our 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
- COVID-19 Services as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits” section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- Hospice care as described under “Hospice Care” in the “Benefits” section

Term of this *EOC*

This *EOC* is for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, unless amended. Your Group can tell you whether this *EOC* is still in effect and give you a current one if this *EOC* has expired or 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*.

Accumulation Period: A period of time no greater than 12 consecutive months for purposes of accumulating amounts toward any deductibles (if applicable), out-of-pocket maximums, and benefit limits. For example, the Accumulation Period may be a calendar year or contract year. The Accumulation Period for this *EOC* is from January 1 through December 31.

Allowance: A specified amount that you can use toward the purchase price of an item. If the price of the items you select exceeds the Allowance, you will pay the amount in excess of the Allowance (and that payment will not apply toward any deductible or out-of-pocket maximum).

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.

Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder: Professional Services and treatment programs, including applied behavior analysis and evidence-based behavior intervention programs, that develop or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of a person with autism spectrum disorder (or treat mental health conditions other than autism spectrum disorder when this treatment is clinically indicated) that meet the following criteria:

- The treatment is prescribed by a Plan Physician, or is developed by a Plan Provider who is a psychologist
- The treatment is administered by a Plan Provider who is a qualified autism service provider, qualified autism service professional, or qualified autism service paraprofessional, as defined in California Health and Safety Code section 1374.73(c)

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 air ambulance Services received from Non-Plan Providers when you have an Emergency Medical Condition, the amount required to be paid by Health Plan pursuant to federal law
- For other Emergency Services received from Non-Plan Providers (including Post-Stabilization Care that constitutes Emergency Services under federal law), the amount required to be paid by Health Plan pursuant to state law, when it is applicable, or federal law
- For all other Services received from Non-Plan Providers (including Post-Stabilization Services that are not Emergency Services under federal law), the amount (1) required to be paid pursuant to state law, when it is applicable, or federal law, or (2) in the event that neither state or federal law prohibiting balance billing apply, then the amount agreed to by the Non-Plan Provider and Health Plan or, absent such an agreement, the usual, customary and reasonable rate for those services as determined by Health Plan based on objective criteria
- 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

Cigna Healthcare PPO Network: The Cigna Healthcare PPO Network refers to the health care providers (doctors, hospitals, specialists) contracted as part of a shared administration network arrangement called Cigna Healthcare PPO for Shared Administration.

Cigna Healthcare is an independent company and not affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and its subsidiary health plans. Access to the Cigna Healthcare PPO Network is available through Cigna Healthcare’s contractual relationship with the Kaiser Permanente health plans. The Cigna Healthcare PPO Network is provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of The Cigna Group, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company. The Cigna Healthcare

name, logo, and other marks are owned by Cigna Intellectual Property, Inc.

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

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. Similarly, if your coverage includes a Drug Deductible, and you receive Services that are subject to the Drug Deductible, your Cost Share for those Services will be Charges until you reach the Drug Deductible.

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).

Disclosure Form (“DF”): A summary of coverage for prospective Members. For some products, the DF is combined with the evidence of coverage.

Drug Deductible: The amount you must pay under this *EOC* in the Accumulation Period for certain drugs, supplies, and supplements before we will cover those Services at the applicable Copayment or Coinsurance in that Accumulation Period. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section to learn whether your coverage includes a Drug Deductible, the Services that are subject to the Drug Deductible, and the Drug Deductible amount.

Emergency Medical Condition: A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that you reasonably believed that the absence of immediate medical attention would result in any of the following:

- Placing the person’s health (or, with respect to a pregnant person, the health of the pregnant person or unborn child) in serious jeopardy
- 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: All of the following with respect to an Emergency Medical Condition:

- A medical screening exam that is within the capability of the emergency department of a hospital or an independent freestanding emergency department, 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 facility, 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)
- Post-Stabilization Care furnished by a Non-Plan Provider is covered as Emergency Services when federal law applies, as described under “Post-Stabilization Care” in the “Emergency Services” section

EOC: This *Evidence of Coverage* document, including any amendments, which describes the health care coverage of “Kaiser Permanente Traditional HMO Plan” under Health Plan’s *Agreement* with your Group.

Family: A Subscriber and all of their Dependents.

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. Health Plan is a health care service plan licensed to offer health care coverage by the Department of Managed Health Care. 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).

Infertility: A person’s inability to conceive a pregnancy or carry a pregnancy to live birth either as an individual or with their partner; or, a Plan Physician’s determination of Infertility, based on a patient’s medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, diagnostic testing, or any combination of those factors.

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

Kaiser Permanente State: California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington.

Medical Group: The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., a for-profit professional corporation.

Medically Necessary: For Services related to mental health or substance use disorder treatment, a Service is Medically Necessary if it is addressing your specific needs, for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing the progression of that illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, in a manner that is all of the following:

- In accordance with the generally accepted standards of mental health and substance use disorder care
- Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration
- Not primarily for the economic benefit of the health care service plan and subscribers or for the convenience of the patient, treating physician, or other health care provider

For all other Services, 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).

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). For Services described under “Dental and Orthodontic Services” in the “Benefits” section, non-physician specialists include dentists and orthodontists.

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

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.

Out-of-Area Urgent Care: Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your (or your unborn child’s) health resulting from an unforeseen illness, unforeseen injury, or unforeseen complication of an existing condition (including pregnancy) if all of the following are true:

- You are temporarily outside our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your (or your unborn child’s) health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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 Accumulation Period for certain Services before we will cover those Services at the applicable Copayment or Coinsurance in that Accumulation Period. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” 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 Doula: A contracted birth worker who provides physical, emotional, and non-medical support for pregnant and postpartum persons before, during, and after childbirth.

Plan Facility: Any facility listed in the Provider Directory on our website at 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. 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. 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 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 Out-of-Pocket Maximum: The total amount of Cost Share you must pay under this *EOC* in the Accumulation Period for certain covered Services that you receive in the same Accumulation Period. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section to find your Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum amount and to learn which Services apply to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

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 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 an 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), an independent freestanding emergency department, or a skilled nursing facility after your treating physician determines that this condition is Stabilized. Post-Stabilization Care also includes durable medical equipment covered under this *EOC*, if it is Medically Necessary after discharge from an emergency department and related to the same Emergency Medical Condition. For more information about durable medical equipment covered under this *EOC*, see “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” in the “Benefits” section.

Premiums: The periodic amounts that your Group is responsible for paying for your membership under this *EOC*, except that you are responsible for paying Premiums if you have Cal-COBRA coverage. “Full Premiums” means 100 percent of Premiums for all of the coverage issued to each enrolled Member, as set forth in the “Premiums” section of Health Plan’s *Agreement* with your Group.

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/facilities 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/facilities. 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.

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 or call Member Services.

Service Area: The ZIP codes below for each county are in our 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, 94952, 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
- The following ZIP codes in Monterey County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 93901, 93902, 93905, 93906, 93907, 93912, 93915, 93933, 93955, 93962, 95004, 95012, 95039, 95076
- 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, 95005-7, 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, 95836-7
- The following ZIP codes in Tulare County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 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, 95620, 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

For each ZIP code listed for a county, our 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 our 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 our Service Area, please call Member Services.

Note: We may expand our Service Area at any time by giving written notice to your Group. ZIP codes are subject to change by the U.S. Postal Service.

Services: Health care services or items (“health care” includes physical health care, mental health care, and substance use disorder treatment), and Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder covered under “Mental Health Services” in the “Benefits” section.

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). The person may be impregnated in any manner including, but not limited to, artificial insemination, intrauterine insemination, in vitro fertilization, or through the surgical implantation of a fertilized egg of another person. 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 Full Premiums, except that you are responsible for paying Full Premiums as described in the “Continuation of Membership” section if you have Cal-COBRA coverage under this *EOC*. 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).

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 our 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.

Service Area eligibility requirements

The “Definitions” section describes our Service Area and how it may change.

Subscribers must live or work inside our Service Area at the time they enroll. If after enrollment the Subscriber no longer lives or works inside our Service Area, the Subscriber can continue membership unless (1) they live inside or move to the service area of another Region and do not work inside our Service Area, or (2) your Group does not allow continued enrollment of Subscribers who do not live or work inside our Service Area.

Dependent children of the Subscriber or of the Subscriber’s Spouse may live anywhere inside or outside our Service Area. Other Dependents may live anywhere, except that they are not eligible to enroll or to continue enrollment if they live in or move to the service area of another Region.

If you are not eligible to continue enrollment because you live in or move to the service area of another Region, please contact your Group to learn about your Group health care options:

- **Regions outside California.** 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*
- **Southern California Region’s service area.** Your Group may have an arrangement with us that permits membership in the Southern California Region, but the plan, including coverage, premiums, and eligibility requirements, might not be the same as under this *EOC*. All terms and conditions in your application for enrollment in the Northern California Region, including the Arbitration Agreement, will continue to apply if the Subscriber does not submit a new enrollment form

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, retirement benefit program, or employment contract (unless the Internal Revenue Service considers you self-employed)

Eligibility as a Dependent

Enrolling 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*:

- 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:
 - ♦ biological children
 - ♦ 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)
- Children whose parent is a Dependent child under your family coverage (including adopted children and children placed with your Dependent child for adoption or foster care), if they meet all of the following requirements:
 - ♦ they are not married and do not have a domestic partner (for the purposes of this requirement only, “domestic partner” means someone who is registered and legally recognized as a domestic partner by California)
 - ♦ they meet the requirements described under “Age limit of Dependent children”

- ◆ they receive all of their support and maintenance from you or your Spouse
- ◆ they permanently reside with you or your Spouse

If you have a baby

If you have a baby while enrolled under this *EOC*, the baby is not automatically enrolled in this plan. The Subscriber must request enrollment of the baby as described under “Special enrollment” in the “How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins” section below. If the Subscriber does not request enrollment within this special enrollment period, the baby will only be covered under this plan for 31 days (including the date of birth).

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

If the Subscriber is enrolled under a Kaiser Permanente Medicare plan

The dependent eligibility rules described in the “Eligibility as a Dependent” section also apply if you are a subscriber under a Kaiser Permanente Medicare plan offered by your Group (please ask your Group about your membership options). All of your dependents who are enrolled under this or any other non-Medicare evidence of coverage offered by your Group must be enrolled under the same non-Medicare evidence of coverage. A “non-Medicare” evidence of coverage is one that does not require members to have Medicare.

Persons barred from enrolling

You cannot enroll if you have had your entitlement to receive Services through Health Plan terminated for cause.

Members with Medicare and retirees

This *EOC* is not intended for most Medicare beneficiaries and some Groups do not offer coverage to retirees. If, during the term of this *EOC*, you are (or become) eligible for Medicare or you retire, please ask your Group about your membership options as follows:

- If a Subscriber who has Medicare Part B retires and the Subscriber's Group has a Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan for retirees, the Subscriber should enroll in the plan if eligible
- If the Subscriber has dependents who have Medicare and your Group has a Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan (or of one of our other plans that require members to have Medicare), the Subscriber may be able to enroll them as dependents under that plan
- If the Subscriber retires and your Group does not offer coverage to retirees, you may be eligible to continue membership as described in the "Continuation of Membership" section
- If federal law requires that your Group's health care coverage be primary and Medicare coverage be secondary, your coverage under this *EOC* will be the same as it would be if you had not become eligible for Medicare. However, you may also be eligible to enroll in Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage through your Group if you have Medicare Part B
- If you are (or become) eligible for Medicare and are in a class of beneficiaries for which your Group's health care coverage is secondary to Medicare, you should consider enrollment in Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage through your Group if you are eligible
- If none of the above applies to you and you are eligible for Medicare or you retire, please ask your Group about your membership options

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

When Medicare is primary

Your Group's Premiums may increase if you are (or become) eligible for Medicare Part A or B as primary coverage, and you are not enrolled through your Group in Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage for any reason (even if you are not eligible to enroll or the plan is not available to you).

When Medicare is secondary

Medicare is the primary coverage except when federal law requires that your Group's health care coverage be primary and Medicare coverage be secondary. Members who have Medicare when Medicare is secondary by law are subject to the same Premiums and receive the same benefits as Members who are under age 65 and do not have Medicare. In addition, any such Member for whom Medicare is secondary by law and who meets the eligibility requirements for the Kaiser Permanente Senior

Advantage plan applicable when Medicare is secondary may also enroll in that plan if it is available. These Members receive the benefits and coverage described in this *EOC* and the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage evidence of coverage applicable when Medicare is secondary.

Medicare late enrollment penalties

If you become eligible for Medicare Part B and do not enroll, Medicare may require you to pay a late enrollment penalty if you later enroll in Medicare Part B. However, if you delay enrollment in Part B because you or your spouse are still working and have coverage through an employer group health plan, you may not have to pay the penalty. Also, if you are (or become) eligible for Medicare and go without creditable prescription drug coverage (drug coverage that is at least as good as the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage) for a continuous period of 63 days or more, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty if you later sign up for Medicare prescription drug coverage. If you are (or become) eligible for Medicare, your Group is responsible for informing you about whether your drug coverage under this *EOC* is creditable prescription drug coverage at the times required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and upon your request.

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.

If you are eligible to be a Dependent under this *EOC* but the subscriber in your family is enrolled under a Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage evidence of coverage offered by your Group, the rules for enrollment of Dependents in this "How to Enroll and When Coverage Begins" section apply, not the rules for enrollment of dependents in the subscriber's evidence of coverage.

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 to your Group within 31 days.

Effective date of coverage

The effective date of coverage for new employees and their eligible family Dependents is determined by your Group in accord with waiting period requirements in state and federal law. Your Group is required to inform the Subscriber of the date your membership becomes effective. For example, if the hire date of an otherwise-eligible employee is January 19, the waiting period begins on January 19 and the effective date of coverage cannot be any later than April 19. Note: If the effective date of your Group's coverage is always on the first day of the month, in this example the effective date cannot be any later than April 1.

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 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.

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. 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 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.

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 from the

Subscriber. Enrollments of newly acquired Dependent children are effective as follows:

- Enrollments due to birth are effective on the date of birth
- Enrollments due to adoption are effective on the date of adoption
- Enrollments due to placement for adoption or foster care are effective on 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 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. 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 from the Subscriber.

Special enrollment due to court or administrative order

Within 30 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.

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 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.

Other special enrollment events

You may enroll as a Subscriber (along with any eligible Dependents) if you or your Dependents were not previously enrolled, and existing Subscribers may add eligible Dependents not previously enrolled, if any of the following are true:

- You lose employment for a reason other than gross misconduct
- Your employment hours are reduced

- You are a Dependent of someone who becomes entitled to Medicare
- You become divorced or legally separated
- You are a Dependent of someone who dies
- A Health Benefit Exchange (such as Covered California) determines that one of the following occurred because of misconduct on the part of a non-Exchange entity that provided enrollment assistance or conducted enrollment activities:
 - ◆ a qualified individual was not enrolled in a qualified health plan
 - ◆ a qualified individual was not enrolled in the qualified health plan that the individual selected
 - ◆ a qualified individual is eligible for, but is not receiving, advance payments of the premium tax credit or cost share reductions

To request special enrollment, you must submit a Health Plan–approved enrollment application to your Group within 30 days after loss of other coverage. You may be required to provide documentation that you have experienced a qualifying event. Membership becomes effective either on the first day of the next month (for applications that are received by the fifteenth day of a month) or on the first day of the month following the next month (for applications that are received after the fifteenth day of a month).

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

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 our 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
- COVID-19 Services as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section

- Emergency ambulance Services as described under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits” section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- Hospice care as described under “Hospice Care” in the “Benefits” section

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

If you need the following Services, you should schedule an appointment:

- Preventive Services
- Periodic follow-up care (regularly scheduled follow-up care, such as visits to monitor a chronic condition)
- Other care that is not Urgent 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.

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.

Not Sure What Kind of Care You Need?

Sometimes it’s difficult to know what kind of care you need, so we have licensed health care professionals available to assist you by phone 24 hours a day, seven

days a week. Here are some of the ways they can help you:

- They can answer questions about a health concern, and instruct you on self-care at home if appropriate
- They can advise you about whether you should get medical care, and how and where to get care (for example, if you are not sure whether your condition is an Emergency Medical Condition, they can help you decide whether you need Emergency Services or Urgent Care, and how and where to get that care)
- They can tell you what to do if you need care and a Plan Medical Office is closed or you are outside our Service Area

You can reach one of these licensed health care professionals by calling the appointment or advice phone number (for phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services). When you call, a trained support person may ask you questions to help determine how to direct your call.

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 routine preventive visits listed under “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section.

To learn how to select or change to a different personal Plan Physician, visit our website at 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. Also, a Plan Physician must refer you before you can get Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder covered under “Mental Health Services” in the “Benefits” section. 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 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 and ostomy and urological supplies

The prior authorization process for durable medical equipment and ostomy and urological 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 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.

Additional information about utilization review determination criteria for mental health Services or substance use disorder treatment

Utilization review determination criteria and any education program materials for individuals making authorization decisions related to mental health Services or substance use disorder treatment are available at kp.org at no cost.

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 under "Grievances" in the "Dispute Resolution" section.

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

Completion of Services from Non-Plan Providers

New Member

If you are currently receiving Services from a Non-Plan Provider in one of the cases listed below under "Eligibility" and your prior plan's coverage of the provider's Services has ended or will end when your coverage with us becomes effective, you may be eligible

for limited coverage of that Non-Plan Provider's Services.

Terminated provider

If you are currently receiving covered Services in one of the cases listed below under "Eligibility" from a Plan Hospital or a Plan Physician (or certain other providers) when our contract with the provider ends (for reasons other than medical disciplinary cause or criminal activity), you may be eligible for limited coverage of that terminated provider's Services.

Eligibility

The cases that are subject to this completion of Services provision are:

- Acute conditions, which are medical conditions that involve a sudden onset of symptoms due to an illness, injury, or other medical problem that requires prompt medical attention and has a limited duration. We may cover these Services until the acute condition ends
- Serious chronic conditions until the earlier of (1) 12 months from your effective date of coverage if you are a new Member, (2) 12 months from the termination date of the terminated provider, or (3) the first day after a course of treatment is complete when it would be safe to transfer your care to a Plan Provider, as determined by Kaiser Permanente after consultation with the Member and Non-Plan Provider and consistent with good professional practice. Serious chronic conditions are illnesses or other medical conditions that are serious, if one of the following is true about the condition:
 - ◆ it persists without full cure
 - ◆ it worsens over an extended period of time
 - ◆ it requires ongoing treatment to maintain remission or prevent deterioration
- Pregnancy and immediate postpartum care. We may cover these Services for the duration of the pregnancy and immediate postpartum care
- Mental health conditions in pregnant Members that occur, or can impact the Member, during pregnancy or during the postpartum period including, but not limited to, postpartum depression. We may cover completion of these Services for up to 12 months from the mental health diagnosis or from the end of pregnancy, whichever occurs later
- Terminal illnesses, which are incurable or irreversible illnesses that have a high probability of causing death within a year or less. We may cover completion of these Services for the duration of the illness
- Children under age 3. We may cover completion of these Services until the earlier of (1) 12 months from

the child's effective date of coverage if the child is a new Member, (2) 12 months from the termination date of the terminated provider, or (3) the child's third birthday

- Surgery or another procedure that is documented as part of a course of treatment and has been recommended and documented by the provider to occur within 180 days of your effective date of coverage if you are a new Member or within 180 days of the termination date of the terminated provider

To qualify for this completion of Services coverage, all of the following requirements must be met:

- Your Health Plan coverage is in effect on the date you receive the Services
- For new Members, your prior plan's coverage of the provider's Services has ended or will end when your coverage with us becomes effective
- You are receiving Services in one of the cases listed above from a Non-Plan Provider on your effective date of coverage if you are a new Member, or from the terminated Plan Provider on the provider's termination date
- For new Members, when you enrolled in Health Plan, you did not have the option to continue with your previous health plan or to choose another plan (including an out-of-network option) that would cover the Services of your current Non-Plan Provider
- The provider agrees to our standard contractual terms and conditions, such as conditions pertaining to payment and to providing Services inside our Service Area (the requirement that the provider agree to providing Services inside our Service Area doesn't apply if you were receiving covered Services from the provider outside our Service Area when the provider's contract terminated)
- The Services to be provided to you would be covered Services under this *EOC* if provided by a Plan Provider
- You request completion of Services within 30 days (or as soon as reasonably possible) from your effective date of coverage if you are a new Member or from the termination date of the Plan Provider

For completion of Services, 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 or a copy of our "Completion of Covered Services" policy, please call Member Services.

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 your Home Region 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 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 under “Grievances” in the “Dispute Resolution” 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 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

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. You may be eligible

to receive Services from a terminated provider; refer to “Completion of Services from Non–Plan Providers” under “Getting a Referral” in this “How to Obtain Services” section.

Provider groups and hospitals

If you are assigned to a provider group or hospital whose contract with us terminates, or if you live within 15 miles of a hospital whose contract with us terminates, we will give you written notice at least 60 days before the termination (or as soon as reasonably possible).

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. You can also call the Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900** 24 hours a day, seven days a week (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 or call our Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900** 24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays).

For covered Services you receive in another Kaiser Permanente service area, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider inside our Service Area as described in this *EOC*.

Receiving care outside of any Kaiser Permanente service area

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

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 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 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.

Timely Access to Care

Standards for appointment availability

The California Department of Managed Health Care (“DMHC”) developed the following standards for appointment availability. This information can help you know what to expect when you request an appointment.

- Urgent care appointment: within 48 hours
- Routine (non-urgent) primary care appointment (including adult/internal medicine, pediatrics, and family medicine): within 10 business days
- Routine (non-urgent) specialty care appointment with a physician: within 15 business days
- Routine (non-urgent) mental health care or substance use disorder treatment appointment with a practitioner other than a physician: within 10 business days
- Follow-up (non-urgent) mental health care or substance use disorder treatment appointment with a practitioner other than a physician, for those undergoing a course of treatment for an ongoing mental health or substance use disorder condition: within 10 business days

If you prefer to wait for a later appointment that will better fit your schedule or to see the Plan Provider of your choice, we will respect your preference. In some cases, your wait may be longer than the time listed if a licensed health care professional decides that a later appointment won’t have a negative effect on your health.

The standards for appointment availability do not apply to Preventive Services. Your Plan Provider may recommend a specific schedule for Preventive Services, depending on your needs. Except as specified above for mental health care and substance use disorder treatment, the standards also do not apply to periodic follow-up care for ongoing conditions or standing referrals to specialists.

Timely access to telephone assistance

DMHC developed the following standards for answering telephone questions:

- For telephone advice about whether you need to get care and where to get care: within 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- For general questions: within 10 minutes during normal business hours

Interpreter services

If you need interpreter services when you call us or when you get covered Services, please let us know. Interpreter services, including sign language, are available during all business hours at no cost to you. For more information on the interpreter services we offer, please call Member Services.

Access to mental health Services and substance use disorder treatment

State law requires evidence of coverage documents to include the following notice:

You have a right to receive timely and geographically accessible Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder (MH/SUD) services when you need them. If Health Plan fails to arrange those services for you with an appropriate provider who is in the health plan's network, the health plan must cover and arrange needed services for you from an out-of-network provider. If that happens, you do not have to pay anything other than your ordinary in-network cost-sharing.

If you do not need the services urgently, your health plan must offer an appointment for you that is no more than 10 business days from when you requested the services from the health plan. If you urgently need the services, your health plan must offer you an appointment within 48 hours of your request (if the health plan does not require prior authorization for the appointment) or within 96 hours (if the health plan does require prior authorization).

If your health plan does not arrange for you to receive services within these timeframes and within geographic access standards, you

can arrange to receive services from any licensed provider, even if the provider is not in your health plan's network. To be covered by your health plan, your first appointment with the provider must be within 90 calendar days of the date you first asked the plan for the MH/SUD services.

If you have questions about how to obtain MH/SUD services or are having difficulty obtaining services you can: 1) call your health plan at the telephone number on the back of your health plan identification card; 2) call the California Department of Managed Care's Help Center at 1-888-466-2219; or 3) contact the California Department of Managed Health Care through its website at <http://www.healthhelp.ca.gov> to request assistance in obtaining MH/SUD services.

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

You can reach Member Services in the following ways:

Call **1-800-464-4000** (English and more than 150 languages using interpreter services)
 1-800-788-0616 (Spanish)
 1-800-757-7585 (Chinese dialects)
 TTY users call **711**

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

Visit Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Write Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Website kp.org

Cost Share estimates

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

Note: State law requires evidence of coverage documents to include the following notice:

Some hospitals and other providers do not provide one or more of the following services

that may be covered under your plan contract and that you or your family member might need: family planning; contraceptive services, including emergency contraception; sterilization, including tubal ligation at the time of labor and delivery; infertility treatments; or abortion. You should obtain more information before you enroll. Call your prospective doctor, medical group, independent practice association, or clinic, or call Kaiser Permanente Member Services, to ensure that you can obtain the health care services that you need.

Please be aware that if a Service is covered but not available at a particular Plan Facility, we will make it available to you at another facility.

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

Emergency Services

If you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 (where available) or go to the nearest 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

When you receive Post-Stabilization Care from a Non-Plan Provider inside of California, or from a Cigna Healthcare PPO Network facility outside of a Kaiser Permanente State

When you receive Emergency Services, we cover Post-Stabilization Care from a Non-Plan Provider only if prior authorization for the care is obtained as described below, or if otherwise required by applicable law (“prior authorization” means that the Services must be approved in advance).

- **Post-Stabilization Care authorization at a Cigna Healthcare PPO Network facility outside of a Kaiser Permanente State:** If you are outside of a Kaiser Permanente state and you were treated at a

Cigna Healthcare PPO Network facility for an Emergency Medical Condition, Cigna Payer Solutions is responsible for authorizing any Post-Stabilization Care

- **Post-Stabilization Care authorization from other Non-Plan Providers (including Cigna Healthcare PPO Network facilities inside a Kaiser Permanente State):** 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. 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 Post-Stabilization Care or related transportation provided by Non-Plan Providers that has not been authorized. 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 admitted to a Non-Plan Hospital or independent freestanding emergency department, please notify us as soon as possible by calling **1-800-225-8883** or the notification phone number on your ID card

When you receive Post-Stabilization Care from a Non-Plan Provider that is not a Cigna Healthcare PPO Network provider outside of California

After you receive Emergency Services from Non-Plan Providers and your condition is Stabilized, Post-Stabilization Care is considered Emergency Services under federal law if either of the following are true:

- Your treating physician determines that you are not able to travel using nonemergency transportation to an available Plan Provider located within a reasonable travel distance, taking into account your medical condition; or
- Your treating physician, using appropriate medical judgment, determines that you are not in a condition to receive, and/or to provide consent to, the Non-Plan Provider’s notice and consent form, in accordance with applicable state informed consent law

If the Post-Stabilization Care is considered Emergency Services under the criteria above, prior authorization for Post-Stabilization Care at a Non-Plan Provider will not be required.

If the Post-Stabilization Care is not considered Emergency Services, the Services are not covered unless you have received prior authorization from Health Plan as described under “Post-Stabilization Care authorization from other Non-Plan Providers (including Cigna Healthcare PPO Network facilities inside a Kaiser Permanente State)” above. Non-Plan Providers outside of California may provide notice and seek your consent to waive your balance billing protections under the federal No Surprises Act, if such consent is permissible under applicable state informed consent law. If you consent to waive your balance billing protections and receive Services from the Non-Plan Provider, you will have to pay the full cost of the Services.

Your Cost Share

Your Cost Share for covered Emergency Services and Post-Stabilization Care is described in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC*. 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 in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Emergency Services and Urgent Care”
- If we gave prior authorization for inpatient Post-Stabilization Care in a Non-Plan Hospital, you pay the Cost Share for hospital inpatient Services as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Hospital inpatient Services”
- If we gave prior authorization for durable medical equipment after discharge from a Non-Plan Hospital, you pay the Cost Share for durable medical equipment as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for home use”
- If you receive COVID-19 laboratory testing or immunizations in the emergency department, you pay the Cost Share for an emergency department visit as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Emergency Services and Urgent Care”
- If you obtain a prescription in the emergency department related to your Emergency Medical Condition, you pay the Cost Share for “Most items” in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements” in addition to the Cost Share for the emergency department visit

Urgent Care

Inside our 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.

Out-of-Area Urgent Care

If you need Urgent Care due to an unforeseen illness, unforeseen injury, or unforeseen complication of an existing condition (including pregnancy), we cover Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your (or your unborn child’s) 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 our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your (or your unborn child’s) health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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.

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. We do not cover follow-up care from Non-Plan Providers after you no longer need Urgent Care, except for durable medical equipment covered under this *EOC*. For more information about durable medical equipment covered under this *EOC*, see “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” in the “Benefits” section. If you require durable medical equipment related to your Urgent Care after receiving Out-of-Area Urgent Care, your provider must obtain prior authorization as described under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section.

Your Cost Share

Your Cost Share for covered Urgent Care is the Cost Share required for Services provided by Plan Providers as described in the “Cost Share Summary” section of 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 in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Emergency Services and Urgent 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 in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services,” in addition to the Cost Share for the Urgent Care evaluation
- If the Out-of-Area Urgent Care you receive includes a COVID-19 test, you may have to pay the Cost Share for a COVID-19 test as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services,” in addition to the Cost Share for the Urgent Care evaluation
- If you obtain a prescription as part of an Out-of-Area Urgent Care visit related to the condition for which you obtained Urgent Care, you pay the Cost Share for “Most items” in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements” in addition to the Cost Share for the Urgent Care evaluation
- If we gave prior authorization for durable medical equipment provided as part of Out-of-Area Urgent Care, you pay the Cost Share for durable medical equipment as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for home use”

Note: If you receive Urgent Care in an emergency department, you pay the Cost Share for an emergency department visit as described in the “Cost Share Summary” under “Emergency Services and Urgent Care.”

Payment and Reimbursement

If you receive Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area 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” section, you are not responsible for any amounts beyond your Cost Share for covered 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. Also, you may be required to pay and file a claim for any Services prescribed by a Non-Plan Provider as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care even if you receive the Services from a Plan Provider, such as a Plan Pharmacy.

For information on how to file a claim, please see the “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section.

Benefits

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 state or 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” section
 - ◆ other health care items and services
- 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
 - ◆ COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” below
 - ◆ drugs prescribed by dentists, as described under “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” below
 - ◆ emergency ambulance Services, as described under “Ambulance Services” below
 - ◆ Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care, as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- You receive the Services from Plan Providers inside our 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
- ◆ COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” below
- ◆ emergency ambulance Services, as described under “Ambulance Services” below
- ◆ Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care, as described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section
- ◆ hospice care, as described under “Hospice Care” below
- 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. 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. Similarly, if your coverage includes a Drug Deductible, and you receive Services that are subject to the Drug Deductible, your Cost Share for those Services will be Charges until you reach the Drug Deductible.

Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for the amount you will pay for Services.

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 or Skilled Nursing Facility 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

Cost Share for Services received by newborn children of a Member

During the 31 days of automatic coverage for newborn children described under “If you have a baby” under “Who Is Eligible” in the “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section, the parent or guardian of the newborn must pay the Cost Share indicated in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for any Services that the newborn receives, whether or not the newborn is enrolled. When the “Cost Share Summary” indicates the Services are subject to the Plan Deductible, the Cost Share for those Services will be Charges if the newborn has not met the Plan Deductible.

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 a routine physical maintenance exam 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 maintenance 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 Share, or your Plan Provider is not able to collect Cost Share, if any, for Telehealth Visits you receive at home).

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 “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section.

Please refer to the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section for more information about when you may be billed for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care.

Reimbursement for COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers

If you receive covered COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section, you may have to pay for the Services and file a claim for reimbursement. For information on how to file a claim, please see “Initial Claims” in the “the “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” 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” 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” 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.

Benefit limits

Some benefits may include a limit on the number of visits, days, treatment cycles, or dollar amount that will be covered under your plan during a specified time period. If a benefit includes a limit, this will be indicated in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC*. The time period associated with a benefit limit may not be the same as the term of this *EOC*. We will count all Services you receive during the benefit limit period toward the benefit limit, including Services you received under a prior Health Plan *EOC* (as long as you have continuous coverage with Health Plan). Note: We will not count Services you received under a prior Health Plan *EOC* when you first enroll in individual plan coverage or a new employer group’s plan, when you move from group to individual plan coverage (or vice versa), or when you received Services under a Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage evidence of coverage. If you are enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente POS Plan, refer to your KPIC *Certificate of Insurance* and *Schedule of Coverage* for benefit limits that apply to your separate indemnity coverage provided by the Kaiser Permanente Insurance Company (“KPIC”).

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](https://www.kp.org) 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. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* to find out if you have a Plan Deductible

- For all other Cost Share estimates, please call **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**) 24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

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.

Drug Deductible

This *EOC* does not include a Drug Deductible.

Plan Deductible

This *EOC* does not include a Plan Deductible.

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, subject to any applicable deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum

There is a limit to the total amount of Cost Share you must pay under this *EOC* in the Accumulation Period for covered Services that you receive in the same Accumulation Period. The Services that apply to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum are described under the “Payments that count toward the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum” section below. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for your applicable Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum amounts.

If you are a Member in a Family of two or more Members, you reach the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum either when you reach the maximum for any one Member, or when your Family reaches the Family maximum. For example, suppose you have reached the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum for any one Member. For Services subject to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum, you will not pay any more Cost Share during the remainder of the Accumulation Period, but every other Member in your Family must continue to pay Cost Share during the remainder of the Accumulation Period until either they reach the maximum for any one Member or your Family reaches the Family maximum.

Payments that count toward the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum

Any payments you make toward the Plan Deductible or Drug Deductible, if applicable, apply toward the maximum.

Most Copayments and Coinsurance you pay for covered Services apply to the maximum, however some may not. To find out whether a Copayment or Coinsurance for a covered Service will apply to the maximum refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC*.

If your plan includes pediatric dental Services described in a Pediatric Dental Services Amendment to this *EOC*, those Services will apply toward the maximum. If your plan has a Pediatric Dental Services Amendment, it will be attached to this *EOC*, and it will be listed in the *EOC*’s Table of Contents.

Accrual toward deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums

To see how close you are to reaching your deductibles, if any, and out-of-pocket maximums, use our online Out-of-Pocket Summary tool at kp.org or call Member Services. We will provide you with accrual balance information for every month that you receive Services until you reach your individual out-of-pocket maximums or your Family reaches the Family out-of-pocket maximums.

We will provide accrual balance information by mail unless you have opted to receive notices electronically. You can change your document delivery preferences at any time at kp.org or by calling Member Services.

Administered Drugs and Products

Administered drugs and products are medications and products that require administration or observation by medical personnel, such as:

- Whole blood, red blood cells, plasma, and platelets
- Allergy antigens (including administration)
- Cancer chemotherapy drugs and adjuncts
- 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
- Other administered drugs and products

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.

Certain administered drugs are Preventive Services. Refer to “Reproductive Health Services” for information about administered contraceptives and refer to “Preventive Services” for information on immunizations.

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 “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section.

Nonemergency

Inside our Service Area, we cover nonemergency ambulance and psychiatric transport van Services if a Plan Physician determines that your condition requires the use of Services that only a licensed ambulance (or psychiatric transport van) 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 or from covered Services.

Ambulance Services exclusions

- Transportation by car, taxi, bus, gurney van, wheelchair van, and any other type of transportation (other than a licensed ambulance or psychiatric transport van), even if it is the only way to travel to a Plan Provider

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

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 the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* 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 “Administered Drugs and Products”)

Dental and Orthodontic Services

We do not cover most dental and orthodontic Services under this *EOC*, but we do cover some dental and orthodontic Services as described in this “Dental and Orthodontic Services” section.

For covered dental and orthodontic procedures that you may receive, you will pay the Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to dental and orthodontic Services. For example, see “Hospital inpatient Services” in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services.

Dental Services for radiation treatment

We cover 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.

Dental and orthodontic Services for cleft palate

We cover dental extractions, dental procedures necessary to prepare the mouth for an extraction, and orthodontic Services, if they meet all of the following requirements:

- The Services are an integral part of a reconstructive surgery for cleft palate that we are covering under “Reconstructive Surgery” in this “Benefits” section (“cleft palate” includes cleft palate, cleft lip, or other craniofacial anomalies associated with cleft palate)
- A Plan Provider provides the Services or the Medical Group authorizes a referral to a Non-Plan Provider who is a dentist or orthodontist (as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section)

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Accidental injury to teeth (refer to “Injury to Teeth”)
- Office visits not described in the “Dental and Orthodontic Services” section (refer to “Office Visits”)

- Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and other diagnostic and treatment Services (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Administered Drugs and Products”), except that we cover outpatient administered drugs under “Dental anesthesia” in this “Dental and Orthodontic Services” section
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

Dialysis Care

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

- The Services are provided inside our Service Area
- You satisfy all medical criteria developed by the Medical Group and by the facility providing the dialysis
- A Plan Physician provides a written referral for care at the facility

After you receive appropriate training at a dialysis facility we designate, we also cover equipment and medical supplies required for home hemodialysis and home peritoneal dialysis inside our Service Area. 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.

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 the “Dialysis Care” section (refer to “Office Visits”)
- 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 “Administered Drugs and Products”)
- 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

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 our 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. You must return the equipment to us or pay us the fair market price of the equipment when we are no longer covering it.

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:

- Blood 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
- Peak flow meters
- Phototherapy blankets for treatment of jaundice in newborns

Supplemental DME items

We cover DME that is not described under “Base DME Items” or “Lactation supplies,” including repair and 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.

Lactation supplies

We cover one retail-grade milk pump (also known as a breast pump) per pregnancy and associated supplies, as listed on our website at kp.org/prevention. We will decide whether to rent or purchase the item and we choose the vendor. We cover this pump for convenience purposes. The pump is not subject to prior authorization requirements.

If you or your baby has a medical condition that requires the use of a milk pump, we cover a hospital-grade milk pump and the necessary supplies to operate it, in accord with the coverage rules described under “DME coverage rules” in this “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” section.

Outside our Service Area

We do not cover most DME for home use outside our Service Area. However, if you live outside our 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 our 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)
- Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump, after completion of training and education on the use of the pump
- 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 an Emergency Medical Condition or Urgent Care episode (refer to “Post-Stabilization Care” and “Out-of-Area Urgent Care”)
- 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 except for retail-grade milk pumps as described under “Lactation supplies” in this “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use” section
- 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
- 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 loss, theft, or misuse

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

We cover the following Services:

- Emergency department visits
- Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Abortion and abortion-related Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)

Fertility Services

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

Before starting or continuing a course of fertility Services, you may be required to pay initial and subsequent deposits toward your Cost Share for some or all of the entire course of Services, along with any past-due fertility-related Cost Share. Any unused portion of your deposit will be returned to you. When a deposit is not required, you must pay the Cost Share for the procedure, along with any past-due fertility-related Cost Share, before you can schedule a fertility procedure.

Diagnosis and treatment of Infertility

We cover the following Services for the diagnosis and treatment of Infertility:

- Office visits
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures
- Outpatient imaging and laboratory Services
- Outpatient administered drugs 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
- Hospital inpatient stay directly related to diagnosis and treatment of Infertility

Artificial insemination

We cover the following Services for artificial insemination:

- Office visits

- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures
- Outpatient imaging and laboratory Services
- Outpatient administered drugs 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
- Hospital inpatient stays directly related to diagnosis and treatment of Infertility

Assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services

ART Services such as in vitro fertilization (“IVF”), gamete intra-fallopian transfer (“GIFT”), or zygote intrafallopian transfer (“ZIFT”) are not covered under this *EOC*.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Fertility preservation Services for iatrogenic Infertility (refer to “Fertility Preservation Services for Iatrogenic Infertility”)
- 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”)
- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)

Fertility Services exclusions

- Reversal of surgical sterilization originally performed for family planning purposes
- Semen and eggs (and Services related to their procurement and storage)
- ART Services, such as ovum transplants, GIFT, IVF, and ZIFT

Fertility Preservation Services for Iatrogenic Infertility

Standard fertility preservation Services are covered for Members undergoing treatment or receiving covered Services that may directly or indirectly cause iatrogenic Infertility. Fertility preservation Services do not include diagnosis or treatment of Infertility.

For covered fertility preservation Services that you receive, you will pay the Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to fertility preservation. For

example, see “Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures” in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for the Cost Share that applies for outpatient procedures.

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.

Hearing Services

We cover the following:

- Hearing exams with an audiologist to determine the need for hearing correction
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat hearing problems

Hearing aids

Hearing aids and related Services are not covered under this *EOC*. For internally implanted devices, see “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in this “Benefits” section.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Routine hearing screenings when performed as part of a routine physical maintenance exam (refer to “Preventive Services”)
- 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” section)
- Cochlear implants and osseointegrated hearing devices (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)

Hearing Services exclusions

- Hearing aids and tests to determine their efficacy, and hearing tests to determine an appropriate hearing aid

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 (or a friend’s or relative’s home)
- Your condition requires the Services of a nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech 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 our Service Area

We cover only part-time or intermittent home health care, as follows:

- Up to two hours per visit for visits by a nurse, medical social worker, or physical, occupational, or speech therapist, and up to four hours per visit for visits by a home health aide
- Up to three visits per day (counting all home health visits)
- Up to 100 visits per Accumulation Period (counting all home health visits)

Note: If a visit by a nurse, medical social worker, or physical, occupational, or speech therapist lasts longer than two hours, then each additional increment of two hours counts as a separate visit. If a visit by a home health aide lasts longer than four hours, then each additional increment of four hours counts as a separate visit. For example, if a nurse comes to your home for three hours and then leaves, that counts as two visits. Also, each person providing Services counts toward these visit limits. For example, if a home health aide and a nurse are both at your home during the same two hours, that counts as two visits.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (refer to “Mental Health Services”)
- Dialysis care (refer to “Dialysis Care”)
- Durable medical equipment (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Ostomy and urological supplies (refer to “Ostomy and Urological Supplies”)
- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy visits (refer to “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services”)
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)

Home health care exclusions

- Care of a type that an unlicensed family member or other layperson could provide safely and effectively in the home setting after receiving appropriate training. This care is excluded even if we would cover the care if it were provided by a qualified medical professional in a hospital or a Skilled Nursing Facility
- Care in the home if the home is not a safe and effective treatment setting

Hospice Care

Hospice care is a specialized form of interdisciplinary health care designed to provide palliative care and to alleviate the physical, emotional, and spiritual discomforts of a Member experiencing the last phases of life due to a terminal illness. It also provides support to the primary caregiver and the Member’s family. A Member who chooses hospice care is choosing to receive palliative care for pain and other symptoms associated with the terminal illness, but not to receive care to try to cure the terminal illness. You may change your decision to receive hospice care benefits at any time.

We cover the hospice Services listed below 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 our Service Area or inside California but within 15 miles or 30 minutes from our Service Area (including a friend’s or relative’s home even if you live there temporarily)

- 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

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 our 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” section)
- Radioactive materials used for therapeutic purposes
- Durable medical equipment and medical supplies
- 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, refer to “Office Visits” in this “Benefits” section)
- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Respiratory therapy
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy (including treatment in our organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation program)
- Medical social services and discharge planning

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Abortion and abortion-related Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)
- Bariatric surgical procedures (refer to “Bariatric Surgery”)
- Dental and orthodontic procedures (refer to “Dental and Orthodontic Services”)
- Dialysis care (refer to “Dialysis Care”)

- Fertility preservation Services for iatrogenic Infertility (refer to “Fertility Preservation Services for Iatrogenic Infertility”)
- 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”)
- 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”)

Injury to Teeth

Services for accidental injury to teeth are not covered under this *EOC*.

Mental Health Services

We cover Services specified in this “Mental Health Services” section only when the Services are for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of Mental Health Conditions. A “Mental Health Condition” is a mental health condition that falls under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the most recent edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* or that is listed in the most recent version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

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, including treatment of first episode psychosis

- Psychological testing when necessary to evaluate a Mental Health Condition
- Outpatient Services for the purpose of monitoring drug therapy
- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Electroconvulsive therapy
- Transcranial magnetic stimulation

Intensive psychiatric treatment programs

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

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

Residential treatment

Inside our 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
- Social services
- 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” section)
- Discharge planning

Gender-affirming Services

For covered Services you receive for treatment of gender dysphoria, you will pay the Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to gender dysphoria. For example:

- See “Administered Drugs” for administered drugs

- See “Office Visits” for consultations for gender dysphoria treatment, such as hormone therapy, and hair removal procedures
- See “Outpatient Laboratory, Imaging, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services” for laboratory and imaging Services
- See “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies and Supplements” for drugs, supplies, and supplements
- See “Reconstructive Surgery” for surgical Services
- See “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services” for speech (voice) therapy

Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization

We cover inpatient psychiatric hospitalization in a Plan Hospital. Coverage includes room and board, drugs, and Services of Plan Physicians and other Plan Providers who are licensed health care professionals acting within the scope of their license.

Services from Non-Plan Providers

If we are not able to offer an appointment with a Plan Provider within required geographic and timely access standards, we will offer to refer you to a Non-Plan Provider (as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section).

Additionally, we cover Services provided by a 988 center, mobile crisis team, or other provider of behavioral health crisis services (collectively, “988 Services”) for medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder without prior authorization until the condition is stabilized, as required by state law. After the mental health or substance use disorder condition has been stabilized, post-stabilization care from Non-Plan Providers is subject to prior authorization as described under “Post-Stabilization Care” in the “Emergency Services” section.

For these referral Services and 988 Services, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in this *EOC*.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder provided during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to “Hospital Inpatient Services” and “Skilled Nursing Facility Care”)
- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)

- Outpatient laboratory and sleep studies (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy visits (refer to “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services”)
- Telehealth Visits (refer to “Telehealth Visits”)

Office Visits

We cover the following:

- Primary Care Visits and Non-Physician Specialist Visits
- Physician Specialist Visits
- Group appointments
- Acupuncture Services (typically provided only for the treatment of nausea or as part of a comprehensive pain management program for the treatment of chronic pain)
- House calls by a Plan Physician (or a Plan Provider who is a registered nurse) inside our Service Area when care can best be provided in your home as determined by a Plan Physician

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Abortion and abortion-related Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)

Ostomy and Urological Supplies

We cover ostomy and urological supplies if the following requirements are met:

- A Plan Physician has prescribed ostomy and urological 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 our 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.

Ostomy and urological supplies exclusions

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features

Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services

We cover the following Services only when part of care covered under other headings in this “Benefits” section. The Services must be prescribed by a Plan Provider.

- Complex imaging (other than preventive) such as CT scans, MRIs, and PET scans
- Basic imaging Services, such as diagnostic and therapeutic X-rays, mammograms, and ultrasounds
- Nuclear medicine
- Routine retinal photography screenings
- Laboratory tests, including tests to monitor the effectiveness of dialysis and tests for specific genetic disorders for which genetic counseling is available
- Diagnostic Services provided by Plan Providers who are not physicians (such as EKGs, EEGs, and sleep studies)
- Radiation therapy
- Ultraviolet light 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 our 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.)

We cover laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers, including a provider visit for purposes of receiving the laboratory test.

We cover up to a total of eight FDA-authorized over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per calendar month from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers. Over-the-counter tests are self-administered tests that deliver results at home and are available without a prescription. For purposes of this section, “Plan Provider” means a Plan Pharmacy, mail order delivery through our website at kp.org, or a participating retail pharmacy. For purposes of this section, a “Non-Plan Provider” means a pharmacy or online retailer that isn’t a Plan Provider. To find out more about coverage and limitations, including the

current list of Plan Providers, visit our website or call Member Services.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Abortion and abortion-related Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)
- 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 Surgery and Outpatient 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 loss, theft, or misuse

Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements

We cover outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements specified in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines, subject to any applicable exclusions or limitations under this *EOC*. We cover items described in this section when prescribed as follows:

- Items prescribed by Plan Providers, within the scope of their licensure and practice
- Items prescribed by the following Non-Plan Providers:
 - ◆ 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 under “Payment and Reimbursement” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section)

- ◆ Non-Plan Providers that are not providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care if the prescription is for COVID-19 therapeutics (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 “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section)

Note: If you obtain a prescription from a Non-Plan Provider related to dental care or for COVID-19 therapeutics as described above, we do not cover an office visit or any other services from the Non-Plan Provider.

How to obtain covered items

You must obtain covered items at a Plan Pharmacy or through our mail-order service unless you obtain the item from a Non-Plan Provider as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section or a Non-Plan Provider prescribes COVID-19 therapeutics for you.

For the locations of Plan Pharmacies, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services.

Refills

You may be able to order refills at a Plan Pharmacy, through our mail-order service, or through our website at kp.org/rxrefill. A Plan Pharmacy can give you more information about obtaining refills, including the options available to you for obtaining refills. For example, a few Plan Pharmacies don’t dispense refills and not all drugs can be mailed through our mail-order service. Please check with a Plan Pharmacy if you have a question about whether your prescription can be mailed or obtained at a Plan Pharmacy. Items available through our mail-order service are subject to change at any time without notice.

Day supply limit

The prescribing physician or dentist determines how much of a drug, supply, item, or supplement to prescribe. For purposes of day supply coverage limits, Plan Physicians determine the amount of an item that constitutes a Medically Necessary 30- or 100-day supply (or 365-day supply if the item is a hormonal contraceptive) for you. Upon payment of the Cost Share specified in the “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies,

and supplements” section of the “Cost Share Summary,” you will receive the supply prescribed up to the day supply limit specified in this section or in the drug formulary for your plan (see “About the drug formulary” below). The maximum you may receive at one time of a covered item, other than a hormonal contraceptive, is either one 30-day supply in a 30-day period or one 100-day supply in a 100-day period. If you wish to receive more than the covered day supply limit, then you must pay Charges for any prescribed quantities that exceed the day supply limit.

If your plan includes coverage for hormonal contraceptives, the maximum you may receive at one time of contraceptive drugs is a 365-day supply. To obtain a 365-day supply, talk to your prescribing provider. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* to find out if your plan includes coverage for hormonal contraceptives.

If your plan includes coverage for sexual dysfunction drugs, the maximum you may receive at one time of episodic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders is eight doses in any 30-day period or up to 27 doses in any 100-day period. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* to find out if your plan includes coverage for sexual dysfunction drugs.

The pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed at the Cost Share specified in the “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements” section of the “Cost Share Summary” for any drug to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period if the pharmacy determines that the item is in limited supply in the market or for specific drugs (your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs).

About the drug formulary

The 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 and pharmacists, selects drugs for the drug formulary based on several factors, including safety and effectiveness as determined from a review of medical literature. The drug formulary is updated monthly based on new information or new 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. 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.

Formulary exception process

Drug formulary guidelines allow you to obtain a non-formulary prescription drug (those not listed on our drug formulary for your condition) if it would otherwise be covered by your plan, as described above, and it is Medically Necessary. If you disagree with a Health Plan determination that a non-formulary prescription drug is not covered, you may file a grievance as described in the “Dispute Resolution” 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 drug tiers

Drugs for your plan are categorized into tiers as described in the table below (your plan doesn’t have a Tier 3). Your Cost Share for covered items may vary based on the tier. Refer to “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements” in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for Cost Share for items covered under this section. Refer to the drug formulary to find out which tier a particular drug is on and for the definition of “generic drug,” “brand-name drug,” and “specialty drug.”

Tier	Description
Tier 1	Most generic drugs, supplies and supplements (also includes certain brand-name drugs, supplies, and supplements)
Tier 2	Most brand-name drugs, supplies, and supplements (also includes certain generic drugs, supplies, and supplements)
Tier 4	High-cost brand-name or generic drugs, supplies, and supplements (sometimes called “specialty drugs”)

These tiers apply to formulary and non-formulary drugs, supplies and supplements. If you need help determining

whether a formulary or non-formulary drug, supply, or supplement is categorized as Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 4, please call Member Services. Note: Non-formulary drugs are not covered unless Medically Necessary as described under “Formulary exception process” in the “About the drug formulary” section above.

General rules about coverage and your Cost Share

We cover the following outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements as described in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section:

- Drugs for which a prescription is required by law. We also cover certain over-the-counter drugs and items (drugs and items that do not require a prescription by law) if they are listed on our drug formulary and prescribed by a Plan Physician, except a prescription is not required for over-the-counter contraceptives
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered drugs and supplements
- Inhaler spacers needed to inhale covered drugs

Note:

- If Charges for the drug, supply, or supplement are less than the Copayment, you will pay the lesser amount, subject to any applicable deductible or out-of-pocket maximum
- Items can change tier at any time, in accord with formulary guidelines, which may impact your Cost Share (for example, if a brand-name drug is added to the specialty drug list, you will pay the Cost Share that applies to drugs on Tier 4, not the Cost Share for drugs on Tier 2)

Schedule II drugs

You or the prescribing provider can request that the pharmacy dispense less than the prescribed amount of a covered oral, solid dosage form of a Schedule II drug (your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs). Your Cost Share will be prorated based on the amount of the drug that is dispensed. If the pharmacy does not prorate your Cost Share, we will send you a refund for the difference.

Mail-order service

Prescription refills can be mailed within 3 to 5 days at no extra cost for standard U.S. postage. The appropriate Cost Share (according to your drug coverage) will apply and must be charged to a valid credit card.

You may request mail-order service in the following ways:

- To order online, visit kp.org/rxrefill (you can register for a secure account at kp.org/registernow) or use the KP app from your smartphone or other mobile device
- Call the pharmacy phone number highlighted on your prescription label and select the mail delivery option
- On your next visit to a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy, ask our staff how you can have your prescriptions mailed to you

Note: Restrictions and limitations apply. For example, not all drugs can be mailed and we cannot mail drugs to all states.

Manufacturer coupon program

For outpatient prescription drugs or items that are covered under this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” 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. When you use an approved coupon for payment of your Cost Share, the coupon amount and any additional payment that you make will accumulate to your out-of-pocket maximum if applicable. Refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* to find your applicable out-of-pocket maximum amount and to learn which drugs and items apply to the maximum. 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.

Base drugs, supplies, and supplements

Cost Share for the following items may be different than other drugs, supplies, and supplements. Refer to “Base drugs, supplies, and supplements” in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC*:

- Certain drugs for the treatment of life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia
- Drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis
- Elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis
- Hematopoietic agents for dialysis
- Hematopoietic agents for the treatment of anemia in chronic renal insufficiency

- Human growth hormone for long-term treatment of pediatric patients with growth failure from lack of adequate endogenous growth hormone secretion
- Immunosuppressants and ganciclovir and ganciclovir prodrugs for the treatment of cytomegalovirus when prescribed in connection with a transplant
- Phosphate binders for dialysis patients for the treatment of hyperphosphatemia in end stage renal disease

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Drugs prescribed for abortion or abortion-related Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)
- Administered contraceptives (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)
- Diabetes blood-testing equipment and their supplies, and insulin pumps and their supplies (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Drugs covered during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to “Hospital Inpatient Services” and “Skilled Nursing Facility Care”)
- Drugs prescribed for pain control and symptom management of the terminal illness for Members who are receiving covered hospice care (refer to “Hospice Care”)
- Durable medical equipment used to administer drugs (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Outpatient administered drugs that are not contraceptives (refer to “Administered Drugs and Products”)

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 drug is listed on our drug formulary or one of the ingredients requires a prescription by law
- 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 drugs covered under “Preventive Services” in this “Benefits” section (this includes tobacco cessation drugs and contraceptive drugs)
- ◆ an entire class of prescription drugs when one drug within that class becomes available over-the-counter
- All drugs, supplies, and supplements related to assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) Services
- Drugs when prescribed solely for the purposes of losing weight, except when Medically Necessary for the treatment of morbid obesity. We may require Members who are prescribed drugs for morbid obesity to be enrolled in a covered comprehensive weight loss program, for a reasonable period of time prior to or concurrent with receiving the prescription drug

Outpatient Surgery and Outpatient Procedures

We cover the following outpatient care Services:

- Outpatient surgery
- Outpatient procedures (including imaging and diagnostic Services) when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or 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

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Fertility preservation Services for iatrogenic Infertility (refer to “Fertility Preservation Services for Iatrogenic Infertility”)
- Outpatient procedures (including imaging and diagnostic Services) that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs (refer to the section that would otherwise apply for the procedure; for example, for radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs, refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)

Preventive Services

We cover a variety of Preventive Services from Plan Providers, as listed on our website at kp.org/prevention, including the following:

- Services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force with rating of “A” or

“B.” The complete list of these services can be found at uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

- Immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The complete list of recommended immunizations can be found at cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules
- Preventive services recommended by the Health Resources and Services Administration and incorporated into the Affordable Care Act. The complete list of these services can be found at hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines

Note: We cover immunizations to prevent COVID-19 that are administered in a Plan Medical Office or by a Non-Plan Provider. If you obtain this immunization from a Non-Plan Provider (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care), we do not cover an office visit or any other services from the Non-Plan Provider other than administration of the vaccine.

The list of Preventive Services recommended by the above organizations is subject to change. These Preventive Services are subject to all coverage requirements described in this “Benefits” section and all provisions in the “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section.

If you are enrolled in a grandfathered plan, certain preventive items listed on our website, such as over-the-counter drugs, may not be covered. Refer to the “Certain preventive items” table in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for coverage information. If you have questions about Preventive Services, please call Member Services.

Note: Preventive Services help you stay healthy, before you have symptoms. If you have symptoms, you may need other care, such as diagnostic or treatment Services. If you receive any other covered Services that are not Preventive Services before, during, or after a visit that includes Preventive Services, 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.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Milk pumps and lactation supplies (refer to “Lactation supplies” under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Health education programs (refer to “Health Education”)

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements that are Preventive Services (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Family planning counseling, consultations, and sterilization Services (refer to “Reproductive Health Services”)

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 our 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, if they are implanted during a surgery that we are covering under another section of this “Benefits” section.

For internally implanted prosthetic and orthotic devices, you pay the Cost Share for the procedure to implant the device. For example, see “Outpatient Surgery and Outpatient Procedures” in the “Cost Share Summary”

section of this *EOC* for the Cost Share that applies for Outpatient Surgery.

External devices

We cover the following external prosthetic and orthotic devices:

- 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:
 - ◆ prostheses, including custom-made prostheses when Medically Necessary
 - ◆ up to three brassieres required to hold a prosthesis in any 12-month period
- 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

Supplemental 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:

- Prosthetic devices required to replace all or part of an organ or extremity, but only if they also replace the function of the organ or extremity
- Rigid and semi-rigid orthotic devices required to support or correct a defective body part

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Eyeglasses and contact lenses, including contact lenses to treat aniridia or aphakia (refer to “Vision Services for Adult Members” and “Vision Services for Pediatric Members”)
- Hearing aids other than internally implanted devices described in this section (refer to “Hearing Services”)

- Injectable implants (refer to “Administered Drugs and Products”)

Prosthetic and orthotic devices exclusions

- Multifocal intraocular lenses and intraocular lenses to correct astigmatism
- Nonrigid supplies, such as elastic stockings and wigs, except as otherwise described above in this “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” section
- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Repair or replacement of device due to loss, theft, or 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
- 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)

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

For covered Services related to reconstructive surgery that you receive, you will pay the Cost Share you would pay if the Services were not related to reconstructive surgery. For example, see “Hospital inpatient Services” in the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services, and see “Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures”

in the “Cost Share Summary” for the Cost Share that applies for outpatient surgery.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Dental and orthodontic Services that are an integral part of reconstructive surgery for cleft palate (refer to “Dental and Orthodontic Services”)
- Office visits not described in the “Reconstructive Surgery” section (refer to “Office Visits”)
- 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 “Administered Drugs and Products”)
- 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

Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services

We cover the Services described in this “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services” section if all of the following requirements are met:

- The Services are to address a health condition
- The Services are to help you keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living
- You receive the Services at a Plan Facility unless a Plan Physician determines that it is Medically Necessary for you to receive the Services in another location

We cover the following Services:

- Individual outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Group outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation day-treatment program

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (refer to “Mental Health Services”)
- Home health care (refer to “Home Health Care”)
- Durable medical equipment (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use”)
- Ostomy and urological supplies (refer to “Ostomy and Urological Supplies”)
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices (refer to “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices”)
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to “Hospital Inpatient Services” and “Skilled Nursing Facility Care”)

Rehabilitative and habilitative Services exclusions

- Items and services that are not health care items and services (for example, respite care, day care, recreational care, residential treatment, social services, custodial care, or education services of any kind, including vocational training)

Reproductive Health Services

Family planning Services

We cover the following Services when provided for family planning purposes:

- Family planning counseling
- Injectable contraceptives, internally implanted time-release contraceptives or intrauterine devices (“IUDs”) and office visits related to their insertion, removal, and management when provided to prevent pregnancy
- Sterilization procedures for Members assigned female at birth
- Sterilization procedures for Members assigned male at birth

Plan Doula services

If you are pregnant or were pregnant within the last 12 months and want Plan Doula services, talk to your care team. We cover the following Plan Doula services:

- One initial visit
- Up to eight one-hour visits that may be provided in any combination of prenatal and postpartum visits
- Support during labor and delivery

Up to two additional postpartum visits may be available.

Abortion and abortion-related Services

We cover the following Services:

- Surgical abortion
- Prescription drugs, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines
- Abortion-related Services

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Fertility preservation Services for iatrogenic Infertility (refer to “Fertility Preservation Services for Iatrogenic Infertility”)
- Services to diagnose or treat Infertility (refer to “Fertility Services”)
- Office visits related to injectable contraceptives, internally implanted time-release contraceptives or intrauterine devices (“IUDs”) when provided for medical reasons other than to prevent pregnancy (refer to “Office Visits”)
- Outpatient administered drugs that are not contraceptives (refer to “Administered Drugs and Products”)
- Outpatient laboratory and imaging services associated with family planning services (refer to “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services”)
- Outpatient contraceptive drugs and devices (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided for medical reasons other than to prevent pregnancy (refer to “Outpatient Surgery and Outpatient Procedures”)

Reproductive health Services exclusions

- Reversal of surgical sterilization originally performed for family planning purposes
- Plan Doula services exclusions:
 - ◆ Clinical or medical Services (such as taking blood pressure or temperature, fetal heart tone checks, vaginal examinations, or postpartum clinical care)
 - ◆ Assistance with activities of daily living
 - ◆ Alternative or complementary modalities (such as aromatherapy, childbirth education, massage therapy, or placenta encapsulation)
 - ◆ Yoga
 - ◆ Birthing ceremonies

- ◆ Over-the-counter supplies or drugs
- ◆ Home birth

Services in Connection with a Clinical Trial

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 federal 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

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 the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* for the Cost Share that applies for hospital inpatient Services.

Services in connection with a clinical trial exclusions

- The investigational Service
- Services that are provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and are not used in your clinical management

Skilled Nursing Facility Care

Inside our Service Area, we cover skilled inpatient Services in a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility. 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 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
- Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Respiratory therapy

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”)
- Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy (refer to “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services”)

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

We cover Services specified in this “Substance Use Disorder Treatment” section only when the Services are for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of Substance Use Disorders. A “Substance Use Disorder” is a substance use disorder that falls under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the most recent edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* or that is listed in the most recent version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

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
- Intensive outpatient programs
- Medical treatment for withdrawal symptoms
- Methadone maintenance treatment at a licensed treatment center approved by Medical Group

Residential treatment

Inside our 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
- Social services
- 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” section)
- Discharge planning

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.

Services from Non-Plan Providers

If we are not able to offer an appointment with a Plan Provider within required geographic and timely access standards, we will offer to refer you to a Non-Plan Provider (as described in “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals” under “Getting a Referral” in the “How to Obtain Services” section).

Additionally, we cover Services provided by a 988 center, mobile crisis team, or other provider of behavioral health crisis services (collectively, “988 Services”) for medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder without prior authorization until the condition is stabilized, as required by state law. After the mental health or substance use disorder condition has been stabilized, post-stabilization care from Non-Plan Providers is subject to prior authorization as described under “Post-Stabilization Care” in the “Emergency Services” section.

For these referral Services and 988 Services, you pay the Cost Share required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in this *EOC*.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Outpatient laboratory, including drug testing (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 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 may receive covered Services via Telehealth Visits, when available and if the Services would have been covered under this *EOC* if provided in person. You are not required to use Telehealth Visits, and you may choose to receive in-person Services from a Plan Provider instead. Some Plan Providers offer Services exclusively through a telehealth technology platform and have no physical location at which you can receive Services. If you receive covered Services from these Plan Providers, you may access your medical record of the Telehealth Visit and, unless you object, such information will be added to your Health Plan electronic medical record and shared with your Primary Care Physician.

We cover the following types of Telehealth Visits with Primary Care Physicians, Non-Physician Specialists, and Physician Specialists:

- Interactive video visits
- Scheduled telephone visits

Transplant Services

We cover transplants of organs, tissue, or bone marrow 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

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 the “Cost Share Summary” section of this *EOC* 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 and Orthodontic 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 “Administered Drugs and Products”)

Vision Services for Adult Members

For the purpose of this “Vision Services for Adult Members” section, an “Adult Member” is a Member who is age 19 or older and is not a Pediatric Member, as defined under “Vision Services for Pediatric Members” in this “Benefits” section. For example, if you turn 19 on June 25, you will be an Adult Member starting July 1.

We cover the following for Adult Members:

- 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
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye
- Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye

Optical Services

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

We do not cover eyeglasses or contact lenses under this *EOC* (except for special contact lenses described in this “Vision Services for Adult Members” section).

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
- For aphakia (absence of the crystalline lens of the eye), we cover up to six Medically Necessary aphakic contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period when prescribed by a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist

Low vision devices

Low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing) are not covered under this *EOC*.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Routine vision screenings when performed as part of a routine physical exam (refer to “Preventive Services”)
- Services related to the eye or vision other than Services covered under this “Vision Services for Adult Members” section, such as outpatient surgery and outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this “Benefits” section)

Vision Services for Adult Members exclusions

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

Vision Services for Pediatric Members

For the purpose of this “Vision Services for Pediatric Members” section, a “Pediatric Member” is a Member

from birth through the end of the month of their 19th birthday. For example, if you turn 19 on June 25, you will be an Adult Member starting July 1 and your last minute as a Pediatric Member will be 11:59 p.m. on June 30.

We cover the following for Pediatric Members:

- 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
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye
- Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye

Optical Services

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

We do not cover eyeglasses or contact lenses under this *EOC* (except for special contact lenses described in this “Vision Services for Pediatric Members” section).

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
- For aphakia (absence of the crystalline lens of the eye), we cover up to six Medically Necessary aphakic contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period when prescribed by a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist

Low vision devices

Low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing) are not covered under this *EOC*.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Routine vision screenings when performed as part of a routine physical exam (refer to “Preventive Services”)
- Services related to the eye or vision other than Services covered under this “Vision Services for Pediatric Members” section, such as outpatient surgery and outpatient prescription drugs, supplies,

and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this “Benefits” section)

Vision Services for Pediatric Members exclusions

- Contact lenses, including fitting and dispensing, except as described under this “Vision Services for Pediatric Members” section
- Eyeglass lenses and frames
- 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. These exclusions or limitations do not apply to Services that are Medically Necessary to treat mental health conditions or substance use disorders that fall under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the most recent edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* or that are listed in the most recent version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

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, 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” section
- The following devices covered under “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in the “Benefits” section: testicular implants implanted as part of a covered reconstructive surgery, breast prostheses needed after removal of all or part of a breast, 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, Skilled Nursing Facility, or hospital inpatient Services.

Dental and orthodontic Services

Dental and orthodontic Services such as X-rays, appliances, implants, Services provided by dentists or orthodontists, dental Services following accidental injury to teeth, and dental Services resulting from medical treatment such as surgery on the jawbone and radiation treatment.

This exclusion does not apply to the following Services:

- Services covered under “Dental and Orthodontic Services” in the “Benefits” section
- Service described under “Injury to Teeth” in the “Benefits” section
- Pediatric dental Services described in a Pediatric Dental Services Amendment to this *EOC*, if any. If your plan has a Pediatric Dental Services Amendment, it will be attached to this *EOC*, and it will be listed in the *EOC*’s Table of Contents

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 under “Durable Medical Equipment (“DME”) for Home Use,” “Home Health Care,” “Hospice Care,” “Ostomy and Urological Supplies,” and “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” in the “Benefits” 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

This exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Experimental or investigational Services when an investigational application has been filed with the federal Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) and the manufacturer or other source makes the Services available to you or Kaiser Permanente through an FDA-authorized procedure, except that we do not cover Services that are customarily provided by research sponsors free of charge to enrollees in a clinical trial or other investigational treatment protocol
- Services covered under “Services in Connection with a Clinical Trial” in the “Benefits” section

Refer to the “Dispute Resolution” section for information about Independent Medical Review related to denied requests for experimental or investigational Services.

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” 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 that this exclusion for aquatic therapy and other water therapy does not apply to therapy Services that are part of a physical therapy treatment plan and covered under “Home Health Care,” “Hospice Services,” “Hospital Inpatient Services,” “Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services,” or “Skilled Nursing Facility Care” in the “Benefits” section

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, and services of massage therapists.

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” section
- Enteral formula covered under “Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices” in the “Benefits” 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, or inpatient respite care covered in the “Hospice Care” section.

Routine foot care items and services

Routine foot care items and services that are not Medically Necessary.

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.

This exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Services covered under the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section that you receive outside the U.S.
- Experimental or investigational Services when an investigational application has been filed with the FDA and the manufacturer or other source makes the Services available to you or Kaiser Permanente through an FDA-authorized procedure, except that we do not cover Services that are customarily provided by research sponsors free of charge to enrollees in a clinical trial or other investigational treatment protocol
- Services covered under “Services in Connection with a Clinical Trial” in the “Benefits” section
- COVID-19 Services granted emergency use authorization by the FDA (COVID-19 laboratory tests, therapeutics, and immunizations must be prescribed or furnished by a licensed health care provider acting within their scope of practice and the standard of care)

Refer to the “Dispute Resolution” section for information about Independent Medical Review related to denied requests for experimental or investigational Services.

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.

This exclusion does not apply to covered Plan Doula services.

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. 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 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 emergency department 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.

Coordination of Benefits

The Services covered under this *EOC* are subject to coordination of benefits rules.

Coverage other than Medicare coverage

If you have medical or dental coverage under another plan that is subject to coordination of benefits, we will coordinate benefits with the other coverage under the coordination of benefits rules of the California

Department of Managed Health Care. Those rules are incorporated into this *EOC*.

If both the other coverage and we cover the same Service, the other coverage and we will see that up to 100 percent of your covered medical expenses are paid for that Service. The coordination of benefits rules determine which coverage pays first, or is “primary,” and which coverage pays second, or is “secondary.” The secondary coverage may reduce its payment to take into account payment by the primary coverage. You must give us any information we request to help us coordinate benefits.

If your coverage under this *EOC* is secondary, we may be able to establish a Benefit Reserve Account for you. You may draw on the Benefit Reserve Account during a calendar year to pay for your out-of-pocket expenses for Services that are partially covered by either your other coverage or us during that calendar year. If you are entitled to a Benefit Reserve Account, we will provide you with detailed information about this account.

If you have any questions about coordination of benefits, please call Member Services.

Medicare coverage

If you have Medicare coverage, we will coordinate benefits with the Medicare coverage under Medicare rules. Medicare rules determine which coverage pays first, or is “primary,” and which coverage pays second, or is “secondary.” You must give us any information we request to help us coordinate benefits. Please call Member Services to find out which Medicare 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 other parties

If you obtain a judgment or settlement from or on behalf of another party who allegedly caused an injury or illness

for which you received covered Services, you must reimburse us to the maximum extent allowed under California Civil Code Section 3040. The reimbursement due to us is not limited by or subject to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum. Note: This “Injuries or illnesses alleged to be caused by other parties” section does not affect your obligation to pay your Cost Share for these Services.

To the extent permitted or required by law, we have the option of becoming subrogated to all claims, causes of action, and other rights you may have against another 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 other 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 (1) against another party, and/or (2) from other types of coverage or sources of payment that include but are not limited to: liability, uninsured motorist, underinsured motorist, personal umbrella, workers’ compensation, and/or personal injury coverages, any other types of medical payments and all other first party types of coverages or sources of payment. The proceeds of any judgment or settlement that you or we obtain and/or payments that you receive 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.

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

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 502-214-1137

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 other party, and the other 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 another 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 other party. We may assign our rights to enforce our liens and other rights.

If you have Medicare, Medicare law may apply with respect to Services covered by Medicare.

Surrogacy Arrangements

If you enter into a Surrogacy Arrangement and you or any other payee are entitled to receive monetary 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:

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 502-214-1137

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

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

Post-Service Claims and Appeals

This “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section explains how to file a claim for payment or reimbursement for Services that you have already received. Please use the procedures in this section in the following situations:

- You have received Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, or COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, or immunization Services from a Non-Plan Provider and you want us to pay for the Services
- You have received Services from a Non-Plan Provider that we did not authorize (other than Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, or COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, or immunization Services) and you want us to pay for the Services
- You want to appeal a denial of an initial claim for payment

Please follow the procedures under “Grievances” in the “Dispute Resolution” section in the following situations:

- You want us to cover Services that you have not yet received
- You want us to continue to cover an ongoing course of covered treatment
- You want to appeal a written denial of a request for Services that require prior authorization (as described under “Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals”)

Who May File

The following people may file claims:

- You may file for yourself
- You can ask a friend, relative, attorney, or any other individual to file a claim for you by appointing them in writing as your authorized representative

- A parent may file for their child under age 18, except that the child must appoint the parent as authorized representative if the child has the legal right to control release of information that is relevant to the claim
- A court-appointed guardian may file for their ward, except that the ward must appoint the court-appointed guardian as authorized representative if the ward has the legal right to control release of information that is relevant to the claim
- A court-appointed conservator may file for their conservatee
- An agent under a currently effective health care proxy, to the extent provided under state law, may file for their principal

Authorized representatives must be appointed in writing using either our authorization form or some other form of written notification. The authorization form is available from the Member Services office at a Plan Facility, on our website at kp.org, or by calling Member Services. Your written authorization must accompany the claim. You must pay the cost of anyone you hire to represent or help you.

Supporting Documents

You can request payment or reimbursement orally or in writing. Your request for payment or reimbursement, and any related documents that you give us, constitute your claim.

Claim forms for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, and COVID-19 Services

To file a claim in writing for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, or COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, or immunization Services, please use our claim form.

You can obtain a claim form in the following ways:

- By visiting our website at kp.org
- In person from any Member Services office at a Plan Facility and from Plan Providers (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By calling Member Services at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)

Claims forms for all other Services

To file a claim in writing for all other Services, you may use our grievance form. You can obtain this form in the following ways:

- By visiting our website at kp.org

- In person from any Member Services office at a Plan Facility and from Plan Providers (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By calling Member Services at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)

Other supporting information

When you file a claim, please include any information that clarifies or supports your position. For example, if you have paid for Services, please include any bills and receipts that support your claim. To request that we pay a Non-Plan Provider for Services, include any bills from the Non-Plan Provider. If the Non-Plan Provider states that they will file the claim, you are still responsible for making sure that we receive everything we need to process the request for payment. When appropriate, we will request medical records from Plan Providers on your behalf. If you tell us that you have consulted with a Non-Plan Provider and are unable to provide copies of relevant medical records, we will contact the provider to request a copy of your relevant medical records. We will ask you to provide us a written authorization so that we can request your records.

If you want to review the information that we have collected regarding your claim, you may request, and we will provide without charge, copies of all relevant documents, records, and other information. You also have the right to request any diagnosis and treatment codes and their meanings that are the subject of your claim. To make a request, you should follow the steps in the written notice sent to you about your claim.

Initial Claims

To request that we pay a provider (or reimburse you) for Services that you have already received, you must file a claim. If you have any questions about the claims process, please call Member Services.

Submitting a claim for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, and COVID-19 Services

You may file a claim (request for payment/reimbursement):

- By visiting kp.org, completing an electronic form and uploading supporting documentation;
- By mailing a paper form that can be obtained by visiting kp.org or calling Member Services; or
- If you are unable access the electronic form (or obtain the paper form), by mailing the minimum amount of information we need to process your claim:

- ◆ 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
- ◆ A copy of the bill, your medical record(s) for these Services, and your receipt if you paid for the Services

Mailing address to submit your claim to Kaiser Permanente:

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

Please call Member Services if you need help filing your claim.

Submitting a claim for all other Services

If you have received any other Services from a Non-Plan Provider that we did not authorize, then as soon as possible after you receive the Services, you must file your claim in one of the following ways:

- By delivering your claim to a Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By mailing your claim to a Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By calling Member Services at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)
- By visiting our website at [kp.org](https://www.kp.org)

Please call Member Services if you need help filing your claim.

After we receive your claim

We will send you an acknowledgment letter within five days after we receive your claim.

After we review your claim, we will respond as follows:

- If we have all the information we need we will send you a written decision within 30 days after we receive your claim. We may extend the time for making a decision for an additional 15 days if circumstances beyond our control delay our decision, if we notify you within 30 days after we receive your claim
- If we need more information, we will ask you for the information before the end of the initial 30-day

decision period. We will send our written decision no later than 15 days after the date we receive the additional information. If we do not receive the necessary information within the timeframe specified in our letter, we will make our decision based on the information we have within 15 days after the end of that timeframe

If we pay any part of your claim, we will subtract applicable Cost Share from any payment we make to you or the Non-Plan Provider. You are not responsible for any amounts beyond your Cost Share for covered Emergency Services. If we deny your claim (if we do not agree to pay for all the Services you requested other than the applicable Cost Share), our letter will explain why we denied your claim and how you can appeal.

If you later receive any bills from the Non-Plan Provider for covered Services (other than bills for your Cost Share), please call Member Services for assistance.

Appeals

Claims for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, or COVID-19 Services from a Non-Plan Provider

If we did not decide fully in your favor and you want to appeal our decision, you may submit your appeal in one of the following ways:

- By mailing your appeal to the Claims Department at the following address:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Special Services Unit
P.O. Box 23280
Oakland, CA 94623
- By calling Member Services at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)
- By visiting our website at [kp.org](https://www.kp.org)

Claims for all other Services from a Non-Plan Provider that we did not authorize

If we did not decide fully in your favor and you want to appeal our decision, you may submit your appeal in one of the following ways:

- By visiting our website at [kp.org](https://www.kp.org)
- By mailing your appeal to any Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- In person at any Member Services office at a Plan Facility or any Plan Provider (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

- By calling Member Services at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)

When you file an appeal, please include any information that clarifies or supports your position. If you want to review the information that we have collected regarding your claim, you may request, and we will provide without charge, copies of all relevant documents, records, and other information. To make a request, you should call Member Services.

Additional information regarding claims for all other Services from a Non-Plan Provider that we did not authorize

If we initially denied your request, you must file your appeal within 180 days after the date you received our denial letter. You may send us information including comments, documents, and medical records that you believe support your claim. If we asked for additional information and you did not provide it before we made our initial decision about your claim, then you may still send us the additional information so that we may include it as part of our review of your appeal. Please send all additional information to the address or fax mentioned in your denial letter.

Also, you may give testimony in writing or by phone. Please send your written testimony to the address mentioned in our acknowledgment letter, sent to you within five days after we receive your appeal. To arrange to give testimony by phone, you should call the phone number mentioned in our acknowledgment letter.

We will add the information that you provide through testimony or other means to your appeal file and we will review it without regard to whether this information was filed or considered in our initial decision regarding your request for Services. You have the right to request any diagnosis and treatment codes and their meanings that are the subject of your claim.

We will share any additional information that we collect in the course of our review and we will send it to you. If we believe that your request should not be granted, before we issue our final decision letter, we will also share with you any new or additional reasons for that decision. We will send you a letter explaining the additional information and/or reasons. Our letters about additional information and new or additional rationales will tell you how you can respond to the information provided if you choose to do so. If you do not respond before we must issue our final decision letter, that decision will be based on the information in your appeal file.

We will send you a resolution letter within 30 days after we receive your appeal. If we do not decide in your favor, our letter will explain why and describe your further appeal rights.

External Review

You must exhaust our internal claims and appeals procedures before you may request external review unless we have failed to comply with the claims and appeals procedures described in this “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section. For information about the external review process, see “Independent Medical Review (“IMR”)” in the “Dispute Resolution” section.

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

Dispute Resolution

We are committed to providing you with quality care and with a timely response to your concerns. You can discuss your concerns with our Member Services representatives at most Plan Facilities, or you can call Member Services.

Grievances

This “Grievances” section describes our grievance procedure. A grievance is any expression of dissatisfaction expressed by you or your authorized representative through the grievance process. If you want to make a claim for payment or reimbursement for Services that you have already received from a Non-Plan Provider, please follow the procedure in the “Post-Service Claims and Appeals” section.

Here are some examples of reasons you might file a grievance:

- You are not satisfied with the quality of care you received
- You received a written denial of Services that require prior authorization from the Medical Group and you want us to cover the Services
- You received a written denial for a second opinion or we did not respond to your request for a second opinion in an expeditious manner, as appropriate for your condition
- Your treating physician has said that Services are not Medically Necessary and you want us to cover the Services
- You were told that Services are not covered and you believe that the Services should be covered
- You want us to continue to cover an ongoing course of covered treatment
- You are dissatisfied with how long it took to get Services, including getting an appointment, in the waiting room, or in the exam room
- You want to report unsatisfactory behavior by providers or staff, or dissatisfaction with the condition of a facility
- You believe you have faced discrimination from providers, staff, or Health Plan
- We terminated your membership and you disagree with that termination

Who may file

The following people may file a grievance:

- You may file for yourself
- You can ask a friend, relative, attorney, or any other individual to file a grievance for you by appointing them in writing as your authorized representative
- A parent may file for their child under age 18, except that the child must appoint the parent as authorized representative if the child has the legal right to control release of information that is relevant to the grievance
- A court-appointed guardian may file for their ward, except that the ward must appoint the court-appointed guardian as authorized representative if the ward has the legal right to control release of information that is relevant to the grievance
- A court-appointed conservator may file for their conservatee
- An agent under a currently effective health care proxy, to the extent provided under state law, may file for their principal

- Your physician may act as your authorized representative with your verbal consent to request an urgent grievance as described under “Urgent procedure” in this “Grievances” section

Authorized representatives must be appointed in writing using either our authorization form or some other form of written notification. The authorization form is available from the Member Services office at a Plan Facility, on our website at kp.org, or by calling Member Services. Your written authorization must accompany the grievance. You must pay the cost of anyone you hire to represent or help you.

How to file

You can file a grievance orally or in writing. Your grievance must explain your issue, such as the reasons why you believe a decision was in error or why you are dissatisfied with the Services you received.

Standard Procedure

To file a grievance electronically, use the grievance form on kp.org.

To file a grievance orally, call Member Services toll free at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**).

To file a grievance in writing, please use our grievance form, which is available on kp.org under “Forms & Publications,” in person from any Member Services office at a Plan Facility, or from Plan Providers (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services). You can submit the form in the following ways:

- In person at any Member Services office at a Plan Facility
- By mail to any Member Services office at a Plan Facility

You must file your grievance within 180 days following the incident or action that is subject to your dissatisfaction. You may send us information including comments, documents, and medical records that you believe support your grievance.

Please call Member Services if you need help filing a grievance.

If your grievance involves a request to obtain a non-formulary prescription drug, we will notify you of our decision within 72 hours. If we do not decide in your favor, our letter will explain why and describe your further appeal rights. For information on how to request a review by an independent review organization, see

“Independent Review Organization for Non-Formulary Prescription Drug Requests” in this “Dispute Resolution” section.

For all other grievances, we will send you an acknowledgment letter within five days after we receive your grievance. We will send you a resolution letter within 30 days after we receive your grievance. If you are requesting Services, and we do not decide in your favor, our letter will explain why and describe your further appeal rights.

If you want to review the information that we have collected regarding your grievance, you may request, and we will provide without charge, copies of all relevant documents, records, and other information. To make a request, you should call Member Services.

Urgent procedure

If you want us to consider your grievance on an urgent basis, please tell us that when you file your grievance. Note: Urgent is sometimes referred to as “exigent.” If exigent circumstances exist, your grievance may be reviewed using the urgent procedure described in this section.

You must file your urgent grievance in one of the following ways:

- By calling our Expedited Review Unit toll free at **1-888-987-7247** (TTY users call **711**)
- By mailing a written request to:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Expedited Review Unit
P.O. Box 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566
- By faxing a written request to our Expedited Review Unit toll free at **1-888-987-2252**
- By visiting a Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By completing the grievance form on our website at kp.org

We will decide whether your grievance is urgent or non-urgent unless your attending health care provider tells us your grievance is urgent. If we determine that your grievance is not urgent, we will use the procedure described under “Standard procedure” in this “Grievances” section. Generally, a grievance is urgent only if one of the following is true:

- Using the standard procedure could seriously jeopardize your life, health, or ability to regain maximum function

- Using the standard procedure would, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of your medical condition, subject you to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without extending your course of covered treatment
- A physician with knowledge of your medical condition determines that your grievance is urgent
- You have received Emergency Services but have not been discharged from a facility and your request involves admissions, continued stay, or other health care Services
- You are undergoing a current course of treatment using a non-formulary prescription drug and your grievance involves a request to refill a non-formulary prescription drug

For most grievances that we respond to on an urgent basis, we will give you oral notice of our decision as soon as your clinical condition requires, but no later than 72 hours after we received your grievance. We will send you a written confirmation of our decision within three days after we received your grievance.

If your grievance involves a request to obtain a non-formulary prescription drug and we respond to your request on an urgent basis, we will notify you of our decision within 24 hours of your request. For information on how to request a review by an independent review organization, see “Independent Review Organization for Non-Formulary Prescription Drug Requests” in this “Dispute Resolution” section.

If we do not decide in your favor, our letter will explain why and describe your further appeal rights.

Note: If you have an issue that involves an imminent and serious threat to your health (such as severe pain or potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function), you can contact the California Department of Managed Health Care at any time at **1-888-466-2219** (TDD **1-877-688-9891**) without first filing a grievance with us.

If you want to review the information that we have collected regarding your grievance, you may request, and we will provide without charge, copies of all relevant documents, records, and other information. To make a request, you should call Member Services.

Additional information regarding pre-service requests for Medically Necessary Services

You may give testimony in writing or by phone. Please send your written testimony to the address mentioned in our acknowledgment letter. To arrange to give testimony

by phone, you should call the phone number mentioned in our acknowledgment letter.

We will add the information that you provide through testimony or other means to your grievance file and we will consider it in our decision regarding your pre-service request for Medically Necessary Services.

We will share any additional information that we collect in the course of our review and we will send it to you. If we believe that your request should not be granted, before we issue our decision letter, we will also share with you any new or additional reasons for that decision. We will send you a letter explaining the additional information and/or reasons. Our letters about additional information and new or additional rationales will tell you how you can respond to the information provided if you choose to do so. If your grievance is urgent, the information will be provided to you orally and followed in writing. If you do not respond before we must issue our final decision letter, that decision will be based on the information in your grievance file.

Additional information regarding appeals of written denials for Services that require prior authorization

You must file your appeal within 180 days after the date you received our denial letter.

You have the right to request any diagnosis and treatment codes and their meanings that are the subject of your appeal.

Also, you may give testimony in writing or by phone. Please send your written testimony to the address mentioned in our acknowledgment letter. To arrange to give testimony by phone, you should call the phone number mentioned in our acknowledgment letter.

We will add the information that you provide through testimony or other means to your appeal file and we will consider it in our decision regarding your appeal.

We will share any additional information that we collect in the course of our review and we will send it to you. If we believe that your request should not be granted, before we issue our decision letter, we will also share with you any new or additional reasons for that decision. We will send you a letter explaining the additional information and/or reasons. Our letters about additional information and new or additional rationales will tell you how you can respond to the information provided if you choose to do so. If your appeal is urgent, the information will be provided to you orally and followed in writing. If you do not respond before we must issue our final

decision letter, that decision will be based on the information in your appeal file.

Additional information about utilization review determination criteria for mental health Services or substance use disorder treatment

Utilization review determination criteria and any education program materials for individuals making authorization decisions related to mental health Services or substance use disorder treatment are available at kp.org at no cost.

Independent Review Organization for Non-Formulary Prescription Drug Requests

If you filed a grievance to obtain a non-formulary prescription drug and we did not decide in your favor, you may submit a request for a review of your grievance by an independent review organization (“IRO”). You must submit your request for IRO review within 180 days of the receipt of our decision letter.

You must file your request for IRO review in one of the following ways:

- By calling our Expedited Review Unit toll free at **1-888-987-7247** (TTY users call **711**)
- By mailing a written request to:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Expedited Review Unit
P.O. Box 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566
- By faxing a written request to our Expedited Review Unit toll free at **1-888-987-2252**
- By visiting a Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)
- By completing the grievance form on our website at kp.org

For urgent IRO reviews, we will forward to you the independent reviewer’s decision within 24 hours. For non-urgent requests, we will forward the independent reviewer’s decision to you within 72 hours. If the independent reviewer does not decide in your favor, you may submit a complaint to the Department of Managed Health Care, as described under “Department of Managed Health Care Complaints” in this “Dispute Resolution” section. You may also submit a request for an Independent Medical Review as described under “Independent Medical Review” in this “Dispute Resolution” section.

Department of Managed Health Care Complaints

The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans. If you have a grievance against your health plan, you should first telephone your health plan toll free at **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**) and use your health plan's grievance process before contacting the department. Utilizing this grievance procedure does not prohibit any potential legal rights or remedies that may be available to you. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your health plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the department for assistance. You may also be eligible for an Independent Medical Review (IMR). If you are eligible for IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a health plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or urgent medical services. The department also has a toll-free telephone number (**1-888-466-2219**) and a TDD line (**1-877-688-9891**) for the hearing and speech impaired. The department's Internet website www.dmhc.ca.gov has complaint forms, IMR application forms and instructions online.

Independent Medical Review ("IMR")

Except as described in this "Independent Medical Review ("IMR")" section, you must exhaust our internal grievance procedure before you may request independent medical review unless we have failed to comply with the grievance procedure described under "Grievances" in this "Dispute Resolution" section. If you qualify, you or your authorized representative may have your issue reviewed through the IMR process managed by the California Department of Managed Health Care ("DMHC"). The DMHC determines which cases qualify for IMR. This review is at no cost to you. If you decide not to request an IMR, you may give up the right to pursue some legal actions against us.

You may qualify for IMR if all of the following are true:

- One of these situations applies to you:
 - ◆ you have a recommendation from a provider requesting Medically Necessary Services
 - ◆ you have received Emergency Services, emergency ambulance Services, or Urgent Care

from a provider who determined the Services to be Medically Necessary

- ◆ you have been seen by a Plan Provider for the diagnosis or treatment of your medical condition
- Your request for payment or Services has been denied, modified, or delayed based in whole or in part on a decision that the Services are not Medically Necessary
- You have filed a grievance and we have denied it or we haven't made a decision about your grievance within 30 days (or three days for urgent grievances). The DMHC may waive the requirement that you first file a grievance with us in extraordinary and compelling cases, such as severe pain or potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function. If we have denied your grievance, you must submit your request for an IMR within six months of the date of our written denial. However, the DMHC may accept your request after six months if they determine that circumstances prevented timely submission

You may also qualify for IMR if the Service you requested has been denied on the basis that it is experimental or investigational as described under "Experimental or investigational denials."

If the DMHC determines that your case is eligible for IMR, it will ask us to send your case to the DMHC's IMR organization. The DMHC will promptly notify you of its decision after it receives the IMR organization's determination. If the decision is in your favor, we will contact you to arrange for the Service or payment.

Experimental or investigational denials

If we deny a Service because it is experimental or investigational, we will send you our written explanation within three days after we received your request. We will explain why we denied the Service and provide additional dispute resolution options. Also, we will provide information about your right to request Independent Medical Review if we had the following information when we made our decision:

- Your treating physician provided us a written statement that you have a life-threatening or seriously debilitating condition and that standard therapies have not been effective in improving your condition, or that standard therapies would not be appropriate, or that there is no more beneficial standard therapy we cover than the therapy being requested. "Life-threatening" means diseases or conditions where the likelihood of death is high unless the course of the disease is interrupted, or diseases or conditions with potentially fatal outcomes where the end point of clinical intervention is survival. "Seriously

debilitating” means diseases or conditions that cause major irreversible morbidity

- If your treating physician is a Plan Physician, they recommended a treatment, drug, device, procedure, or other therapy and certified that the requested therapy is likely to be more beneficial to you than any available standard therapies and included a statement of the evidence relied upon by the Plan Physician in certifying their recommendation
- You (or your Non-Plan Physician who is a licensed, and either a board-certified or board-eligible, physician qualified in the area of practice appropriate to treat your condition) requested a therapy that, based on two documents from the medical and scientific evidence, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 1370.4(d), is likely to be more beneficial for you than any available standard therapy. The physician’s certification included a statement of the evidence relied upon by the physician in certifying their recommendation. We do not cover the Services of the Non-Plan Provider

Note: You can request IMR for experimental or investigational denials at any time without first filing a grievance with us.

Office of Civil Rights Complaints

If you believe that you have been discriminated against by a Plan Provider or by us because of your race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex (including sex stereotyping and gender identity), or religion, you may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“OCR”).

You may file your complaint with the OCR within 180 days of when you believe the act of discrimination occurred. However, the OCR may accept your request after six months if they determine that circumstances prevented timely submission. For more information on the OCR and how to file a complaint with the OCR, go to hhs.gov/civil-rights.

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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Legal Department, Professional & Public Liability
1 Kaiser Plaza, 19th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025). 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.

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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025.

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.

Termination for Cause

If you intentionally commit fraud in connection with membership, Health Plan, or a Plan Provider, we may terminate your membership by sending written notice to the Subscriber; termination will be effective 30 days from the date we send the notice. Some examples of fraud include:

- Misrepresenting eligibility information about you or a Dependent
- Presenting an invalid prescription or physician order
- Misusing a Kaiser Permanente ID card (or letting someone else use it)
- Giving us incorrect or incomplete material information. For example, you have entered into a Surrogacy Arrangement and you fail to send us the information we require under "Surrogacy Arrangements" under "Reductions" in the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section
- Failing to notify us of changes in family status or Medicare coverage that may affect your eligibility or benefits

If we terminate your membership for cause, you will not be allowed to enroll in Health Plan in the future. We may also report criminal fraud and other illegal acts to the authorities for prosecution.

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 "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" and "Dispute Resolution" sections

We will deduct any amounts you owe Health Plan or Plan Providers from any payment we make to you.

State Review of Membership Termination

If you believe that we have terminated your membership because of your ill health or your need for care, you may request a review of the termination by the California Department of Managed Health Care (please see "Department of Managed Health Care Complaints" in the "Dispute Resolution" section).

Continuation of Membership

If your membership under this *EOC* ends, you may be eligible to continue Health Plan membership without a break in coverage. You may be able to continue Group coverage under this *EOC* as described under "Continuation of Group Coverage." Also, you may be able to continue membership under an individual plan as described under "Continuation of Coverage under an Individual Plan." If at any time you become entitled to continuation of Group coverage, please examine your coverage options carefully before declining this coverage. Individual plan premiums and coverage will be different from the premiums and coverage under your Group plan.

Continuation of Group Coverage

COBRA

You may be able to continue your coverage under this *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.

If you enroll in COBRA and exhaust the time limit for COBRA coverage, you may be able to continue Group coverage under state law as described under “Cal-COBRA” in this “Continuation of Group Coverage” section.

Cal-COBRA

If you are eligible for coverage under the California Continuation Benefits Replacement Act (“Cal-COBRA”), you can continue coverage as described in this “Cal-COBRA” section if you apply for coverage in compliance with Cal-COBRA law and pay applicable Premiums.

Eligibility and effective date of coverage for Cal-COBRA after COBRA

If your group is subject to COBRA and your COBRA coverage ends, you may be able to continue Group coverage effective the date your COBRA coverage ends if all of the following are true:

- Your effective date of COBRA coverage was on or after January 1, 2003
- You have exhausted the time limit for COBRA coverage and that time limit was 18 or 29 months
- You do not have Medicare

You must request an enrollment application by calling Member Services within 60 days of the date of when your COBRA coverage ends.

Cal-COBRA enrollment and Premiums

Within 10 days of your request for an enrollment application, we will send you our application, which will include Premium and billing information. You must return your completed application within 63 days of the date of our termination letter or of your membership termination date (whichever date is later).

If we approve your enrollment application, we will send you billing information within 30 days after we receive your application. You must pay Full Premiums within 45 days after the date we issue the bill. The first Premium payment will include coverage from your Cal-COBRA effective date through our current billing cycle. You

must send us the Premium payment by the due date on the bill to be enrolled in Cal-COBRA.

After that first payment, your Premium payment for the upcoming coverage month is due on the last day of the preceding month. The Premiums will not exceed 110 percent of the applicable Premiums charged to a similarly situated individual under the Group benefit plan except that Premiums for disabled individuals after 18 months of COBRA coverage will not exceed 150 percent instead of 110 percent. Returned checks or insufficient funds on electronic payments may be subject to a fee.

If you have selected Ancillary Coverage provided under any other program, the Premium for that Ancillary Coverage will be billed together with required Premiums for coverage under this *EOC*. Full Premiums will then also include Premium for Ancillary Coverage. This means if you do not pay the Full Premiums owed by the due date, we may terminate your membership under this *EOC* and any Ancillary Coverage, as described in the “Termination for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums” section.

Changes to Cal-COBRA coverage and Premiums

Your Cal-COBRA coverage is the same as for any similarly situated individual under your Group’s *Agreement*, and your Cal-COBRA coverage and Premiums will change at the same time that coverage or Premiums change in your Group’s *Agreement*. Your Group’s coverage and Premiums will change on the renewal date of its *Agreement* (January 1), and may also change at other times if your Group’s *Agreement* is amended. Your monthly invoice will reflect the current Premiums that are due for Cal-COBRA coverage, including any changes. For example, if your Group makes a change that affects Premiums retroactively, the amount we bill you will be adjusted to reflect the retroactive adjustment in Premiums. Your Group can tell you whether this *EOC* is still in effect and give you a current one if this *EOC* has expired or been amended. You can also request one from Member Services.

Cal-COBRA open enrollment or termination of another health plan

If you previously elected Cal-COBRA coverage through another health plan available through your Group, you may be eligible to enroll in Kaiser Permanente during your Group’s annual open enrollment period, or if your Group terminates its agreement with the health plan you are enrolled in. You will be entitled to Cal-COBRA coverage only for the remainder, if any, of the coverage period prescribed by Cal-COBRA. Please ask your Group for information about health plans available to

you either at open enrollment or if your Group terminates a health plan's agreement.

In order for you to switch from another health plan and continue your Cal-COBRA coverage with us, we must receive your enrollment application during your Group's open enrollment period, or within 63 days of receiving the Group's termination notice described under "Group responsibilities." To request an application, please call Member Services. We will send you our enrollment application and you must return your completed application before open enrollment ends or within 63 days of receiving the termination notice described under "Group responsibilities." If we approve your enrollment application, we will send you billing information within 30 days after we receive your application. You must pay the bill within 45 days after the date we issue the bill. You must send us the Premium payment by the due date on the bill to be enrolled in Cal-COBRA.

How you may terminate your Cal-COBRA coverage

You may terminate your Cal-COBRA coverage by sending written notice, signed by the Subscriber, to the address below. Your membership will terminate at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the month in which we receive your notice. Also, you must include with your notice all amounts payable related to your Cal-COBRA coverage, including Premiums, for the period prior to your termination date.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 23127
San Diego, CA 92193-3127

Termination for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums

If you do not pay Full Premiums by the due date, we may terminate your membership as described in this "Termination for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums" section. If you intend to terminate your membership, be sure to notify us as described under "How you may terminate your Cal-COBRA coverage" in this "Cal-COBRA" section, as you will be responsible for any Premiums billed to you unless you let us know before the first of the coverage month that you want us to terminate your coverage.

Your Premium payment for the upcoming coverage month is due on the last day of the preceding month. If we do not receive Full Premium payment by the due date, we will send a notice of nonreceipt of payment to the Subscriber's address of record. You will have a 30-day grace period to pay the required Premiums before we terminate your Cal-COBRA coverage for nonpayment. The notice will state when the grace period begins and

when the memberships of the Subscriber and all Dependents will terminate if the required Premiums are not paid. Your coverage will continue during this grace period. If we do not receive Full Premium payment by the end of the grace period, we will mail a termination notice to the Subscriber's address of record. After termination of your membership for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums, you are still responsible for paying all amounts due, including Premiums for the grace period.

Reinstatement of your membership after termination for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums

If we terminate your membership for nonpayment of Premiums, we will permit reinstatement of your membership three times during any 12-month period if we receive the amounts owed within 15 days of the date of the Termination Notice. We will not reinstate your membership if you do not obtain reinstatement of your terminated membership within the required 15 days, or if we terminate your membership for nonpayment of Premiums more than three times in a 12-month period.

Termination of Cal-COBRA coverage

Cal-COBRA coverage continues only upon payment of applicable monthly Premiums to us at the time we specify, and terminates on the earliest of:

- The date your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates (you may still be eligible for Cal-COBRA through another Group health plan)
- The date you get Medicare
- The date your coverage begins under any other group health plan that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition you may have (or that does contain such an exclusion or limitation, but it has been satisfied)
- The date that is 36 months after your original COBRA effective date (under this or any other plan)
- The date your membership is terminated for nonpayment of Premiums as described under "Termination for nonpayment of Cal-COBRA Premiums" in this "Continuation of Membership" section

Note: If the Social Security Administration determined that you were disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA coverage, you must notify your Group within 60 days of receiving the determination from Social Security. Also, if Social Security issues a final determination that you are no longer disabled in the 35th or 36th month of Group continuation coverage, your Cal-COBRA coverage will end the later of: (1) expiration of 36 months after your original COBRA effective date, or (2) the first day of the first month following 31 days after

Social Security issued its final determination. You must notify us within 30 days after you receive Social Security's final determination that you are no longer disabled.

Group responsibilities

If your Group's agreement with a health plan is terminated, your Group is required to provide written notice at least 30 days before the termination date to the persons whose Cal-COBRA coverage is terminating. This notice must inform Cal-COBRA beneficiaries that they can continue Cal-COBRA coverage by enrolling in any health benefit plan offered by your Group. It must also include information about benefits, premiums, payment instructions, and enrollment forms (including instructions on how to continue Cal-COBRA coverage under the new health plan). Your Group is required to send this information to the person's last known address, as provided by the prior health plan. Health Plan is not obligated to provide this information to qualified beneficiaries if your Group fails to provide the notice. These persons will be entitled to Cal-COBRA coverage only for the remainder, if any, of the coverage period prescribed by Cal-COBRA.

USERRA

If you are called to active duty in the uniformed services, you may be able to continue your coverage under this *EOC* for a limited time after you would otherwise lose eligibility, if required by the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA"). You must submit a USERRA election form to your Group within 60 days after your call to active duty. Please contact your Group to find out how to elect USERRA coverage and how much you must pay your Group.

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.

Continuation of Coverage under an Individual Plan

If you want to remain a Health Plan member when your Group coverage ends, you might be able to enroll in one of our Kaiser Permanente for Individuals and Families plans. The premiums and coverage under our individual plan coverage are different from those under this *EOC*.

If you want your individual plan coverage to be effective when your Group coverage ends, you must submit your application within the special enrollment period for enrolling in an individual plan due to loss of other coverage. Otherwise, you will have to wait until the next annual open enrollment period.

To request an application to enroll directly with us, please go to buykp.org or call Member Services. For information about plans that are available through Covered California, see "Covered California" below.

Covered California

U.S. citizens or legal residents of the U.S. can buy health care coverage from Covered California. This is California's health benefit exchange ("the Exchange"). You may apply for help to pay for premiums and copayments but only if you buy coverage through Covered California. This financial assistance may be available if you meet certain income guidelines. To learn more about coverage that is available through Covered

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*.

Advance Directives

The California Health Care Decision Law offers several ways for you to control the kind of health care you will receive if you become very ill or unconscious, including the following:

- A *Power of Attorney for Health Care* lets you name someone to make health care decisions for you when you cannot speak for yourself. It also lets you write down your own views on life support and other treatments
- *Individual health care instructions* let you express your wishes about receiving life support and other treatment. You can express these wishes to your doctor and have them documented in your medical chart, or you can put them in writing and have that included in your medical chart

To learn more about advance directives, including how to obtain forms and instructions, contact the Member Services office at a Plan Facility. For more information about advance directives, refer to our website at [kp.org](https://www.kp.org) or call Member Services.

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 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 call 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 (or five days if we terminate your Group's *Agreement*) after receiving the information from us. The Subscriber is also responsible for notifying Group of any change in contact information.

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.

Privacy Practices

Kaiser Permanente will protect the privacy of your protected health information. We also require contracting providers to protect your protected health information. Your protected health information is individually-identifiable information (oral, written, or electronic) about your health, health care services you receive, or payment for your health care. You may generally see and receive copies of your protected health information, correct or update your protected health information, and ask us for an accounting of certain disclosures of your protected health information.

You can request delivery of confidential communication to a location other than your usual address or by a means of delivery other than the usual means. You may request confidential communication by completing a confidential communication request form, which is available on [kp.org](https://www.kp.org) under "Request for confidential communications forms." Your request for confidential communication will be valid until you submit a revocation or a new request for confidential communication. If you have questions, please call Member Services.

We may use or disclose your protected health information for treatment, health research,

payment, and health care operations purposes, such as measuring the quality of Services. We are sometimes required by law to give protected health information to others, such as government agencies or in judicial actions. In addition, protected health information is shared with your Group only with your authorization or as otherwise permitted by law.

We will not use or disclose your protected health information for any other purpose without your (or your representative's) written authorization, except as described in our *Notice of Privacy Practices* (see below). Giving us authorization is at your discretion.

This is only a brief summary of some of our key privacy practices. **OUR NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES, WHICH PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRIVACY PRACTICES AND YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION, IS AVAILABLE AND WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.** To request a copy, please call Member Services. You can also find the notice at a Plan Facility or on our website at kp.org.

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 about.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

Helpful Information

How to Obtain this EOC in Other Formats

You can request a copy of this *EOC* in an alternate format (Braille, audio, electronic text file, or large print) by calling Member Services.

Provider Directory

Refer to the Provider Directory for your Home Region for the following information:

- A list of Plan Physicians
- The location of Plan Facilities and the types of covered Services that are available from each facility
- Hours of operation
- Appointments and advice phone numbers

This directory is available on our website at kp.org. 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.

Online Tools and Resources

Here are some tools and resources available on our website at kp.org:

- How to use our Services and make appointments
- Tools you can use to email your doctor's office, view test results, refill prescriptions, and schedule routine appointments
- Health education resources
- Preventive care guidelines
- Member rights and responsibilities

You can also access tools and resources using the KP app on your smartphone or other mobile device.

Document Delivery Preferences

Many Health Plan documents are available electronically, such as bills, statements, and notices. If you prefer to get documents in electronic format, go to kp.org or call Member Services. You can change delivery preference at any time. To get a copy of a specific Health Plan document in printed format, call Member Services.

How to Reach Us

Appointments

If you need to make an appointment, please call us or visit our website:

Call The appointment phone number at a Plan Facility (for phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Website kp.org for routine (non-urgent) appointments with your personal Plan Physician or another Primary Care Physician

Not sure what kind of care you need?

If you need advice on whether to get medical care, or how and when to get care, we have licensed health care professionals available to assist you by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

Call The appointment or advice phone number at a Plan Facility (for phone numbers, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Member Services

If you have questions or concerns about your coverage, how to obtain Services, or the facilities where you can receive care, you can reach us in the following ways:

Call **1-800-464-4000** (English and more than 150 languages using interpreter services)
1-800-788-0616 (Spanish)
1-800-757-7585 (Chinese dialects)
TTY users call **711**

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

Visit Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Write Member Services office at a Plan Facility (for addresses, refer to our Provider Directory or call Member Services)

Website kp.org

Estimates, bills, and statements

For the following concerns, please call us at the number below:

- If you have questions about a bill
- To find out how much you have paid toward your Plan Deductible (if applicable) or Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum
- To get an estimate of Charges for Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible (if applicable)

Call **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

Website kp.org

Away from Home Travel Line

If you have questions about your coverage when you are away from home:

Call **1-951-268-3900**

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

Website kp.org/travel

Authorization for Post-Stabilization Care

To request prior authorization for Post-Stabilization Care as described under “Emergency Services” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section:

Call **1-800-225-8883** or the notification phone number on your Kaiser Permanente ID card (TTY users call **711**)

24 hours a day, seven days a week

Help with claim forms for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, and COVID-19 Services

If you need a claim form to request payment or reimbursement for Services described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits” section, or COVID-19 Services under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section, or if you need help completing the form, you can reach us by calling or by visiting our website.

Call **1-800-464-4000** (TTY users call **711**)

24 hours a day, seven days a week (closed holidays)

Website kp.org

Submitting claims for Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, and COVID-19 Services

If you need to submit a completed claim form for Services described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section, under “Ambulance Services” in the “Benefits” section, or COVID-19 Services under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic

and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits” section, or if you need to submit other information that we request about your claim, send it to our Claims Department:

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

Text 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**.

Interpreter services

If you need interpreter services when you call us or when you get covered Services, please let us know. Interpreter services, including sign language, are available during all business hours at no cost to you. For more information on the interpreter services we offer, please call Member Services.

Payment Responsibility

This “Payment Responsibility” section briefly explains who is responsible for payments related to the health care coverage described in this *EOC*. Payment responsibility is more fully described in other sections of the *EOC* as described below:

- Your Group is responsible for paying Premiums, except that you are responsible for paying Premiums if you have COBRA or Cal-COBRA (refer to “Premiums” in the “Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment” section and “COBRA” and “Cal-COBRA” under “Continuation of Group Coverage” in the “Continuation of Membership” section)
- Your Group may require you to contribute to Premiums (your Group will tell you the amount and how to pay)
- You are responsible for paying your Cost Share for covered Services (refer to the “Cost Share Summary” section)
- If you receive Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, or COVID-19 Services from a Non-Plan Provider, or if you receive emergency ambulance Services, you must pay the provider and file a claim for reimbursement unless the provider agrees to bill us (refer to “Payment and Reimbursement” in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section)

- If you receive Services from Non-Plan Providers that we did not authorize (other than Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, Out-of-Area Urgent Care, emergency ambulance Services, or COVID-19 Services) and you want us to pay for the care, you must submit a grievance (refer to “Grievances” in the “Dispute Resolution” section)
- If you have coverage with another plan or with Medicare, we will coordinate benefits with the other coverage (refer to “Coordination of Benefits” in the “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section)
- In some situations, you or another party may be responsible for reimbursing us for covered Services (refer to “Reductions” in the “Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions” section)
- You must pay the full price for noncovered Services

Important Notices

Language Assistance Services

English: Language assistance is available at no cost to you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can request interpreter services, or materials translated into your language or alternative formats. You can also request auxiliary aids and devices at our facilities. Call our Member Service Contact Center for help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed holidays).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- All others: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Arabic: خدمات الترجمة الفورية متوفرة لك مجاناً على مدار الساعة كافة أيام الأسبوع. بإمكانك طلب خدمة الترجمة الفورية أو ترجمة وثائقك أو لصيغ أخرى. يمكنك أيضاً طلب مساعدات إضافية وأجهزة في مرافقتنا. اتصل مع مركز اتصال خدمة الأعضاء لدينا، على مدار 24 ساعة في اليوم و 7 أيام في الأسبوع (العطلات مغلق).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- جميع الآخرين: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Armenian: Ձեզ կարող է անվճար լեզվական աջակցություն տրամադրվել օրը 24 ժամ, շաբաթը 7 օր: Դուք կարող եք պահանջել բանավոր թարգմանչի ծառայություններ, Ձեր լեզվով թարգմանված կամ այլընտրանքային ձևաչափով պատրաստված նյութեր: Դուք նաև կարող եք խնդրել օժանդակ օգնություններ և սարքեր մեր հաստատություններում: Օգնության համար զանգահարեք մեր Անդամների սպասարկման կապի կենտրոն օրը 24 ժամ, շաբաթը 7 օր (տոն օրերին փակ է):

- Medi-Cal` **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- Այլ` **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Chinese: 我们每周 7 天，每天 24 小时免费提供语言帮助。您可以要求提供口译员、或将材料翻译为您所用语言或其他格式。您还可以在我们的设施中要求使用辅助工具和设备。请打电话给我们的会员服务联络中心，服务时间为每周 7 天，每天 24 小时（节假日除外）。

- 所有会员: **1-800-757-7585 (TTY 711)**

Farsi: خدمات زبانی در 24 ساعت شبانهروز و 7 روز هفته بهصورت رایگان در اختیار شماست. می‌توانید خدمات مترجم شفاهی، یا ترجمه مدارک به زبان خود یا به فرمت‌های دیگر را درخواست کنید. همچنین می‌توانید دستگاه‌ها و کمک‌های دیگر را در مراکز ما درخواست نمایید. برای دریافت کمک، در 24 ساعت شبانهروز و 7 روز هفته (به‌جز تعطیلات) با مرکز تماس خدمات اعضای ما تماس بگیرید.

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- سایر: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Hindi: बिना किसी लागत के भाषा सहायता, दिन के 24 घंटे, सप्ताह के सातों दिन उपलब्ध हैं। आप दुभाषिये की सेवाओं के लिए, या बिना किसी लागत के सामग्रियों को अपनी भाषा में अनुवाद करवाने के लिए, या वैकल्पिक प्रारूपों का अनुरोध कर सकते हैं। आप हमारे सुविधा-स्थलों में सहायक साधनों और उपकरणों के लिए भी अनुरोध कर सकते हैं। सहायता के लिए हमारी सदस्य सेवाओं के सम्पर्क केंद्र को, दिन के 24 घंटे, सप्ताह के सातों दिन (छुट्टियों वाले दिन बंद रहता है) कॉल करें।

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- बाकी दूसरे: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Hmong: Muaj kev pab txhais lus pub dawb rau koj, 24 teev tuaj ib hnuv twg, 7 hnuv tuaj ib lim tiam twg. Koj thov tau cov kev pab txhais lus, muab cov ntaub ntawv txhais ua koj hom lus, los yog ua lwm hom. Koj kuj thov tau lwm yam kev pab thiab khoom siv hauv peb tej tsev hauj lwm. Hu rau peb Qhov Chaw Pab Cov Tswv Cuab 24 teev tuaj ib hnuv twg, 7 hnuv tuaj ib lim tiam twg (cov hnuv caiv kaw).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- Dua lwm cov: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Japanese: 多言語による情報支援を無料で24時間年中無休でご利用いただけます。通訳サービス、日本語に翻訳された資料、あるいは別の形式による資料もご希望いただけます。また、当施設における補助的な支援や機器についてもご希望いただけます。お気軽にご連絡ください（祝祭日を除き24時間週7日）。

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- その他のご連絡先: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Khmer (Cambodian): ជំនួយភាសា គឺឥតគិតថ្លៃដល់អ្នកឡើយ 24 ម៉ោងក្នុងមួយថ្ងៃ 7 ថ្ងៃក្នុងមួយសប្តាហ៍។ អ្នកអាចស្នើសុំសេវាអ្នកបកប្រែ ឬឯកសារដែលបានបកប្រែ ជាភាសាខ្មែរ ឬទម្រង់ជំនួសផ្សេងៗទៀត។ អ្នកក៏អាចស្នើសុំឧបករណ៍និងបរិក្ខារជំនួយ ទំនាក់ទំនងសម្រាប់អ្នកពិការនៅទីតាំងរបស់យើងផងដែរ។ ទូរស័ព្ទទៅមជ្ឈមណ្ឌល ទំនាក់ទំនងសេវាកម្មសមាជិករបស់យើងសម្រាប់ជំនួយ 24 ម៉ោងក្នុងមួយថ្ងៃ 7 ថ្ងៃក្នុងមួយសប្តាហ៍ (ថ្ងៃឈប់សម្រាកបិទ)។

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- ផ្សេងទៀតទាំងអស់: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Korean: 요일 및 시간에 관계없이 언어지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 귀하는 통역 서비스 또는 귀하의 언어로 번역된 자료 또는 대체 형식의 자료를 요청할 수 있습니다. 또한 저희 시설에서 보조기구 및 기기를 요청하실 수 있습니다. 저희 가입자 서비스 연락 센터에 주 7 일, 하루 24 시간(공휴일 휴무) 전화하셔서 도움을 받으십시오.

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- 기타 모든 경우: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Laotian: ມີການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າໃຫ້ແກ່ທ່ານ, 24 ຊົ່ວໂມງຕໍ່ວັນ, 7 ວັນຕໍ່ອາທິດ. ທ່ານຍັງສາມາດຂໍບໍລິການຜູ້ແປພາສາ ຫຼື ເອກະສານທີ່ແປເປັນພາສາຂອງທ່ານ ຫຼື ໃນຮູບແບບອື່ນໄດ້. ທ່ານຍັງສາມາດຂໍອຸປະກອນຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ ແລະ ເຄື່ອງມືຢູ່ສະຖານບໍລິການຂອງພວກເຮົາໄດ້. ໂທຫາສູນຕິດຕໍ່ບໍລິການສະມາຊິກຂອງພວກເຮົາເພື່ອຂໍຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ, 24 ຊົ່ວໂມງຕໍ່ວັນ, 7 ວັນຕໍ່ອາທິດ (ປິດໃນວັນພັກ).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613** (TTY 711)
- ອື່ນໆທັງໝົດ: **1-800-464-4000** (TTY 711)

Mien: Mbenc nzoih liouh wangv-henh tengx nzie faan waac bun muangx meih maiv cingv, yietc hnoi mbenc maaiah 24 norm ziangh hoc, yietc norm leiz baaix mbenc maaiah 7 hnoi. Meih se haih tov heuc tengx faan benx meih nyei waac bun muangx, a'fai zoux benx nyungc horngh jaa-sic zoux benx meih nyei waac. Meih corc haih tov tengx nyungc horngh jaa-dorngx aengx caux jaa-sic nzie bun yiem njiec zorc goux baengc zingh gorn zangc. Beiv hnavg qiemx zuqc longc mienh nzie weih nor douc waac lorx taux yie mbuo ziux goux baengc mienh nyei gorn zangc, yietc hnoi tengx duqv 24 norm ziangh hoc, yietc norm leiz baaix tengx duqv 7 hnoi (simv cuotv gingc nyei hnoi se guon oc).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613** (TTY 711)
- Yietc zungv da'nyeic deix: **1-800-464-4000** (TTY 711)

Navajo: Díí hózhó nízhoní bee hane' dóó jík'ah jóóní dooníwo'. Ndik'é yádi naaltsoos bee haz'áanii bee hane' dóó yádi nihookaa dóó nádaáhágíí yádi nihookaa. Shí éí bee háidíníí bíbee' haz'áanii dóó bee t'ah kodí bízíkiníí wo'da'gí doolyé. Ahéhee' bik'ehgo nohólqon'ígíí, 24 t'áadawo'íí, 7 t'áadawo'íígo (t'áadoo t'áálwo').

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613** (TTY 711)
- Yadilzingo bílk'ehgo bee: **1-800-464-4000** (TTY 711)

Punjabi: ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਿਸੀ ਲਾਗਤ ਦੇ, ਦਿਨ ਦੇ 24 ਘੰਟੇ, ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਦੇ 7 ਦਿਨ, ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। ਤੁਸੀਂ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਲਈ, ਜਾਂ ਸਮੱਗਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੱਖ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ। ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਸੁਵਿਧਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਸਾਧਨਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਪਕਰਣਾਂ ਲਈ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੂੰ, ਦਿਨ ਦੇ 24 ਘੰਟੇ, ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਦੇ 7 ਦਿਨ (ਛੁੱਟੀਆਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਬੰਦ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ) ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613** (TTY 711)
- ਹੋਰ ਸਾਰੇ: **1-800-464-4000** (TTY 711)

Russian: Языковая помощь доступна для вас бесплатно круглосуточно, ежедневно. Вы можете запросить услуги переводчика или материалы, переведенные на ваш язык или в альтернативные форматы. Вы также можете заказать вспомогательные средства и приспособления. Для получения помощи позвоните в наш центр обслуживания участников ежедневно, круглосуточно (кроме праздничных дней).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613** (линия TTY 711)
- Все остальные: **1-800-464-4000** (линия TTY 711)

Spanish: Tenemos disponible asistencia en su idioma sin ningún costo para usted 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana. Usted puede solicitar los servicios de un intérprete, que los materiales se traduzcan a su idioma o formatos alternativos. También puede solicitar recursos para discapacidades en nuestros centros de atención. Llame a nuestra Central de Llamadas de Servicio a los Miembros para recibir ayuda 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana (excepto los días festivos).

- Para todos los demás: **1-800-788-0616 (TTY 711)**

Tagalog: May magagamit na tulong sa wika nang wala kayong babayaran, 24 na oras sa isang araw, 7 araw sa isang linggo. Maaari kayong humiling ng mga serbisyo ng interpreter, o mga babasahin na isinalin sa inyong wika o sa mga alternatibong format. Maaari rin kayong humiling ng mga pantulong na gamit at device sa aming mga pasilidad. Tawagan ang aming Center sa Pakikipag-ugnayan ng Serbisyo sa Miyembro para sa tulong, 24 na oras sa isang araw, 7 araw sa isang linggo (sarado sa mga pista opisyal).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- Lahat ng iba pa: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Thai: มีบริการช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาตลอด 24 ชั่วโมงทุกวันโดยไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย โดยคุณสามารถขอใช้บริการล่าม บริการแปลเอกสารเป็นภาษาของคุณหรือในรูปแบบอื่นๆ ได้ คุณสามารถขออุปกรณ์และเครื่องมือช่วยเหลือได้ที่ศูนย์บริการของเราโดยโทรหาเราที่ศูนย์ติดต่อฝ่ายบริการสมาชิกของเราเพื่อขอความช่วยเหลือตลอด 24 ชั่วโมงทุกวัน (ปิดทำการในช่วงวันหยุด)

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- ที่อื่นๆทั้งหมด: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Ukrainian: Послуги перекладача надаються безкоштовно, цілодобово, 7 днів на тиждень. Ви можете зробити запит на послуги усного перекладача або отримання матеріалів у перекладі мовою, якою володієте, чи в альтернативних форматах. Також ви можете зробити запит на отримання допоміжних засобів і пристроїв у закладах нашої мережі компаній. Телефонуйте в наш контактний центр для обслуговування клієнтів цілодобово, 7 днів на тиждень (крім святкових днів).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- Усі інші: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Vietnamese: Dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ được cung cấp miễn phí cho quý vị 24 giờ mỗi ngày, 7 ngày trong tuần. Quý vị có thể yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch, hoặc tài liệu được dịch ra ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoặc nhiều hình thức khác. Quý vị cũng có thể yêu cầu các phương tiện trợ giúp và thiết bị hỗ trợ tại các cơ sở của chúng tôi. Gọi cho Trung Tâm Liên Lạc ban Dịch Vụ Hội Viên của chúng tôi để được trợ giúp, 24 giờ mỗi ngày, 7 ngày trong tuần (trừ các ngày lễ).

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- Mọi chương trình khác: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Nondiscrimination Notice

Discrimination is against the law. Kaiser Permanente¹ follows State and Federal civil rights laws.

Kaiser Permanente does not unlawfully discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently because of age, race, ethnic group identification, color, national origin, cultural background, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, source of payment, genetic information, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status.

Kaiser Permanente provides the following services:

- No-cost aids and services to people with disabilities to help them communicate better with us, such as:
 - ◆ Qualified sign language interpreters
 - ◆ Written information in other formats (braille, large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, and other formats)
- 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 our Member Service Contact Center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed holidays). The call is free:

- Medi-Cal: **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**
- All others: **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**

Upon request, this document can be made available to you in braille, large print, audiocassette, or electronic form. To obtain a copy in one of these alternative formats, or another format, call our Member Service Contact Center and ask for the format you need.

How to file a grievance with Kaiser Permanente

You can file a discrimination grievance with Kaiser Permanente if you believe we have failed to provide these services or unlawfully discriminated in another way. You can file a grievance by phone, by mail, in person, or online. Please refer to your *Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Insurance* for details. You can call Member Services for more information on the options that apply to you, or for help filing a grievance. You may file a discrimination grievance in the following ways:

- **By phone:** Medi-Cal members may call **1-855-839-7613 (TTY 711)**. All other members may call **1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711)**. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed holidays)
- **By mail:** Download a form at **kp.org** or call Member Services and ask them to send you a form that you can send back.

¹ Kaiser Permanente is inclusive of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, The Permanente Medical Group, and the Southern California Medical Group

- **In person:** Fill out a Complaint or Benefit Claim/Request form at a member services office located at a Plan Facility (go to your provider directory at kp.org/facilities for addresses)
- **Online:** Use the online form on our website at **kp.org**

You may also contact the Kaiser Permanente Civil Rights Coordinator directly at the addresses below:

Attn: Kaiser Permanente Civil Rights Coordinator
 Member Relations Grievance Operations
 P.O. Box 939001
 San Diego CA 92193

How to file a grievance with the California Department of Health Care Services Office of Civil Rights *(For Medi-Cal Beneficiaries Only)*

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the California Department of Health Care Services Office of Civil Rights in writing, by phone or by email:

- **By phone:** Call DHCS Office of Civil Rights at **916-440-7370** (TTY **711**)
- **By mail:** Fill out a complaint form or send a letter to:

Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights
 Department of Health Care Services
 Office of Civil Rights
 P.O. Box 997413, MS 0009
 Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Complaint forms are available at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/Language_Access.aspx

- **Online:** Send an email to CivilRights@dhcs.ca.gov

How to file a grievance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights

You can file a discrimination complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. You can file your complaint in writing, by phone, or online:

- **By phone:** Call **1-800-368-1019** (TTY **711** or **1-800-537-7697**)
- **By mail:** Fill out a complaint form or send a letter to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 200 Independence Avenue, SW
 Room 509F, HHH Building
 Washington, D.C. 20201

Complaint forms are available at:

<https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html>

- **Online:** Visit the Office of Civil Rights Complaint Portal at:
<https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>



**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Northern California Region**

A nonprofit corporation and a Medicare Advantage Organization

**EOC #5 - Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage
(HMO) with Part D when Medicare is secondary coverage
Evidence of Coverage for
KYOCERA SLD LASER, INC.**

Group ID: 708096 Contract: 1 Version: 25 EOC Number: 5 Issue Date: September 25, 2024

January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

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 our Member Services number 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.

*Este documento está disponible de manera gratuita en español. Si desea información adicional, llame al número de nuestro Servicio a los Miembros al **1-800-443-0815**. (Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711). El horario de atención es de 8 a. m. a 8 p. m., los 7 días de la semana.*

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

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Benefit Highlights

Plan Deductible	None
Plan Provider Office Visits	You Pay
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
Telehealth Visits	You Pay
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
Outpatient Services	You Pay
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
Hospitalization Services	You Pay
Room and board, surgery, anesthesia, X-rays, laboratory tests, and drugs..	No charge
Emergency Health Coverage	You Pay
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).	
Ambulance and Transportation Services	You Pay
Ambulance Services	No charge
Prescription Drug Coverage	You Pay
This plan covers Medicare Part D prescription drugs in accord with our Part D formulary.	
<i>Initial coverage stage</i> —until you have spent \$2,000 in 2025. (If you spend \$2,000, you move on to the catastrophic coverage stage).....	
	No charge for up to a 100-day supply
<i>Catastrophic coverage stage</i>	No charge
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	You Pay
Covered durable medical equipment for home use as described in this EOC.....	
	No charge
Mental Health Services	You Pay
Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization	No charge
Individual outpatient mental health evaluation and treatment.....	No charge
Group outpatient mental health treatment	No charge
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	You Pay
Inpatient detoxification.....	No charge
Individual outpatient substance use disorder evaluation and treatment	No charge

Substance Use Disorder Treatment	You Pay
Group outpatient substance use disorder treatment.....	No charge
Home Health Services	You Pay
Home health care	No charge
Other	You Pay
Eyeglasses or contact lenses every 24 months	Amount in excess of \$350 Allowance
Hearing aid(s) every 36 months.....	Amount in excess of \$2,500 Allowance for each 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
Fitness benefit – One Pass™ (includes access to in-network gyms and one home fitness kit per calendar year).....	No charge

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.

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 our Service Area, which is described in the “Definitions” section. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside our 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
- COVID-19 Services as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” 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, 2025, through December 31, 2025, 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 \$2,000 for Part D covered drugs during the covered year. During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

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. Cost Share also means any Charges you are required to pay for covered Medicare Part D drugs. 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 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 Coverage Stage: This is the stage before your out-of-pocket costs for 2025 have reached \$2,000.

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.

Manufacturer Discount Program – A program under which drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan's full cost for covered Part D brand-name drugs and biologics. Discounts are based on agreements between the federal government and drug manufacturers.

Medical Group: The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., a for-profit professional corporation.

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).

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**. 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 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: A decision our plan makes about whether items or services are covered or how much you have to pay for covered items or Services. Organization determinations are called coverage decisions in this *EOC*.

Original Medicare ("Traditional Medicare" or "Fee-for-Service Medicare"): Original Medicare is offered by the government, and not a private health plan like Medicare Advantage Plans and prescription drug plans. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers payment amounts established by Congress. You can see any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share. Original

Medicare has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) and is available everywhere in the United States.

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 our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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. 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. 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. 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 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 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 an 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 clinically stable. You are considered clinically stable when your treating physician believes, within a reasonable medical probability and in accordance with recognized medical standards that you are safe for discharge or transfer and that your condition is not expected to get materially worse during or as a result of the discharge or transfer.

Premiums: The periodic amounts 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 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. 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 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 our Service Area effective any January 1. ZIP codes are subject to change by the U.S. Postal Service. The ZIP codes below for each county are in our 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, 94952, 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, 95620, 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
- For each ZIP code listed for a county, our 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 our 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 our 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). The person may be impregnated in any manner including, but not limited to, artificial insemination, intrauterine insemination, in vitro fertilization, or through the surgical implantation of a fertilized egg of another person. 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

Please contact your Group for information about your plan Premiums. 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 Veterans Health Administration (VA). 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; or
- Your state Medicaid office (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

You must live in our Service Area, unless you have been continuously enrolled in Senior Advantage since December 31, 1998, and lived outside our 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 our Service Area and how it may change.

Moving outside your Home Region Service Area.

If you permanently move outside your Home Region Service Area, 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

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*:

- 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:
 - ♦ biological children

- ◆ 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)
- Children whose parent is a Dependent child under your family coverage (including adopted children and children placed with your Dependent child for adoption or foster care) if they meet all of the following requirements:
 - ◆ they are not married and do not have a domestic partner (for the purposes of this requirement only, “domestic partner” means someone who is registered and legally recognized as a domestic partner by California)
 - ◆ they meet the requirements described under “Age limit of Dependent children”
 - ◆ they receive all of their support and maintenance from you or your Spouse
 - ◆ they permanently reside with you or your Spouse

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 of newly acquired Dependent children are effective as follows:

- Enrollments due to birth are effective on the date of birth
- Enrollments due to adoption are effective on the date of adoption
- Enrollments due to placement for adoption or foster care are effective on 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 our 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
- COVID-19 Services as described under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services," "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements," and "Preventive Services" in the "Benefits and Your Cost Share" 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

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.

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, 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 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 your Home Region 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 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 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. You can also call the Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (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 or call our Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (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](https://www.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](https://www.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 our 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.

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.

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

Emergency Services

If you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 (where available) or go to the nearest 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 our 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 our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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

- ◆ COVID-19 Services as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” 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 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 our 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
 - ◆ COVID-19 Services as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” 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

- ◆ 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.

Reimbursement for COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers

If you receive covered COVID-19 Services from Non-Plan Providers as described under “Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic and Treatment Services,” “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements,” and “Preventive Services” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section, 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 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 or Coinsurance 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 our 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**

- Manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation, in accord with Medicare guidelines, is covered when provided by a Plan Provider or a chiropractor when referred by a Plan Provider: **no charge**. (For the list of participating ASH Plans providers, please 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
- 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
- Vision Services

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 our 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
- 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

- 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 our 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

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 and Your Cost Share” 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 our 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 our 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 our 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 our Service Area

We do not cover most DME for home use outside our Service Area. However, if you live outside our 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 our 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 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

- Reversal of surgical sterilization originally performed for family planning purposes
- 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)

Fitness benefit (One Pass™)

A fitness benefit is provided through the One Pass program to help members take control of their health and feel their best. The One Pass program includes:

- Gyms and Fitness Locations: You receive a membership with access to a wide variety of in-network gyms through the core and premium networks. Fitness locations include national, local, and community fitness centers and boutique studios. You can use any in-network location, and you may use multiple participating fitness locations during the same month
- Online Fitness: You have access to live, digital fitness classes and on-demand workouts through the One Pass member website or mobile app
- Fitness and Social Activities: You also have access to groups, clubs, and social events through the One Pass member website
- Home Fitness Kits: If you prefer to work out at home, you can select a home fitness kit for Strength, Yoga, or Dance
- Brain Health: Access to online brain health cognitive training programs

For more information about participating gyms and fitness locations, the program’s benefits, or to set up your online account, please visit www.YourOnePass.com or call 1-877-614-0618 (TTY 711), Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

One Pass® is a registered trademark of Optum, Inc. in the U.S. and other jurisdictions and is a voluntary program. The One Pass program and amenities vary by plan, area, and location. The information provided under this program is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be nor should be construed as

medical advice. One Pass is not responsible for the services or information provided by third parties. Individuals should consult an appropriate health care professional before beginning any exercise program and/or to determine what may be right for them.

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

Fitness benefit exclusions

- Additional services (such as personal training, fee-based group fitness classes, expanded access hours, or additional classes outside of the standard membership offering)

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.

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 during the 3-year warranty) 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 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 our 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

Our network provider 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 the Advanced Care at Home 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 the 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
- Non-emergent ambulance transportation to and from network facilities when scheduled 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 our Service Area (or inside California but within 15 miles or 30 minutes from our Service Area if you live outside our 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 intensive psychiatric treatment programs at a Plan Facility, such as:

- Partial hospitalization
- Multidisciplinary treatment in an intensive outpatient or day-treatment 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 our 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 and sleep studies (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 disorder 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 our 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**
- Over-the-counter COVID-19 tests obtained from Plan Providers as described in this *EOC* (up to a total of 8 tests from Plan Providers and Non-Plan Providers per calendar month): **no charge**
- Over-the-counter COVID-19 tests obtained from Non-Plan Providers as described in this *EOC* (up to a total of 8 tests from Plan Providers and Non-Plan Providers per calendar month, not to exceed \$12 per test, including all fees and taxes, if you obtain the test from a Non-Plan Provider): **50% Coinsurance**
- Laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 obtained from Plan Providers: **no charge**
- Laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 obtained from Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care): **50% Coinsurance**
- 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, EEGs, and sleep studies): **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**

We cover laboratory tests to diagnose or screen for COVID-19 from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers, including a provider visit for purposes of receiving the laboratory test.

We cover up to a total of eight FDA-authorized over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per calendar month from Plan Providers or Non-Plan Providers. Over-the-counter tests are self-administered tests that deliver results at home and are available without a prescription. For purposes of this section, “Plan Provider” means a Plan Pharmacy, mail order delivery through our website at **kp.org**, or a participating retail pharmacy. For purposes of this section, a “Non-Plan Provider” means a pharmacy or online retailer that isn’t a Plan Provider. To find out more about coverage and limitations, including the current list of Plan Providers, visit our website or call Member Services.

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, in accord with our

drug formulary guidelines, subject to any applicable exclusions or limitations under this *EOC*. We cover items described in this section when prescribed as follows:

- Items prescribed by Plan Providers, within the scope of their licensure and practice
- 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)
 - ◆ Non-Plan Providers that are not providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care if the prescription is for COVID-19 therapeutics (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). Note: If you obtain a prescription from a Non-Plan Provider related to dental care or for COVID-19 therapeutics as described above, we do not cover an office visit or any other services from the Non-Plan Provider
- The item meets the requirements of our applicable drug formulary guidelines
- You obtain the item at a Plan Pharmacy or through our mail-order service unless you obtain the item from a Non-Plan Provider as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the “Emergency Services and Urgent Care” section or a Non-Plan Provider prescribes COVID-19 therapeutics for you, or 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 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 antianxiety 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). Refer to our “Medicare Part D drug formulary (2025 Comprehensive Formulary)” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section for more information about this formulary.

Initial Coverage Stage

During the Initial Coverage Stage, we pay our share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your Cost Share. Your Cost Share will vary depending on the drug and where you fill your prescription. Sometimes the cost of the drug is lower than your Cost Share. In these cases, you pay the lower price for the drug instead of your Cost Share.

Cost Share for Medicare Part D drugs. You will pay the following Cost Share for covered Medicare Part D drugs in this stage:

- Generic drugs: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand-name and specialty drugs: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Injectable Part D vaccines: **no charge**
- Emergency contraceptive pills: **no charge**
- The following insulin-administration devices at **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**: needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, and gauze

Note: Each year, effective on January 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may change coverage thresholds that apply for the calendar year. We will notify you in advance of any change to your coverage.

These payments are included in your out-of-pocket costs. Your out-of-pocket costs include the payments listed below (as long as they are for Part D covered drugs, and you followed the rules for drug coverage that are explained in this section):

- The amount you pay for drugs when you are in the Initial Coverage Stage
- Any payments you made during this calendar year as a member of a different Medicare prescription drug plan before you joined our plan

It matters who pays:

- If you make these payments yourself, they are included in your out-of-pocket costs
- These payments are also included in your out-of-pocket costs if they are made on your behalf by certain other individuals or organizations. This includes payments for your drugs made by a friend or relative, by most charities, by AIDS drug assistance programs, employer or union health plans, TRICARE, or by the Indian Health Service. Payments made by Medicare’s “Extra Help” Program are also included

These payments are not included in your out-of-pocket costs. Your out-of-pocket costs **do not include** any of these types of payments:

- The amount you contribute, if any, toward your group’s Premium
- Drugs you buy outside the United States and its territories
- Drugs that are not covered by our plan
- Drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy that do not meet our plan’s requirements for out-of-network coverage
- Non-Part D drugs, including prescription drugs covered by Part A or Part B and other drugs excluded from coverage by Medicare
- Payments for your drugs that are made by the Veterans Health Administration (VA)
- Payments for your drugs made by a third-party with a legal obligation to pay for prescription costs (for example, Workers’ Compensation)
- Payments made by drug manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program

Reminder: If any other organization such as the ones described above pays part or all of your out-of-pocket costs for Part D drugs, you are required to tell our plan by calling Member Services.

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'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.

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**), between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday; or
- Your state Medicaid office. See the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section for contact information

If you believe you have qualified for "Extra Help" and you believe that you are paying an incorrect Cost Share amount when you get your prescription at a Plan Pharmacy, our plan has a process for you to either request assistance in obtaining evidence of your proper Cost Share level, or, if you already have the evidence, to provide this evidence to us.

If you aren't sure what evidence to provide us, please contact a Plan Pharmacy or Member Services. The evidence is often a letter from either your state Medicaid or Social Security office that confirms you are qualified for "Extra Help." The evidence may also be state-issued documentation with your eligibility information associated with Home and Community-Based Services.

You or your appointed representative may need to provide the evidence to a Plan Pharmacy when obtaining covered Part D prescriptions so that we may charge you

the appropriate Cost Share amount until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updates its records to reflect your current status. Once CMS updates its records, you will no longer need to present the evidence to the Plan Pharmacy. Please provide your evidence in one of the following ways so we can forward it to CMS for updating:

- Write to Kaiser Permanente at:
California Service Center
Attn: Best Available Evidence
P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400
- Fax it to **1-877-528-8579**
- Take it to a Plan Pharmacy or your local Member Services office at a Plan Facility

When we receive the evidence showing your Cost Share level, we will update our system so that you can pay the correct Cost Share when you get your next prescription at our Plan Pharmacy. If you overpay your Cost Share, we will reimburse you. Either we will forward a check to you in the amount of your overpayment, or we will offset future Cost Share. If our Plan Pharmacy hasn't collected a Cost Share from you and is carrying your Cost Share as a debt owed by you, we may make the payment directly to our Plan Pharmacy. If a state paid on your behalf, we may make payment directly to the state. Please call Member Services if you have questions.

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*), which tells you about your Part D drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call Member Services and ask for the LIS Rider.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also on the ADAP formulary qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Note: To be eligible for the ADAP operating in your state, individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of state residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the state, and uninsured/under-insured status. If you change plans, please notify your local ADAP enrollment worker so you can continue to receive assistance. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the

ADAP call center at **1-844-421-7050** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (excluding holidays).

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option that works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across **monthly payments that vary throughout the year** (January – December). **This payment option might help you manage your expenses, but it doesn't save you money or lower your drug costs.** “Extra Help” from Medicare and help from your State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP) and AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), for those who qualify, is more advantageous than participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. All members are eligible to participate in this payment option, regardless of income level, and all Medicare drug plans and Medicare health plans with drug coverage must offer this payment option. Contact us or visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) to find out if this payment option is right for you.

If you're participating in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, each month you'll pay your plan premium (if you have one) and you'll get a bill from your health or drug plan for your prescription drugs (instead of paying the pharmacy). Your monthly bill is based on what you owe for any prescriptions you get, plus your previous month's balance, divided by the number of months left in the year.

The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section tells more about the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. If you disagree with the amount billed as part of this payment option, you can follow the steps described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section to make a complaint or appeal.

Medicare Part D drug formulary (2025 Comprehensive Formulary)

Our plan has a 2025 Comprehensive Formulary. In this EOC, we call it the Drug List for short.

The drugs on this list are selected by our plan with the help of a team of doctors and pharmacists. The list meets Medicare's requirements and has been approved by Medicare.

The drugs on our Drug List are only those covered under Medicare Part D.

We will generally cover a drug on our plan's Drug List as long as you follow the other coverage rules explained in this section and the drug is 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 for the diagnosis or condition for which it is being prescribed, or
- Supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System

Our Drug List includes brand-name drugs, generic drugs, and biological products (which may include biosimilars). A brand-name drug is a prescription drug that is sold under a trademarked name owned by the drug manufacturer. Biological products are drugs that are more complex than typical drugs. On the Drug List, when we refer to drugs, this could mean a drug or a biological product.

A generic drug is a prescription drug that has the same active ingredients as the brand-name drug. Biological products have alternatives that are called biosimilars. Generally, generics and biosimilars work just as well as the brand-name drug or original biological product and usually cost less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand-name drugs and biosimilar alternatives for some original biological products. Some biosimilars are interchangeable biosimilars and, depending on state law, may be substituted for the original biological product at the pharmacy without needing a new prescription, just like generic drugs can be substituted for brand-name 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 2025 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. 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, for more information about our Part D transition coverage.

Medicare Part D exclusions (non-Part D drugs). If you get drugs that are excluded, you must pay for them yourself. If you appeal and the requested drug is found not to be excluded under Part D, we will pay for or cover it. For information about appealing a decision, go to "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints." If a drug is not covered by Medicare Part D, any amounts you pay for that drug will not count toward reaching the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

Here are three general rules about drugs that Medicare drug plans will not cover under Part D:

- Our plan's Part D drug coverage cannot cover a drug that would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B
- Our Plan cannot cover a drug purchased outside the United States or its territories
- Our plan cannot cover off-label use of a drug when the use is not supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System. Off-label use is any use of the drug other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the Food and Drug Administration

In addition, by law, the following categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare drug plans:

- 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 Plan Provider and filled at a Plan home-infusion pharmacy

Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B

In addition to Medicare Part D drugs, we also cover outpatient prescription drugs that are covered by Medicare Part B. The following are the types of drugs that Medicare Part B covers:

- 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
- Transplant/Immunosuppressive drugs, if Medicare paid for your organ transplant (or a group plan was required to pay before Medicare paid for it). You must have Part A at the time of the covered transplant, and you must have Part B at the time you get immunosuppressive drugs. Keep in mind, Medicare drug coverage (Part D) covers immunosuppressive drugs if Part B doesn’t cover them
- Certain oral anti-cancer drugs: Medicare covers some oral cancer drugs you take by mouth if the same drug is available in injectable form or the drug is a prodrug (an oral form of a drug that, when ingested, breaks down into the same active ingredient found in the injectable drug) of the injectable drug. As new oral cancer drugs become available, Part B may cover them. If Part B doesn’t cover them, Part D does
- Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases
- 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
- 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
- Some Antigens: Medicare covers antigens if a doctor prepares them and a properly instructed person (who could be you, the patient) gives them under appropriate supervision
- Oral anti-nausea drugs: Medicare covers oral anti-nausea drugs you use as part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen if they’re administered before, at, or within 48 hours of chemotherapy or are used as a full therapeutic replacement for an intravenous anti-nausea drug
- Certain oral End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) drugs if the same drug is available in injectable form and the Part B ESRD benefit covers it
- Calcimimetic medications under the ESRD payment system, including the intravenous medication Parsabiv®, and the oral medication Sensipar®
- Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin, when Medically Necessary, and topical anesthetics
- Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: Medicare covers erythropoietin by injection if you have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or you need this drug to treat anemia related to certain other conditions (such as Procrit®, Retacrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, or Darbepoetin Alfa)
- The Alzheimer’s drug, Leqembi® (generic name lecanemab), which is administered intravenously. In addition to medication costs, you may need additional scans and tests before and/or during treatment that could add to your overall costs. Talk to your doctor about what scans and tests you may need as part of your treatment
- Parenteral and enteral nutrition (intravenous and tube feeding)

Your Cost Share for Medicare Part B drugs. You pay the following for Medicare Part B drugs:

- Generic drugs: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand-name drugs, specialty drugs, and compounded products: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**

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. 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 and prescribed by a Plan Physician
- Diaphragms, cervical caps, contraceptive rings, and contraceptive patches
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered drugs and supplements
- 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
- Therapeutics for COVID-19 obtained from Plan Providers and Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care)

Your Cost Share for 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**
- Generic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**

- Brand drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Generic drugs prescribed for the treatment of infertility: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand drugs prescribed for the treatment of infertility: **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): **no charge for up to a 30-day supply**
- Elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis: **no charge for up to a 30-day supply**
- Ketone test strips and sugar or acetone test tablets or tapes for diabetes urine testing: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Tobacco cessation drugs: **no charge**
- Therapeutics for COVID-19 obtained from Plan Providers: **no charge for up to a 30-day supply**
- Therapeutics for COVID-19 obtained from Non-Plan Providers (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care): **50% Coinsurance for up to a 30-day supply**

Note: If Charges for the drug, supply, or supplement are less than the Copayment or Coinsurance, you will pay the lesser amount.

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 and pharmacists, selects drugs for the drug formulary based on several factors, including safety and effectiveness as determined from a review of medical literature. The drug formulary is updated monthly based on new information or new 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. 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 a non-formulary prescription drug (those not listed on our drug formulary for your condition) if it would otherwise be covered by your plan, as described above, and it is Medically Necessary. If you disagree with a Health Plan determination that a non-formulary prescription drug is not covered, you may file a grievance as described 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.

Manufacturer coupon program. For outpatient prescription drugs or items that are covered under the “Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare” section above 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.

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 similar 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 helps make sure members safely use prescription opioids and other frequently abused medications. This program is called a Drug Management Program (DMP). If you use opioid medications that you get from several prescribers or pharmacies, or if you had a recent opioid overdose, we may talk to your prescribers to make sure your use of opioid medications is appropriate and Medically Necessary. Working with your prescribers, if we decide your use of prescription opioid or benzodiazepine medications may not be safe, we may limit how you can get those medications. If we place you in our DMP, the limitations may be:

- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain pharmacy(ies)
- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain prescriber
- Limiting the amount of opioid or benzodiazepine medications we will cover for you

If we plan on limiting how you may get these medications or how much you can get, we will send you a letter in advance. The letter will tell you if we will limit coverage of these drugs for you, or if you'll be required to get the prescriptions for these drugs only from a specific prescriber or pharmacy. You will have an opportunity to tell us which prescribers or pharmacies you prefer to use, and about any other information you think is important for us to know. After you've had the opportunity to respond, if we decide to limit your coverage for these medications, we will send you another letter confirming the limitation. If you think we made a mistake or you disagree with our decision or with the limitation, you and your prescriber have the right to appeal. If you appeal, we will review your case and give you a new decision. If we continue to deny any part of your request related to the limitations that apply to your access to medications, we will automatically send your

case to an independent reviewer outside of our plan. See the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section for information about how to ask for an appeal.

You will not be placed in our DMP if you have certain medical conditions, such as cancer-related pain or sickle cell disease, 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.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Diabetes blood-testing equipment and their supplies, and insulin pumps and their supplies (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use”)
- Drugs covered during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to “Hospital Inpatient Care” and “Skilled Nursing Facility Care”)
- Drugs prescribed for pain control and symptom management of the terminal illness for Members who are receiving covered hospice care (refer to “Hospice Care”)
- Durable medical equipment used to administer drugs (refer to “Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use”)
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to “Outpatient Care”)
- Vaccines covered by Medicare Part B (refer to “Preventive Services”)

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare limitations

- The prescribing physician or dentist determines how much of a drug, supply, item, or supplement to prescribe. For purposes of day supply coverage limits,

Plan Physicians determine the amount of an item that constitutes a Medically Necessary 30- or 100-day supply for you. Upon payment of the Cost Share specified in the “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements,” you will receive the supply prescribed up to the day supply limit specified in this section or in the drug formulary for your plan (see “Non-Part D drug formulary” above). The maximum you may receive at one time of a covered item, is either one 30-day supply in a 30-day period or one 100-day supply in a 100-day period. If you wish to receive more than the covered day supply limit, then you must pay Charges for any prescribed quantities that exceed the day supply limit

- For sexual dysfunction drugs, the maximum you may receive at one time of episodic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders is eight doses in any 30-day period or up to 27 doses in any 100-day period
- The pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed at the Cost Share specified under “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare” for any drug to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period if the pharmacy determines that the item is in limited supply in the market or for specific drugs (your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs)

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare exclusions

- Any requested packaging (such as dose packaging) other than the dispensing pharmacy’s standard packaging
- Compounded products unless the drug is listed on one of our drug formularies or one of the ingredients requires a prescription by law
- 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 when prescribed solely for the purposes of losing weight, except when Medically Necessary for the treatment of morbid obesity. We may require

Members who are prescribed drugs for morbid obesity to be enrolled in a covered comprehensive weight loss program, for a reasonable period of time prior to or concurrent with receiving the prescription drug

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

- Immunizations (including the vaccine) to prevent COVID-19 administered by a Non-Plan Provider (except for providers of Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care): **50% Coinsurance** (we do not cover an office visit or any other services from the Non-Plan Provider other than administration of the vaccine)
- 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 our 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 internally implanted prosthetic and orthotic devices, you pay the Cost Share for the procedure to implant the device. For example, see “Outpatient Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section for the Cost Share that applies for outpatient surgery.

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 RNHCI. 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 our 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 licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT)
- 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 our 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 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
- Evaluation of video and/or images you send to your doctor, and interpretation and follow-up by your doctor within 24 hours if:
 - ◆ you're not a new patient, and
 - ◆ the evaluation isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days, and
 - ◆ the evaluation doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment
- Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, internet, or electronic health record

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")

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.

The date we provide an Allowance toward (or otherwise cover) an item described in this "Optical Services" section is the date on which you order the item. For example, if we last provided an Allowance toward an item you ordered on May 1, 2023, and if we provide an Allowance not more than once every 24 months for that type of item, then we would not provide another Allowance toward that type of item until on or after May 1, 2025. You can use the Allowances under this "Optical Services" section only when you first order an item. If you use part but not all of an Allowance when you first order an item, you cannot use the rest of that Allowance later.

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 other specialty contact lenses that will provide a significant improvement in your vision not obtainable with eyeglass lenses, we cover either one pair of contact lenses (including fitting and dispensing) or an initial supply of disposable contact lenses (up to six months, including fitting and dispensing) in any 24 months at **no charge**

Eyeglasses and contact lenses

We provide a single **\$350 Allowance** toward the purchase price of any or all of the following not more than once every 24 months when a physician or optometrist prescribes an eyeglass lens (for eyeglass lenses and frames) or contact lens (for contact lenses):

- Eyeglass lenses when a Plan Provider puts the lenses into a frame
 - ◆ we cover a clear balance lens when only one eye needs correction
 - ◆ we cover tinted lenses when Medically Necessary to treat macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa

- Eyeglass frames when a Plan Provider puts two lenses (at least one of which must have refractive value) into the frame
- Contact lenses, fitting, and dispensing

We will not provide the Allowance if we have provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) eyeglass lenses or frames within the previous 24 months.

Replacement lenses

If you have a change in prescription of at least .50 diopter in one or both eyes within 12 months of the initial point of sale of an eyeglass lens or contact lens that we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) we will provide an Allowance toward the purchase price of a replacement item of the same type (eyeglass lens, or contact lens, fitting, and dispensing) for the eye that had the .50 diopter change. The Allowance toward one of these replacement lenses is **\$30** for a single vision eyeglass lens or for a contact lens (including fitting and dispensing) and **\$45** for a multifocal or lenticular eyeglass lens.

Low vision devices

If a low vision device will provide a significant improvement in your vision not obtainable with eyeglasses or contact lenses (or with a combination of eyeglasses and contact lenses), we cover low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing) at **no charge** up to a benefit limit of **\$500** every 24 months (including low vision devices we provided an Allowance toward, or otherwise covered, under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group) when prescribed by a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist. We will calculate accumulation toward the benefit limit by adding up the Charges for the low vision devices (including fitting and dispensing) we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) during the previous 24 months, less any amounts (other than deductible payments) that you paid for those devices.

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

- Eyeglass or contact lens adornment, such as engraving, faceting, or jewelry

- Items that do not require a prescription by law (other than eyeglass frames), such as eyeglass holders, eyeglass cases, and repair kits
- Lenses and sunglasses without refractive value, except as described in this “Vision Services” section
- Replacement of lost, broken, or damaged contact lenses, eyeglass lenses, and frames

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 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, and services of massage therapists.

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.

This exclusion does not apply to COVID-19 Services granted emergency use authorization by the FDA (COVID-19 laboratory tests, therapeutics, and immunizations must be prescribed or furnished by a licensed health care provider acting within their scope of practice and the standard of care).

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 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 Emergency Department 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:

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 1-502-214-1137

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 monetary 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:

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 1-502-214-1137

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, or you may receive a bill from a provider. 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 Pharmacy, 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 non-plan pharmacies in limited circumstances. We may not pay you back the difference between what you paid for the drug at the Non-Plan Pharmacy and the amount that we would pay at a Plan Pharmacy.

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. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

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 **2025 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. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription

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) paid 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) and upload supporting documentation
- Either download a copy of the form from our website (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)
 - ♦ 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:

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

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 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566

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. Our share of the cost might not be the full amount you paid (for example, if you obtained a drug at a Non-Plan Pharmacy or if the cash price you paid for a drug is higher than our negotiated price). 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, large font, braille, audio file, or data 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. We can also give you information in large font, braille, audio file, or data 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 que sea coherente con sus sensibilidades culturales (en idiomas distintos al inglés, en letra grande, en braille, en archivo de audio o en CD de datos)

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,

prestación de servicios de traducción, interpretación, teletipo o conexión TTY (teléfono de texto o teletipo).

Nuestro plan tiene servicios de interpretación gratuitos disponibles para responder las preguntas de los miembros que no hablan inglés. Este documento está disponible en español y en chino llamando a Servicio a los Miembros. Si la necesita, también podemos darle, sin costo, información en letra grande, en braille, en archivo de audio o en CD de datos. 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 de la mujer 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 especializados 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, consultar a un especialista en salud de la mujer o encontrar un especialista de la red, por favor llame para presentar una queja formal ante Servicio a los Miembros. También puede presentar una queja en Medicare llamando al **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** o directamente en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles **1-800-368-1019** o al 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 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 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 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 us and by you.

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 medical care
- 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](https://www.kp.org))
 - ◆ for medical care or 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](https://www.kp.org).) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person who 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 complete our review until we receive it. If we do not receive the form before 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 Part B prescription drug. In those cases, we will explain how the rules for Part B prescription drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells 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 calendar 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 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. 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 calendar 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 calendar days or 7 calendar 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 65 calendar days from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for 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 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 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 typically within 30 calendar days, but no later than 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 **2025 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 to cover a Part D drug that is not on our **2025 Comprehensive Formulary**. **Ask for an exception**
- Asking to waive a restriction on our plan’s coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get, prior authorization, or the requirement to try another drug first). **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 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 our 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 our *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 calendar 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 Redetermination 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 65 calendar days from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for 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 calendar 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 calendar 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/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im>

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, contact us. If 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

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/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im>

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

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the reviewers) will ask you (or your representative) why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don’t have to prepare anything in writing, but you 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 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 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 calendar 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 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, and you wish to file an appeal, you still have appeal rights. Contact your Quality Improvement Organization

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 calendar days after the day when the Quality Improvement Organization said **no** to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you continued getting care after the date 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 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 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 who 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 who 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 for medical care or items, or if we extend the time we need to make a decision about a coverage decision or appeal for medical care or items. 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Legal Department, Professional & Public Liability
1 Kaiser Plaza, 19th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025). 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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025.

Also, we will terminate your Senior Advantage membership under this *EOC* on the last day of the month if you:

- Are temporarily absent from our Service Area for more than six months in a row
- Permanently move from our 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

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 we do not receive 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 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*.

any person or organization obligated to pay for the Services.

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

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 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

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

Call 1-877-645-1282

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

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 on asking for 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, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fax 1-866-206-2974

Write Kaiser Permanente
Medicare Part D Unit
P.O. Box 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Website [kp.org](https://www.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., seven days a week. 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., seven days a week.

TTY 711

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Write For medical care:

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

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](https://www.kp.org)

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan – 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](https://www.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/

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

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 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/

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/

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 답해 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。



**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Northern California Region**

A nonprofit corporation and a Medicare Advantage Organization

**EOC #6 - Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage
(HMO) with Part D
Evidence of Coverage for
KYOCERA SLD LASER, INC.**

Group ID: 708096 Contract: 1 Version: 25 EOC Number: 6 Issue Date: September 25, 2024

January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

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 our Member Services number 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.

*Este documento está disponible de manera gratuita en español. Si desea información adicional, llame al número de nuestro Servicio a los Miembros al **1-800-443-0815**. (Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711). El horario de atención es de 8 a. m. a 8 p. m., los 7 días de la semana.*

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

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Benefit Highlights

Accumulation Period

The Accumulation Period for this plan is 1/1/25 through 12/31/25 (calendar year).

Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum

For Services subject to the maximum, you will not pay any more Cost Share for the rest of the calendar year if the Copayments and Coinsurance you pay for those Services add up to the following amount:

For any one Member.....\$1,000 per calendar year

Plan Deductible	None

Plan Provider Office Visits	You Pay
Most Primary Care Visits and most Non-Physician Specialist Visits	\$20 per visit
Most Physician Specialist Visits.....	\$20 per visit
Annual Wellness visit and the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit	No charge
Routine physical exams	No charge
Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist.....	\$20 per visit
Urgent care consultations, evaluations, and treatment	\$20 per visit
Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.....	\$20 per visit

Telehealth Visits	You Pay
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

Outpatient Services	You Pay
Outpatient surgery and certain other outpatient procedures	\$50 per procedure
Allergy injections (including allergy serum).....	\$3 per visit
Most immunizations (including the vaccine)	No charge
Most X-rays and laboratory tests.....	No charge
Manual manipulation of the spine	\$20 per visit

Hospitalization Services	You Pay
Room and board, surgery, anesthesia, X-rays, laboratory tests, and drugs ..	\$500 per admission

Emergency Health Coverage	You Pay
Emergency Department visits.....	\$50 per visit

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).

Ambulance and Transportation Services	You Pay
Ambulance Services	\$100 per trip

Prescription Drug Coverage	You Pay

This plan covers Medicare Part D prescription drugs in accord with our Part D formulary.

Initial coverage stage—until you have spent \$2,000 in 2025. (If you spend \$2,000, you move on to the catastrophic coverage stage):

Generic drugs \$10 for up to a 100-day supply
Brand-name drugs \$35 for up to a 100-day supply

Catastrophic coverage stage..... No charge

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	You Pay
Covered durable medical equipment for home use as described in this <i>EOC</i>	20 percent Coinsurance
Mental Health Services	You Pay
Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.....	\$500 per admission
Individual outpatient mental health evaluation and treatment.....	\$20 per visit
Group outpatient mental health treatment.....	\$10 per visit
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	You Pay
Inpatient detoxification.....	\$500 per admission
Individual outpatient substance use disorder evaluation and treatment.....	\$20 per visit
Group outpatient substance use disorder treatment.....	\$5 per visit
Home Health Services	You Pay
Home health care (part-time, intermittent).....	No charge
Other	You Pay
Eyeglasses or contact lenses every 24 months.....	Amount in excess of \$150 Allowance
Skilled Nursing Facility care (up to 100 days per benefit period).....	No charge
External prosthetic and orthotic devices as described in this <i>EOC</i>	20 percent Coinsurance
Ostomy, urological, and specialized wound care supplies.....	20 percent Coinsurance
Fitness benefit – One Pass™ (includes access to in-network gyms and one home fitness kit per calendar year).....	No charge

This is a summary of the most frequently asked-about benefits. This chart does not explain benefits, Cost Share, out-of-pocket maximums, 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” (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 provided under the *Group Agreement (Agreement)* between Health Plan (Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (“Health Plan”)) and your Group (the entity with which Health Plan has entered into the Agreement).

This EOC is part of the Agreement between Health Plan and your Group. 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.

For benefits provided under any other program, refer to that other plan’s evidence of coverage. For benefits provided under any other program offered by your Group (for example, workers compensation benefits), refer to your Group’s materials.

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 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.

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.

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 our Service Area, which is described in the “Definitions” section. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside our 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, 2025, through December 31, 2025, 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*.

Accumulation Period: A period of time no greater than 12 consecutive months for purposes of accumulating amounts toward any deductibles (if applicable) and out-of-pocket maximums. The Accumulation Period for this *EOC* is from 1/1/25 through 12/31/25.

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, which does not apply to the maximum out-of-pocket amount.

Catastrophic Coverage Stage: The stage in the Part D drug benefit that begins when you (or other qualified parties on your behalf) have spent \$2,000 for Part D covered drugs during the covered year. During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

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. Cost Share also means any Charges you are required to pay for covered Medicare Part D drugs. 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” under Health Plan’s *Agreement* with your Group.

“Extra Help”: A Medicare 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 Coverage Stage: This is the stage before your out-of-pocket costs for 2025 have reached \$2,000.

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.

Manufacturer Discount Program – A program under which drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan’s full cost for covered Part D brand-name drugs and biologics. Discounts are based on agreements between the federal government and drug manufacturers.

Medical Group: The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., a for-profit professional corporation.

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).

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**. 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 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: A decision our plan makes about whether items or services are covered or how much you have to pay for covered items or Services. Organization determinations are called coverage decisions in this *EOC*.

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

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 our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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. 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. 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. 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 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 Out-of-Pocket Maximum: The total amount of Cost Share you must pay under this *EOC* in the calendar year for certain covered Services that you receive in the same calendar year. Refer to the “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section to find your Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum amount and to learn which Services apply to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

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 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 an 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 clinically stable. You are considered clinically stable when your treating physician believes, within a reasonable medical probability and in accordance with recognized medical standards that you are safe for discharge or transfer and that your condition is not expected to get materially worse during or as a result of the discharge or transfer.

Premiums: The periodic amounts 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 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. 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](https://www.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 our Service Area effective any January 1. ZIP codes are subject to change by the U.S. Postal Service. The ZIP codes below for each county are in our 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, 94952, 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, 95620, 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

For each ZIP code listed for a county, our 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 our 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 our 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). The person may be impregnated in any manner including, but not limited to, artificial insemination, intrauterine insemination, in vitro fertilization, or through the surgical implantation of a fertilized egg of another person. 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

Please contact your Group for information about your plan Premiums. You must also continue to pay Medicare your monthly Medicare premium.

If you do not have Medicare Part A, you may be eligible to purchase Medicare Part A from Social Security. Please contact Social Security for more information. If you get Medicare Part A, this may reduce the amount you would

be expected to pay to your Group, please check with your Group’s benefits administrator.

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 Veterans Health Administration (VA). 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; or
- Your state Medicaid office (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. Your Group is required to inform Subscribers of its eligibility requirements.

Senior Advantage eligibility requirements

- You must have Medicare Part B
- You must be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States
- Your Medicare coverage must be primary and your Group’s health care plan must be secondary
- 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

You must live in our Service Area, unless you have been continuously enrolled in Senior Advantage since December 31, 1998, and lived outside our 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 our Service Area and how it may change.

Moving outside your Home Region Service Area.

If you permanently move outside your Home Region Service Area, 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

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, retirement benefit program, 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*:

- 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:
 - ♦ biological children
 - ♦ 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)

- Children whose parent is a Dependent child under your family coverage (including adopted children and children placed with your Dependent child for adoption or foster care) if they meet all of the following requirements:
 - ◆ they are not married and do not have a domestic partner (for the purposes of this requirement only, “domestic partner” means someone who is registered and legally recognized as a domestic partner by California)
 - ◆ they meet the requirements described under “Age limit of Dependent children”
 - ◆ they receive all of their support and maintenance from you or your Spouse
 - ◆ they permanently reside with you or your Spouse

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 of newly acquired Dependent children are effective as follows:

- Enrollments due to birth are effective on the date of birth
- Enrollments due to adoption are effective on the date of adoption
- Enrollments due to placement for adoption or foster care are effective on 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 our 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

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.

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, 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 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 your Home Region 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 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 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. You can also call the Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (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 or call our Away from Home Travel Line at **1-951-268-3900**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (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](https://www.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](https://www.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 our 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](https://www.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.

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

Emergency Services

If you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 (where available) or go to the nearest 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 our 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 our Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to our 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 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 our 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 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 or Coinsurance described in this *EOC*, you will pay the lesser amount.

Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum

There is a limit to the total amount of Cost Share you must pay under this *EOC* in the calendar year for covered Services that you receive in the same calendar year. The Services that apply to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum are described under the “Payments that count toward the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum” section below. The limit is:

- **\$1,000** per calendar year for any one Member

For Services subject to the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum, you will not pay any more Cost Share during the remainder of the calendar year, but every other Member in your Family must continue to pay Cost Share during the remainder of the calendar year until either he or she reaches the **\$1,000** maximum for any one Member.

Payments that count toward the Plan Out-of-Pocket Maximum. Any amounts you pay for the following Services apply toward the out-of-pocket maximum:

- Covered in-network Medicare Part A and Part B Services
- Medicare Part B drugs (all other drugs do not apply)
- Residential treatment program Services covered in the “Substance Use Disorder Treatment” and “Mental Health Services” sections

Copayments and Coinsurance you pay for Services that are not described above, do not apply to the out-of-pocket maximum. For these Services, you must pay

Copayments or Coinsurance even if you have already reached the out-of-pocket maximum. In addition:

- If your plan includes supplemental chiropractic or acupuncture Services described in an amendment to this *EOC*, those Services do not apply toward the maximum
- If your plan includes an Allowance for specific Services (such as eyeglasses, contact lenses, or hearing aids), any amounts you pay that exceed the Allowance do not apply toward the maximum

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*: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Physician Specialist Visits that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Outpatient visits that are available as group appointments that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*: **a \$10 Copayment per visit**
- House calls by a Plan Physician (or a Plan Provider who is a registered nurse) inside our 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
 - ♦ Physician Specialist Visits: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- After confirmation of pregnancy, the normal series of regularly scheduled preventive prenatal care exams and the first postpartum follow-up consultation and exam: **a \$15 Copayment per visit**
- Voluntary termination of pregnancy and related Services: **no charge**
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy in accord with Medicare guidelines: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**

- 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: **a \$20 Copayment per day**
- Manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation, in accord with Medicare guidelines, is covered when provided by a Plan Provider or a chiropractor when referred by a Plan Provider: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**. (For the list of participating ASH Plans providers, please 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**. 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): **a \$20 Copayment per visit**

Emergency Services and Urgent Care

- Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Emergency Department visits: **a \$50 Copayment per visit**

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: **a \$50 Copayment per procedure**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **a \$20 Copayment per procedure**
- 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
 - ◆ Physician Specialist Visits: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**

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): **a \$3 Copayment per visit**
- 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
- 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
- Vision Services

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 our 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
- 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 a **\$500 Copayment per admission**.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- 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 our 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: **a \$100 Copayment per trip**
- Nonemergency Services: **a \$100 Copayment per trip**

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

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 and Your Cost Share” 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Physician Specialist Visits for Services covered under this “Dental Services” section: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- 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: **a \$50 Copayment per procedure**

- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **a \$20 Copayment per procedure**
- 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): **a \$500 Copayment per admission**

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 our 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 our 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): **a \$500 Copayment per admission**

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 our 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: **20 percent Coinsurance**

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: **20 percent Coinsurance**.

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: **20 percent Coinsurance**, except peak flow meters are covered at: **no charge**.

Outside our Service Area

We do not cover most DME for home use outside our Service Area. However, if you live outside our 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 our 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 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.

Before starting or continuing a course of fertility Services, you may be required to pay initial and subsequent deposits toward your Cost Share for some or all of the entire course of Services, along with any past-due fertility-related Cost Share. Any unused portion of your deposit will be returned to you. When a deposit is not required, you must pay the Cost Share for the procedure, along with any past-due fertility-related Cost Share, before you can schedule a fertility procedure.

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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- 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: **a \$50 Copayment per procedure**

- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **a \$20 Copayment per procedure**
- 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): **a \$500 Copayment per admission**

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

- Reversal of surgical sterilization originally performed for family planning purposes
- 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)

Fitness benefit (One Pass™)

A fitness benefit is provided through the One Pass program to help members take control of their health and feel their best. The One Pass program includes:

- Gyms and Fitness Locations: You receive a membership with access to a wide variety of in-network gyms through the core and premium networks. Fitness locations include national, local, and community fitness centers and boutique studios. You can use any in-network location, and you may use multiple participating fitness locations during the same month

- Online Fitness: You have access to live, digital fitness classes and on-demand workouts through the One Pass member website or mobile app
- Fitness and Social Activities: You also have access to groups, clubs, and social events through the One Pass member website
- Home Fitness Kits: If you prefer to work out at home, you can select a home fitness kit for Strength, Yoga, or Dance
- Brain Health: Access to online brain health cognitive training programs

For more information about participating gyms and fitness locations, the program's benefits, or to set up your online account, please visit www.YourOnePass.com or call **1-877-614-0618 (TTY 711)**, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

One Pass® is a registered trademark of Optum, Inc. in the U.S. and other jurisdictions and is a voluntary program. The One Pass program and amenities vary by plan, area, and location. The information provided under this program is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be nor should be construed as medical advice. One Pass is not responsible for the services or information provided by third parties. Individuals should consult an appropriate health care professional before beginning any exercise program and/or to determine what may be right for them.

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

Fitness benefit exclusions

- Additional services (such as personal training, fee-based group fitness classes, expanded access hours, or additional classes outside of the standard membership offering)

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.

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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat hearing problems: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**

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

- Hearing aids and tests to determine their efficacy, and hearing tests to determine an appropriate hearing aid

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 part-time or intermittent home health care in accord with Medicare guidelines. Home health care services are covered up to the number of visits and length of time that are determined to be medically necessary under the Member’s home health treatment plan and no more than the limits established under Medicare guidelines, 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 our Service Area

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

Our network provider 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 the Advanced Care at Home 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 the 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
- Non-emergent ambulance transportation to and from network facilities when scheduled 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

Hospice care is a specialized form of interdisciplinary health care designed to provide palliative care and to alleviate the physical, emotional, and spiritual discomforts of a Member experiencing the last phases of life due to a terminal illness. It also provides support to the primary caregiver and the Member’s family. A Member who chooses hospice care is choosing to receive palliative care for pain and other symptoms associated with the terminal illness, but not to receive care to try to cure the terminal illness. You may change your decision to receive hospice care benefits at any time.

If you have Medicare Part A, you are eligible for the hospice benefit when your doctor and the hospice medical director have given you a terminal prognosis certifying that you’re terminally ill and have six months or less to live if your illness runs its normal course. You may receive care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. Our plan is obligated to help you find Medicare-certified hospice programs in our plan’s Service Area, including those the MA organization owns, controls, or has a financial interest in. Your hospice

doctor can be a Plan Provider or a Non–Plan Provider. Covered Services include:

- Drugs for symptom control and pain relief
- Short-term respite care
- Home care

When you are admitted to a hospice you have the right to remain in your plan; if you chose to remain in your plan, you must continue to pay plan premiums.

For hospice services and for services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are related to your terminal prognosis: Original Medicare (rather than our plan) will pay your hospice provider for your hospice services and any Part A and Part B services related to your terminal condition. While you are in the hospice program, your hospice provider will bill Original Medicare for the services that Original Medicare pays for. You will be billed Original Medicare cost-sharing.

For services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are not related to your terminal prognosis:

If you need nonemergency, non–urgently needed services that are covered under Medicare Part A or B and that are not related to your terminal condition, your cost for these services depends on whether you use a Plan Provider and follow plan rules (such as if there is a requirement to obtain prior authorization):

- If you obtain the covered services from a Plan Provider and follow plan rules for obtaining service, you only pay the Plan Cost Share amount
- If you obtain the covered services from a Non–Plan Provider, you pay the cost sharing under Fee-for-Service Medicare (Original Medicare)

For services that are covered by our plan but are not covered by Medicare Part A or B: We will continue to cover Plan-covered Services that are not covered under Part A or B whether or not they are related to your terminal condition. You pay your Plan Cost Share amount for these Services.

For drugs that may be covered by our plan’s Part D benefit: If these drugs are unrelated to your terminal hospice condition, you pay cost-sharing. If they are related to your terminal hospice condition, then you pay Original Medicare cost-sharing. Drugs are never covered by both hospice and our plan at the same time. For more information, please see “What if you’re in a Medicare-certified hospice” in the “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section.

Note: If you need non-hospice care (care that is not related to your terminal prognosis), you should contact us to arrange the services.

For more information about Original Medicare hospice coverage, visit <https://www.medicare.gov>, and under “Search Tools,” choose “Find a Medicare Publication” to view or download the publication “Medicare Hospice Benefits.” Or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Special note if you do not have Medicare Part A

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

- You are not entitled to Medicare Part A
- 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 our Service Area (or inside California but within 15 miles or 30 minutes from our Service Area if you live outside our 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 intensive psychiatric treatment programs at a Plan Facility, such as:

- Partial hospitalization
- Multidisciplinary treatment in an intensive outpatient or day-treatment 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Group mental health treatment: **a \$10 Copayment per visit**
- Partial hospitalization: **no charge**
- Other intensive psychiatric treatment programs: **no charge**

Residential treatment

Inside our 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 **a \$500 Copayment per admission**.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements”)
- Outpatient laboratory and sleep studies (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 disorder 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 our 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: **20 percent Coinsurance.**

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, EEGs, and sleep studies): **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, in accord with our drug formulary guidelines, subject to any applicable exclusions or limitations under this *EOC*. We cover items described in this section when prescribed as follows:

- Items prescribed by Plan Providers, within the scope of their licensure and practice
- 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
- 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 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 antianxiety 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). Refer to our “Medicare Part D drug formulary (2025 Comprehensive Formulary)” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section for more information about this formulary.

Initial Coverage Stage

During the Initial Coverage Stage, we pay our share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your Cost Share. Your Cost Share will vary depending on the drug and where you fill your prescription. Sometimes the cost of the drug is lower than your Cost Share. In these cases, you pay the lower price for the drug instead of your Cost Share.

Cost Share for Medicare Part D drugs. You will pay the following Cost Share for covered Medicare Part D drugs in this stage:

- Generic drugs: **a \$10 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand-name and specialty drugs: **a \$35 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Injectable Part D vaccines: **no charge**
- Emergency contraceptive pills: **no charge**
- The following insulin-administration devices at a **\$10 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**: needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, and gauze

Catastrophic Coverage Stage

You enter the Catastrophic Coverage Stage when your out-of-pocket costs have reached the **\$2,000** limit for the calendar year. Once you are in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you will stay in this payment stage until the end of the calendar year. During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

Note: Each year, effective on January 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may change coverage thresholds that apply for the calendar year. We will notify you in advance of any change to your coverage.

These payments are included in your out-of-pocket costs. Your out-of-pocket costs include the payments listed below (as long as they are for Part D covered drugs, and you followed the rules for drug coverage that are explained in this section):

- The amount you pay for drugs when you are in the Initial Coverage Stage
- Any payments you made during this calendar year as a member of a different Medicare prescription drug plan before you joined our plan

It matters who pays:

- If you make these payments yourself, they are included in your out-of-pocket costs
- These payments are also included in your out-of-pocket costs if they are made on your behalf by certain other individuals or organizations. This includes payments for your drugs made by a friend or relative, by most charities, by AIDS drug assistance programs, employer or union health plans, TRICARE, or by the Indian Health Service. Payments made by Medicare's "Extra Help" Program are also included

These payments are not included in your out-of-pocket costs. Your out-of-pocket costs **do not include** any of these types of payments:

- The amount you contribute, if any, toward your group's Premium
- Drugs you buy outside the United States and its territories
- Drugs that are not covered by our plan
- Drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy that do not meet our plan's requirements for out-of-network coverage
- Non-Part D drugs, including prescription drugs covered by Part A or Part B and other drugs excluded from coverage by Medicare
- Payments for your drugs that are made by the Veterans Health Administration (VA)
- Payments for your drugs made by a third-party with a legal obligation to pay for prescription costs (for example, Workers' Compensation)
- Payments made by drug manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program

Reminder: If any other organization such as the ones described above pays part or all of your out-of-pocket costs for Part D drugs, you are required to tell our plan by calling Member Services.

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'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.

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**), between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday; or
- Your state Medicaid office. See the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section for contact information

If you believe you have qualified for "Extra Help" and you believe that you are paying an incorrect Cost Share amount when you get your prescription at a Plan Pharmacy, our plan has a process for you to either request assistance in obtaining evidence of your proper Cost Share level, or, if you already have the evidence, to provide this evidence to us.

If you aren't sure what evidence to provide us, please contact a Plan Pharmacy or Member Services. The evidence is often a letter from either your state Medicaid or Social Security office that confirms you are qualified for "Extra Help." The evidence may also be state-issued documentation with your eligibility information associated with Home and Community-Based Services.

You or your appointed representative may need to provide the evidence to a Plan Pharmacy when obtaining covered Part D prescriptions so that we may charge you the appropriate Cost Share amount until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updates its records to reflect your current status. Once CMS updates its records, you will no longer need to present the evidence to the Plan Pharmacy. Please provide your evidence in one of the following ways so we can forward it to CMS for updating:

- Write to Kaiser Permanente at:
California Service Center
Attn: Best Available Evidence

P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

- Fax it to **1-877-528-8579**
- Take it to a Plan Pharmacy or your local Member Services office at a Plan Facility

When we receive the evidence showing your Cost Share level, we will update our system so that you can pay the correct Cost Share when you get your next prescription at our Plan Pharmacy. If you overpay your Cost Share, we will reimburse you. Either we will forward a check to you in the amount of your overpayment, or we will offset future Cost Share. If our Plan Pharmacy hasn't collected a Cost Share from you and is carrying your Cost Share as a debt owed by you, we may make the payment directly to our Plan Pharmacy. If a state paid on your behalf, we may make payment directly to the state. Please call Member Services if you have questions.

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*), which tells you about your Part D drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call Member Services and ask for the LIS Rider.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also on the ADAP formulary qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Note: To be eligible for the ADAP operating in your state, individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of state residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the state, and uninsured/under-insured status. If you change plans, please notify your local ADAP enrollment worker so you can continue to receive assistance. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the ADAP call center at **1-844-421-7050** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (excluding holidays).

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option that works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across **monthly payments that vary throughout the year** (January – December). **This payment option might help you manage your expenses, but it doesn't save you money or lower your drug costs.** “Extra Help” from Medicare and help from

your State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP) and AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), for those who qualify, is more advantageous than participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. All members are eligible to participate in this payment option, regardless of income level, and all Medicare drug plans and Medicare health plans with drug coverage must offer this payment option. Contact us or visit Medicare.gov to find out if this payment option is right for you.

If you're participating in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, each month you'll pay your plan premium (if you have one) and you'll get a bill from your health or drug plan for your prescription drugs (instead of paying the pharmacy). Your monthly bill is based on what you owe for any prescriptions you get, plus your previous month's balance, divided by the number of months left in the year.

The “Important Phone Numbers and Resources” section tells more about the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. If you disagree with the amount billed as part of this payment option, you can follow the steps described in the “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section to make a complaint or appeal.

Medicare Part D drug formulary (2025 Comprehensive Formulary)

Our plan has a 2025 Comprehensive Formulary. In this EOC, we call it the Drug List for short.

The drugs on this list are selected by our plan with the help of a team of doctors and pharmacists. The list meets Medicare's requirements and has been approved by Medicare.

The drugs on our Drug List are only those covered under Medicare Part D.

We will generally cover a drug on our plan's Drug List as long as you follow the other coverage rules explained in this section and the drug is 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 for the diagnosis or condition for which it is being prescribed, or
- Supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System

Our Drug List includes brand-name drugs, generic drugs, and biological products (which may include biosimilars).

A brand-name drug is a prescription drug that is sold under a trademarked name owned by the drug manufacturer. Biological products are drugs that are more complex than typical drugs. On the Drug List, when we refer to drugs, this could mean a drug or a biological product.

A generic drug is a prescription drug that has the same active ingredients as the brand-name drug. Biological products have alternatives that are called biosimilars. Generally, generics and biosimilars work just as well as the brand-name drug or original biological product and usually cost less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand-name drugs and biosimilar alternatives for some original biological products. Some biosimilars are interchangeable biosimilars and, depending on state law, may be substituted for the original biological product at the pharmacy without needing a new prescription, just like generic drugs can be substituted for brand-name drugs.

Preferred generic and generic drugs listed in the formulary will be subject to the generic drug Copayment or Coinsurance listed under “Cost Share for Medicare Part D drugs” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section. Preferred and nonpreferred brand-name drugs and specialty tier drugs listed in the formulary will be subject to the brand-name Copayment or Coinsurance listed under “Cost Share for Medicare Part D drugs” in this “Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements” section. Please note that sometimes a drug may appear more than once on our 2025 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. 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, for more information about our Part D transition coverage.

Medicare Part D exclusions (non-Part D drugs). If you get drugs that are excluded, you must pay for them yourself. If you appeal and the requested drug is found not to be excluded under Part D, we will pay for or cover it. For information about appealing a decision, go to “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints.” If a drug is not covered by Medicare Part D, any amounts

you pay for that drug will not count toward reaching the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

Here are three general rules about drugs that Medicare drug plans will not cover under Part D:

- Our plan's Part D drug coverage cannot cover a drug that would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B
- Our Plan cannot cover a drug purchased outside the United States or its territories
- Our plan cannot cover off-label use of a drug when the use is not supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System. Off-label use is any use of the drug other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the Food and Drug Administration

In addition, by law, the following categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare drug plans:

- 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, 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 Plan Provider and filled at a Plan home-infusion pharmacy

Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B

In addition to Medicare Part D drugs, we also cover outpatient prescription drugs that are covered by Medicare Part B. The following are the types of drugs that Medicare Part B covers:

- 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
- Transplant/Immunosuppressive drugs, if Medicare paid for your organ transplant (or a group plan was required to pay before Medicare paid for it). You must have Part A at the time of the covered transplant, and you must have Part B at the time you get immunosuppressive drugs. Keep in mind, Medicare drug coverage (Part D) covers immunosuppressive drugs if Part B doesn't cover them
- Certain oral anti-cancer drugs: Medicare covers some oral cancer drugs you take by mouth if the same drug is available in injectable form or the drug is a prodrug (an oral form of a drug that, when ingested, breaks down into the same active ingredient found in the injectable drug) of the injectable drug. As new oral cancer drugs become available, Part B may cover them. If Part B doesn't cover them, Part D does
- Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases
- 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

- 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
- Some Antigens: Medicare covers antigens if a doctor prepares them and a properly instructed person (who could be you, the patient) gives them under appropriate supervision
- Oral anti-nausea drugs: Medicare covers oral anti-nausea drugs you use as part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen if they're administered before, at, or within 48 hours of chemotherapy or are used as a full therapeutic replacement for an intravenous anti-nausea drug
- Certain oral End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) drugs if the same drug is available in injectable form and the Part B ESRD benefit covers it
- Calcimimetic medications under the ESRD payment system, including the intravenous medication Parsabiv®, and the oral medication Sensipar®
- Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin, when Medically Necessary, and topical anesthetics
- Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: Medicare covers erythropoietin by injection if you have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or you need this drug to treat anemia related to certain other conditions (such as Procrit®, Retacrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, or Darbepoetin Alfa)
- The Alzheimer's drug, Leqembi® (generic name lecanemab), which is administered intravenously. In addition to medication costs, you may need additional scans and tests before and/or during treatment that could add to your overall costs. Talk to your doctor about what scans and tests you may need as part of your treatment
- Parenteral and enteral nutrition (intravenous and tube feeding)

Your Cost Share for Medicare Part B drugs. You pay the following for Medicare Part B drugs:

- Generic drugs: **a \$10 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand-name drugs, specialty drugs, and compounded products: **a \$35 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**

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. 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 and prescribed by a Plan Physician
- Diaphragms, cervical caps, contraceptive rings, and contraceptive patches
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered drugs and supplements
- 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 outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare. Your Cost Share for these items is as follows:

- Generic items (that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*): **a \$10 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand-name items, specialty drugs, and compounded products (that are not described elsewhere in this *EOC*): **a \$35 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Generic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders: **25 percent Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply**
- Brand drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders: **25 percent Coinsurance for up to a 100-day supply**
- Generic drugs prescribed for the treatment of infertility: **a \$10 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**

- Brand drugs prescribed for the treatment of infertility: **a \$35 Copayment for up to a 100-day supply**
- Amino acid–modified products used to treat congenital errors of amino acid metabolism (such as phenylketonuria): **no charge for up to a 30-day supply**
- Elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis: **no charge for up to a 30-day supply**
- Ketone test strips and sugar or acetone test tablets or tapes for diabetes urine testing: **no charge for up to a 100-day supply**
- Tobacco cessation drugs: **no charge**. For over-the-counter medications, we cover up to two 100-day supplies per calendar year

Note: If Charges for the drug, supply, or supplement are less than the Copayment or Coinsurance, you will pay the lesser amount.

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 and pharmacists, selects drugs for the drug formulary based on several factors, including safety and effectiveness as determined from a review of medical literature. The drug formulary is updated monthly based on new information or new 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. 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 a non-formulary prescription drug (those not listed on our drug formulary for your condition) if it would otherwise be covered by your plan, as described above, and it is Medically Necessary. If you disagree with a Health Plan determination that a non-formulary prescription drug is not covered, you may file a grievance as described 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.

Manufacturer coupon program. For outpatient prescription drugs or items that are covered under the “Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare” section above 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.

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 similar 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 helps make sure members safely use prescription opioids and other frequently abused medications. This program is called a Drug Management Program (DMP). If you use opioid medications that you get from several prescribers or pharmacies, or if you had a recent opioid overdose, we may talk to your prescribers to make sure your use of opioid medications is appropriate and Medically Necessary. Working with your prescribers, if we decide your use of prescription opioid or benzodiazepine medications may not be safe, we may limit how you can get those medications. If we place you in our DMP, the limitations may be:

- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain pharmacy(ies)
- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain prescriber
- Limiting the amount of opioid or benzodiazepine medications we will cover for you

If we plan on limiting how you may get these medications or how much you can get, we will send you a letter in advance. The letter will tell you if we will limit coverage of these drugs for you, or if you'll be required to get the prescriptions for these drugs only from a specific prescriber or pharmacy. You will have an opportunity to tell us which prescribers or pharmacies you prefer to use, and about any other information you think is important for us to know. After you've had the opportunity to respond, if we decide to limit your coverage for these medications, we will send you another letter confirming the limitation. If you think we made a mistake or you disagree with our decision or with the limitation, you and your prescriber have the right to appeal. If you appeal, we will review your case and give you a new decision. If we continue to deny any part of your request related to the limitations that apply to your access to medications, we will automatically send your case to an independent reviewer outside of our plan. See the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section for information about how to ask for an appeal.

You will not be placed in our DMP if you have certain medical conditions, such as cancer-related pain or sickle cell disease, 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.

For the following Services, refer to these sections

- Diabetes blood-testing equipment and their supplies, and insulin pumps and their supplies (refer to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use")
- Drugs covered during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility (refer to "Hospital Inpatient Care" and "Skilled Nursing Facility Care")
- Drugs prescribed for pain control and symptom management of the terminal illness for Members who are receiving covered hospice care (refer to "Hospice Care")
- Durable medical equipment used to administer drugs (refer to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use")
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Care")
- Vaccines covered by Medicare Part B (refer to "Preventive Services")

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare limitations

- The prescribing physician or dentist determines how much of a drug, supply, item, or supplement to prescribe. For purposes of day supply coverage limits, Plan Physicians determine the amount of an item that constitutes a Medically Necessary 30- or 100-day supply for you. Upon payment of the Cost Share specified in the "Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements," you will receive the supply prescribed up to the day supply limit specified in this section or in the drug formulary for your plan (see "Non-Part D drug formulary" above). The maximum you may receive at one time of a covered item, is either one 30-day supply in a 30-day period or one 100-day supply in a 100-day period. If you wish to receive more than the covered day supply limit, then you must pay Charges for any prescribed quantities that exceed the day supply limit

- For sexual dysfunction drugs, the maximum you may receive at one time of episodic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction disorders is eight doses in any 30-day period or up to 27 doses in any 100-day period
- The pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed at the Cost Share specified under “Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare” for any drug to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period if the pharmacy determines that the item is in limited supply in the market or for specific drugs (your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs)

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare exclusions

- Any requested packaging (such as dose packaging) other than the dispensing pharmacy’s standard packaging
- Compounded products unless the drug is listed on one of our drug formularies or one of the ingredients requires a prescription by law
- 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 when prescribed solely for the purposes of losing weight, except when Medically Necessary for the treatment of morbid obesity. We may require Members who are prescribed drugs for morbid obesity to be enrolled in a covered comprehensive weight loss program, for a reasonable period of time prior to or concurrent with receiving the prescription drug

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 our 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 **20 percent**

Coinsurance:

- 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

Your Cost Share. You pay the following for other covered prosthetic and orthotic devices: **20 percent**

Coinsurance. For internally implanted prosthetic and orthotic devices, you pay the Cost Share for the procedure to implant the device. For example, see

“Outpatient Care” in this “Benefits and Your Cost Share” section for the Cost Share that applies for outpatient surgery.

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
- 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: **a \$50 Copayment per procedure**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **a \$20 Copayment per procedure**
- 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): **a \$500 Copayment per admission**

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 RNHCI. 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

If you participate in a Medicare-approved study, Original Medicare pays most of the costs for the covered Services you receive as part of the study. If you tell us that you are in a qualified clinical trial, then you are only responsible for the in-network cost-sharing for the services in that trial. If you paid more, for example, if you already paid the Original Medicare cost-sharing amount, we will reimburse the difference between what you paid and the in-network cost-sharing. However, you will need to provide documentation to show us how much you paid. When you are in a clinical research study, you may stay enrolled in our plan 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 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 our Service Area, we cover up to 100 days per benefit period of 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.

A benefit period begins on the date you are admitted to a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility at a skilled level of care (defined in accord with Medicare guidelines). A benefit period ends on the date you have not been an inpatient in a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility, receiving a skilled level of care, for 60 consecutive days. A new benefit period can begin only after any existing benefit period ends. A prior three-day stay in an acute care hospital is not required. Note: If your Cost Share changes during a benefit period, you will continue to pay the previous Cost Share amount until a new benefit period begins.

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 licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT)
- 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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Group substance use disorder treatment: **a \$5 Copayment per visit**
- Intensive outpatient and day-treatment programs: **a \$5 Copayment per day**

Residential treatment

Inside our 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 a **\$100 Copayment per admission**.

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 a **\$500 Copayment per admission**.

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 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
- Evaluation of video and/or images you send to your doctor, and interpretation and follow-up by your doctor within 24 hours if:
 - ♦ you're not a new patient, and
 - ♦ the evaluation isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days, and
 - ♦ the evaluation doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment

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

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”)

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: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**
- Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **a \$20 Copayment per visit**

Optical Services

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

The date we provide an Allowance toward (or otherwise cover) an item described in this “Optical Services” section is the date on which you order the item. For example, if we last provided an Allowance toward an item you ordered on May 1, 2023, and if we provide an Allowance not more than once every 24 months for that type of item, then we would not provide another Allowance toward that type of item until on or after May 1, 2025. You can use the Allowances under this “Optical Services” section only when you first order an item. If you use part but not all of an Allowance when you first order an item, you cannot use the rest of that Allowance later.

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 other specialty contact lenses that will provide a significant improvement in your vision not obtainable with eyeglass lenses, we cover either one pair of contact lenses (including fitting and dispensing) or an initial supply of disposable contact lenses (up to six months, including fitting and dispensing) in any 24 months at **no charge**

Eyeglasses and contact lenses

We provide a single **\$150 Allowance** toward the purchase price of any or all of the following not more than once every 24 months when a physician or optometrist prescribes an eyeglass lens (for eyeglass lenses and frames) or contact lens (for contact lenses):

- Eyeglass lenses when a Plan Provider puts the lenses into a frame
 - ◆ we cover a clear balance lens when only one eye needs correction
 - ◆ we cover tinted lenses when Medically Necessary to treat macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa
- Eyeglass frames when a Plan Provider puts two lenses (at least one of which must have refractive value) into the frame
- Contact lenses, fitting, and dispensing

We will not provide the Allowance if we have provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) eyeglass lenses or frames within the previous 24 months.

Replacement lenses

If you have a change in prescription of at least .50 diopter in one or both eyes within 12 months of the initial point of sale of an eyeglass lens or contact lens that we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) we will provide an Allowance toward the purchase price of a replacement item of the same type (eyeglass lens, or contact lens, fitting, and dispensing) for the eye that had the .50 diopter change. The Allowance toward one of these replacement lenses is **\$30** for a single vision eyeglass lens or for a contact lens (including fitting and dispensing) and **\$45** for a multifocal or lenticular eyeglass lens.

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

- Eyeglass or contact lens adornment, such as engraving, faceting, or jewelry
- Items that do not require a prescription by law (other than eyeglass frames), such as eyeglass holders, eyeglass cases, and repair kits
- Lenses and sunglasses without refractive value, except as described in this “Vision Services” section
- Low vision devices
- Replacement of lost, broken, or damaged contact lenses, eyeglass lenses, and frames

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 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, and services of massage therapists.

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 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 Emergency Department 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, 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, 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 an 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, 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, 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:

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 1-502-214-1137

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 monetary 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:

The Rawlings Company
One Eden Parkway
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031-2000
Fax: 1-502-214-1137

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, or you may receive a bill from a provider. 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 Pharmacy, 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 non-plan pharmacies in limited circumstances. We may not pay you back the difference between what you paid for the drug at the Non-Plan Pharmacy and the amount that we would pay at a Plan Pharmacy.

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. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

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 **2025 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. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription

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) paid 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) and upload supporting documentation
- Either download a copy of the form from our website (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)

- ◆ 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:

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

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 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566

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. Our share of the cost might not be the full amount you paid (for example, if you obtained a drug at a Non-Plan Pharmacy or if the cash price you paid for a drug is higher than our negotiated price). 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, large font, braille, audio file, or data 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. We can also give you information in large font, braille, audio file, or data 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 que sea coherente con sus sensibilidades culturales (en idiomas distintos al inglés, en letra grande, en braille, en archivo de audio o en CD de datos)

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, prestación de servicios de traducción, interpretación, teletipo o conexión TTY (teléfono de texto o teletipo).

Nuestro plan tiene servicios de interpretación gratuitos disponibles para responder las preguntas de los miembros que no hablan inglés. Este documento está disponible en español y en chino llamando a Servicio a los Miembros. Si la necesita, también podemos darle, sin costo, información en letra grande, en braille, en archivo de audio o en CD de datos. 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 de la mujer 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 especializados 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, consultar a un especialista en salud de la mujer o encontrar un especialista de la red, por favor llame para presentar una queja formal ante Servicio a los Miembros. También puede presentar una queja en Medicare llamando al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-

4227) o directamente en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles 1-800-368-1019 o al 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 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 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 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 us and by you.

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.

Hospice care

If you have Medicare Part A, your hospice care is covered by Original Medicare and it is not covered under this *EOC*. Therefore, any complaints related to the coverage of hospice care must be resolved directly with Medicare and not through any complaint or appeal procedure discussed in this *EOC*. Medicare complaint and appeal procedures are described in the Medicare handbook *Medicare & You*, which is available from your local Social Security office, at <https://www.medicare.gov>, or 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. If you do not have Medicare Part A, Original Medicare does not cover hospice care. Instead, we will provide hospice care, and any complaints related to hospice care are subject to this “Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints” section.

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 medical care
- 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)
 - ◆ for medical care or 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.) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person who 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 complete our review until we receive it. If we do not receive the form before 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 Part B prescription drug. In those cases, we will explain how the rules for Part B prescription drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells 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 calendar 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 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. 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 calendar 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 calendar days or 7 calendar 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 65 calendar days from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for 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 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 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 typically within 30 calendar days, but no later than 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 **2025 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 to cover a Part D drug that is not on our **2025 Comprehensive Formulary**. **Ask for an exception**
- Asking to waive a restriction on our plan’s coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get, prior authorization, or the requirement to try another drug first). **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 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 our 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 our *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 calendar 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 Redetermination 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 65 calendar days from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for 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 calendar 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 calendar 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/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im>

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, contact us. If 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

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/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im>

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

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the reviewers) will ask you (or your representative) why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you 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 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 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 calendar 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 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, and you wish to file an appeal, you still have appeal rights. Contact your Quality Improvement Organization

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 calendar days after the day when the Quality Improvement Organization said **no** to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you continued getting care after the date 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 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 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 who 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 who 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 for medical care or items, or if we extend the time we need to make a decision about a coverage decision or appeal for medical care or items. 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Legal Department, Professional & Public Liability
1 Kaiser Plaza, 19th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025). 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.

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, 2026, your last minute of coverage was at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025.

Also, we will terminate your Senior Advantage membership on the last day of the month if you:

- Are temporarily absent from our Service Area for more than six months in a row
- Permanently move from our Service Area
- No longer have Medicare Part B
- 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 may be eligible to transfer your membership to another Kaiser Permanente plan offered by your Group. 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 at any time. However, before you request disenrollment, please check with your Group to determine if you are able to continue your Group membership.

If you request disenrollment during your Group's open enrollment, your disenrollment effective date is determined by the date your written request is received by us and the date your Group coverage ends. The effective date will not be earlier than the first day of the following month after we receive your written request, and no later than three months after we receive your request.

If you request disenrollment at a time other than your Group's open enrollment, 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:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232400
San Diego, CA 92193-2400

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. Also, you may be eligible to transfer your membership to another Kaiser Permanente plan offered by your Group.

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 we do not receive 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 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 this Senior Advantage *EOC* ends, you may be eligible to continue Health Plan membership without a break in coverage. You may be able to continue Group coverage under this Senior Advantage *EOC* as described under "Continuation of Group Coverage." Also, you may be able to continue membership under an individual plan as described under "Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan." If at any time you become entitled to continuation of Group coverage, please examine your coverage options carefully before declining this coverage.

Individual plan premiums and coverage will be different from the premiums and coverage under your Group 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 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

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

Call 1-877-645-1282

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

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 on asking for 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, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fax 1-866-206-2974

Write Kaiser Permanente
Medicare Part D Unit
P.O. Box 1809
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Website 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., seven days a week. 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., seven days a week.

TTY 711

Calls to this number are free.

Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Write For medical care:

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

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](https://www.kp.org)

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan – 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](https://www.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/

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

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 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/

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/

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 답해 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。