



*Evidence of Coverage*

# **Your Medicare Health Benefits and Services as a Member of SecurityChoice Essential**

**For Select Counties in Most States**

This mailing gives you the details about your Medicare health coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2009, and explains how to get the health care you need. This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.

**SecurityChoice Customer Service:**

For help or information, please call Customer Service (below), or go to our plan website at [www.unicare.com/medicare](http://www.unicare.com/medicare).

**1-888-445-8916**

**TTY/TDD users call: 1-800-425-5705**

(Calls to these numbers are free.)

**Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST, 7 days a week.**

This plan is offered by UniCare Life and Health Insurance Company, referred to throughout the EOC as “we,” “us” or “our.” SecurityChoice is referred to as “plan” or “our plan.” Our organization contracts with the federal government.

This information may be available in a different format, including Spanish and large print. Please call Customer Service at the number listed above if you need plan information in another format or language.

# **This is Your 2009 Evidence of Coverage (EOC)**

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## **Table of Contents**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>How You Get Care.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Member of Our Plan .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>How to File a Grievance .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Complaints and Appeals About Your Part C Medical Care and Services .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Ending Your Membership .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Definitions of Important Words Used in the EOC .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Helpful Phone Numbers and Resources .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Legal Notices .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>How Much You Pay for Your Part C Medical Benefits .....</b>	<b>42</b>
	<b>General Exclusions .....</b>	<b>56</b>
	<b>Index .....</b>	<b>67</b>

# 1. Introduction

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## Thank You for Being a Member of Our Plan

This is your Evidence of Coverage, which explains how to get your Medicare health care through our plan, a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan. You are still covered by Medicare, but you are getting your health care coverage through our plan.

This Evidence of Coverage, together with your enrollment form, riders, and amendments that we send to you, is our contract with you. The Evidence of Coverage explains your rights, benefits, and responsibilities as a member of our plan and is in effect from January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009.

Our plan's contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is renewed annually and availability of coverage beyond the current contract year is not guaranteed.

This Evidence of Coverage will explain to you:

- What is covered by our plan and what isn't covered.
- How to get the care you need, including some rules you must follow.
- What you will have to pay for your health care.
- What to do if you are unhappy about something related to getting your covered services.
- How to leave our plan, and other Medicare options that are available.

This section of the EOC has important information about:

- Eligibility requirements
- The geographic service area of our plan
- Keeping your membership record up to date
- Materials that you will receive from our plan
- Paying your plan premiums

## Eligibility Requirements

To be a member of our plan, you must live in our service area, be entitled to Medicare Part A, and enrolled in Medicare Part B. If you currently pay a premium for Medicare Part A and/or Medicare Part B, you must continue paying your premium in order to keep your Medicare Part A and/or Medicare Part B and remain a member of this plan.

## The Geographic Service Area for Our Plan

The state(s) and counties and parts of counties in our service area are listed below.

In Alabama, the counties of: Autauga, Baldwin, Blount, Cherokee, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Conecuh, Dale, Dallas, Geneva, Houston, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Limestone, Marengo, Marion, Randolph, St Clair, Sumter, Washington and Winston.

In Arizona, the counties of: Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Pinal.

In Arkansas, the counties of: Ashley, Baxter, Cleveland, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Dallas, Grant, Monroe, Nevada, Ouachita, Phillips, Polk, Pulaski, St Francis, Stone, Union and Van Buren.

In Florida, the counties of: Calhoun, Columbia, Jackson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Madison, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla and Washington.

In Idaho, the counties of: Adams, Bonner, Bonneville, Caribou, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Kootenai, Lemhi and Washington.

In Illinois, the counties of: Bond, Bureau, Effingham, Fulton, Hardin, Jefferson, Kankakee, La Salle, Lee, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, Massac, Rock Island, Saline, Shelby, Vermilion, Washington, Wayne, Whiteside and Williamson.

In Iowa, the counties of: Adams, Bremer, Butler, Des Moines, Dubuque and Montgomery.

In Louisiana, the counties of: Avoyelles, Bossier, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Catahoula, De Soto, East Carroll, Jefferson, Morehouse, Rapides, St Bernard, St Charles and Winn.

In Maryland, the counties of: Anne Arundel, Charles, Garrett, Harford, Howard and Prince Georges.

In Massachusetts, the counties of: Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Worcester.

In Michigan, the counties of: Alcona, Benzie, Berrien, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Iron, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Oceana, Osceola, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wexford.

In Minnesota, the counties of: Crow Wing, Dakota, Olmsted and Ramsey.

In Mississippi, the counties of: Desoto, Franklin, George, Hancock, Hinds, Holmes, Leflore, Lincoln, Neshoba, Perry, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Stone, Union, Washington and Winston.

In Montana, the counties of: Blaine, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Deer Lodge, Granite, Hill, Lake, Liberty, Madison, Missoula, Phillips, Pondera, Roosevelt, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole.

In Nebraska, the counties of: Dodge, Douglas, Redwillow and Saunders.

In New Jersey, the counties of: Burlington, Camden and Gloucester.

In New Mexico, the counties of: Eddy and Roosevelt.

In New York, the counties of: Cattaraugus, Hamilton, Lewis, St Lawrence and Tompkins.

In North Carolina, the counties of: Alleghany, Avery, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Cleveland, Craven, Dare, Hertford, Onslow, Pamlico, Richmond, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Swain, Wayne, Wilkes and Wilson.

In North Dakota, the counties of: Bottineau, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Grand Forks, Hettinger, Oliver, Ransom, Rolette and Sheridan.

In Oklahoma, the counties of: Beaver, Canadian, Carter, Comanche, Creek, Dewey, Harper, Jefferson, Kay, Le Flore, Lincoln, McClain, McCurtain, Oklahoma, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Seminole, Texas, Tillman, Tulsa and Wagoner.

In Oregon, the counties of: Coos, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Morrow and Tillamook.

In Pennsylvania, the counties of: Armstrong, Bedford, Butler, Chester, Delaware, Greene, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Wayne and Westmoreland

In South Carolina, the counties of: Abbeville, Aiken, Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Lexington, Marion, Oconee, Orangeburg, Sumter and York

In South Dakota, the counties of: Brown, Day, Edmunds, Gregory, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Marshall, McPherson, Spink, Turner and Union

In Tennessee, the counties of: Bedford, Benton, Bradley, Campbell, Carroll, Cheatham, Cocke, Crockett, Cumberland, Davidson, De Kalb, Dyer, Gibson, Greene, Hamilton, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lincoln, Madison, Maury, Monroe, Montgomery, Overton, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Tipton and Wilson.

In Texas, the counties of: Angelina, Armstrong, Bowie, Brazoria, Brown, Burleson, Calhoun, Callahan, Clay, Comanche, Denton, Eastland, Erath, Franklin, Gillespie, Gray, Gregg, Grimes, Harrison, Hays, Hill, Hockley, Hood, Houston, Hunt, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kendall, Leon, Marion, McLennan, McMullen, Midland, Navarro, Newton, Ochiltree, Parmer, Polk, Reagan, Red River, Reeves, Runnels, Rusk, San Augustine, San Saba, Smith, Taylor, Tom Green, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Uvalde, Van Zandt, Walker, Webb, Wheeler, Wilbarger, Winkler, Wise, Yoakum and Zapata

In Vermont, the counties of: Franklin and Grand Isle.

In Washington, the counties of: Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Okanogan, Skagit and Whitman.

In West Virginia, the counties of: Calhoun, Fayette, Logan, Marion, Mercer, Mingo, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tyler, Webster and Wood.

In Wyoming, the counties of: Albany, Big Horn, Carbon, Fremont, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Teton, Uinta and Weston.

We offer coverage in several states. However, there may be cost or other differences between the plans we offer in each state. If you move out of the state where you live into a state listed above that is still within our service area, you must call Customer Service in order to update your information. If you move into a state not listed above, and outside of our service area, you cannot remain a member of our plan. Please call Customer Service to find out if we have a plan in your new state.

## How Do I Keep My Membership Record Up To Date?

We have a membership record about you. Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and telephone number. It shows your specific plan coverage and other information. Doctors, hospitals and others use your membership record to know what services are covered for you. *Section 3 tells how we protect the privacy of your personal health information.*

Please help us keep your membership record up to date by telling Customer Service if there are changes to your name, address, or phone number, or if you go into a nursing home. Also, tell Customer Service about any changes in other health insurance coverage you have, such as from your employer, your spouse's employer, Workers' Compensation, Medicaid or liability claims such as claims from an automobile accident.

## Materials That You Will Receive From Our Plan

### Plan Membership Card

While you are a member of our plan, you must use our membership card for services covered by this plan. While you are a member of our plan you must not use your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get covered services and items.

Keep your red, white, and blue Medicare card in a safe place in case you need it later. If you get covered services using your red, white, and blue Medicare card instead of using our membership card while you are a plan member, the Medicare Program won't pay for these services and you may have to pay the full cost yourself.

Please carry your membership card that we gave you at all times and remember to show your card when you get covered services and items.

If your membership card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call Customer Service right away and we will send you a new card. *There is a sample card in Section 10 to show you what it looks like.*

### Your Monthly Plan Premium

The monthly premium amount described in this section does not include any late enrollment penalty you may be responsible for paying. See "What Is the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Late Enrollment Penalty?" later in this section for more information.

As a member of our plan, you pay:

1. Your monthly Medicare Part B premium. Most people will pay the standard premium amount, which is \$96.40 in 2009. (Your Part B premium is typically deducted from your Social Security payment.) (If you receive benefits from your state Medicaid program, all or part of your Part B premium may be paid for you.)

Your monthly premium will be higher if you are single (file an individual tax return) and your yearly income is more than

\$85,000, or if you are married (file a joint tax return) and your yearly income is more than \$170,000.)

If your yearly income is*		In 2009, you pay*
File individual tax return	File joint tax return	
\$85,000 or below	\$170,000 or below	\$96.40
\$85,001-\$107,000	\$170,001-\$214,000	\$134.90
\$107,001-\$160,000	\$214,001-\$320,000	\$192.70
\$160,001-\$213,000	\$320,001-\$426,000	\$250.50
Above \$213,000	Above \$426,000	\$308.30

\* If you pay a Part B late-enrollment penalty, the premium amount is higher.

- Your monthly Medicare Part A premium, if necessary (most people don't have to pay this premium).

## What Is the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Late Enrollment Penalty?

If you don't join a Medicare drug plan when you are first eligible, and/or you go without creditable prescription drug coverage for a continuous period of 63 days or more, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty when you enroll in a plan later. The Medicare drug plan will let you know what the amount is and it will be added to your monthly premium.

This penalty amount changes every year, and you have to pay it as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. However, if you qualify for extra help, you may not have to pay a penalty.

If you must pay a late enrollment penalty, your penalty is calculated when you first join a Medicare drug plan. To estimate your penalty,

take 1% of the national base beneficiary premium for the year you join. (In 2008, the national base beneficiary premium is \$27.93. This amount may change in 2009.) Multiply it by the number of full months you were eligible to join a Medicare drug plan but didn't, and then round that amount to the nearest ten cents. This is your estimated penalty amount, which is added each month to your Medicare drug plan's premium for as long as you are in that plan.

### You won't have to pay a late enrollment penalty if:

- You had creditable coverage (coverage that expects to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage)
- You had prescription drug coverage but you were not adequately informed that the coverage was *not* creditable (as good as Medicare's drug coverage)
- Any period of time that you didn't have creditable prescription drug coverage was less than 63 continuous days
- You lived in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina at the time of the hurricane (August 2005) *and* you signed up for a Medicare Prescription Drug plan by December 31, 2006, *and* you stay in a Medicare Prescription Drug plan
- You received or are receiving extra help.

## Important Information

We will send you a Coordination of Benefits Survey so that we can know what other health coverage you have besides our plan. Medicare requires us to collect this information from you, so when you get the survey, please fill it out and send it back. If you have additional health coverage, you must provide that information to our plan. In addition, if you lose or gain additional health coverage, please call Customer Service to update your membership records.

# 2. How You Get Care

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## How You Get Care

### What Are “Providers”?

“Providers” is the term we use for doctors, other health care professionals, hospitals, and other health care facilities that are licensed by the state and, as appropriate, eligible to receive payment from Medicare.

### What Are “Covered Services”?

“Covered services” is the term we use for all the medical care, health care services, supplies and equipment that are covered by our plan.

*Covered services are listed in the Benefits Chart in Section 10.*

### What Do You Pay for “Covered Services”?

*The amount you pay for covered services is listed in Section 10.*

### Providers You Can Use to Get Services Covered by Our Plan

As a member of our plan, you may get health care services from any provider, such as a doctor or hospital, in the United States who is eligible to be paid by Medicare and agrees to accept the plan’s terms and conditions of payment prior to providing health care services to you. Not all providers may accept our plan’s payment terms or agree to treat you. Therefore, you must show your plan membership ID card every time you visit a health care provider so that the provider is aware of your membership in a PFFS plan.

There is a telephone number or website on the card for the provider to find out about our plan’s terms and conditions of payment. This gives your provider the right to choose whether to accept our plan’s terms and conditions of payment before treating you. The provider cannot change his/her mind about accepting

the plan’s terms and conditions of payment after furnishing services. If you need emergency care, it is covered whether the provider agrees to accept the plan’s payment terms or not.

If your provider agrees to accept our plan, then the provider must follow the plan’s terms and conditions for payment, and bill the plan for the services they provide for you. You are only required to pay the copayment or coinsurance amount allowed by our plan at the time of the visit. A provider can decide at every visit whether or not to accept our plan’s payment terms and agree to treat you.

As soon as you have told your provider that you are a member of our plan (for example, by showing them your plan ID card) and they agree to treat you, your provider is bound by the terms and conditions of payment of the plan even if they don’t explicitly accept them. We call these providers “deemed providers.”

If your provider doesn’t agree to our plan’s terms and conditions of payment, then the provider shouldn’t provide services to you, except for emergencies. In this case, you will need to find another provider that will accept our plan’s payment terms. If the provider chooses to treat you, then they may not bill you. They must bill the plan for your covered health care services. You are only required to pay the copayment or coinsurance amount allowed by the plan and listed in Section 10 at the time of the service.

### What Should You Do With Your Provider Bills?

You should only pay the provider the cost sharing allowed by our plan and listed in Section 10. You should ask your provider to bill us for the rest of the fee and we will pay the provider according to our plan’s terms and conditions of payment. If the provider asks you to pay the full amount of the bill, and have you get paid back by the plan, tell the provider that

you only have to pay the cost-sharing amount. Your membership card in our plan will indicate how the provider can contact us for information on our terms and conditions of payment. If the provider wants further information on payment for covered services, please have them contact us at the address or phone number below.

UniCare Security Choice Claims  
P.O. Box 795180  
San Antonio, TX 78279  
1-866-364-2374  
1-800-425-5705

If you get a bill for the services, you may send the bill to us for payment. We will pay your provider for our share of the bill and will let you know if you must pay any cost sharing. However, if you have already paid for the covered services we will reimburse you for our share of the cost.

If you have any questions about whether our plan will pay for a certain health care service, you can ask us for a written advance coverage decision before you get the service. We will let you know if our plan will pay for the service.

## Getting Care If You Have a Medical Emergency or an Urgent Need for Care

### What Is a “Medical Emergency”?

A “medical emergency” is when you believe that your health is in serious danger. A medical emergency includes severe pain, a bad injury, a sudden illness, or a medical condition that is quickly getting much worse.

### If You Have a Medical Emergency:

- Get medical help as quickly as possible. Call 911 for help or go to the nearest emergency room, hospital, or urgent care center. You don’t need to get approval or a referral first from your doctor or other network provider.
- As soon as possible, make sure that we know about your emergency, because we need to be involved in following up on your emergency care. Call the phone number

shown on the back of your membership card.

## What Is Covered If You Have a Medical Emergency?

- You may get covered emergency medical care whenever you need it, anywhere in the United States.
- **Ambulance** services are covered in situations where other means of transportation in the United States would endanger your health.
- Worldwide emergency care is covered. *See the Benefits Chart in Section 10 for more detailed information.*

## What If It Wasn’t a Medical Emergency?

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you have a medical emergency. For example, you might go in for emergency care — thinking that your health is in serious danger — and the doctor may say that it was not a medical emergency after all. If you decide to get follow-up care from the provider treating you, then you should advise them of your plan enrollment as soon as possible, for example by showing them your member ID card with your plan information.

The plan will pay for all medically necessary plan-covered services furnished by the provider and nonemergency care that you get from any provider in the United States to whom you have informed, by showing your member ID card, that you are a plan member, and who agrees to accept our plan’s terms and conditions of payment.

## What Is Urgently Needed Care?

Urgent care refers to nonemergency care received outside the service area of the plan. However, as discussed in detail earlier in this section, a PFFS plan allows enrollees to access care from any Medicare-approved provider in the United States who agrees to accept our plan’s terms and conditions of payment prior to treating you. Consequently, the concept of

urgent care does not apply, since you may always obtain care outside of the service area.

Urgently needed care is covered worldwide.

## **What Is Your Cost for Services That Aren't Covered by Our Plan?**

Our plan covers all of the medically necessary services that are covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. Our plan uses Medicare's coverage rules to decide what services are medically necessary. You are responsible for paying the full cost of services that aren't covered by our plan.

Other sections of this booklet describe the services that are covered under our plan and the rules that apply to getting your care as a plan member. Our plan might not cover the costs of services that aren't medically necessary under Medicare, even if the service is listed as covered by our plan.

If you need a service that our plan decides isn't medically necessary based on Medicare's coverage rules, you may have to pay all of the costs of the service if you didn't ask for an advance coverage determination. However, you have the right to appeal the decision.

If you have any questions about whether our plan will pay for a service or item, including inpatient hospital services, you have the right to have an organization determination or a coverage determination made for the service. You may call Customer Service and tell us you would like a decision on whether the service will be covered before you get the service.

For covered services that have a benefit limitation, you pay the full cost of any services you get after you have used up your benefit for that type of covered service. These costs will not count toward your out-of-pocket maximum. You can call Customer Service when you want to know how much of your benefit limit you have already used.

## **How Can You Participate in a Clinical Trial?**

A "clinical trial" is a way of testing new types of medical care, like how well a new cancer drug works. A clinical trial is one of the final stages of a research process that helps doctors and researchers see if a new approach works and if it is safe.

The Original Medicare Plan pays for routine costs if you take part in a clinical trial that meets Medicare requirements (meaning it's a "qualified" clinical trial and Medicare-approved). Routine costs include costs like room and board for a hospital stay that Medicare would pay for even if you weren't in a trial, an operation to implant an item that is being tested, and items and services to treat side effects and complications arising from the new care. Generally, Medicare will not cover the costs of experimental care, such as the drugs or devices being tested in a clinical trial.

There are certain requirements for Medicare coverage of clinical trials. If you participate as a patient in a clinical trial that meets Medicare requirements, the Original Medicare Plan (and not our plan) pays the clinical trial doctors and other providers for the covered services you get that are related to the clinical trial.

When you are in a clinical trial, you may stay enrolled in our plan and continue to get the rest of your care, like diagnostic services, follow-up care, and care that is unrelated to the clinical trial through our plan. Our plan is still responsible for coverage of certain investigational devices exemptions (IDE), called Category B IDE devices, needed by our members.

You will have to pay the same coinsurance amounts charged under Original Medicare for the services you receive when participating in a qualifying clinical trial, but you do not have to pay the Original Medicare Part A or Part B deductibles because you are enrolled in our plan.

You don't need to get a referral (approval in advance) from a network provider to join a clinical trial, and the clinical trial providers don't need to be network providers. However,

please be sure to **tell us before you start participation in a clinical trial** so that we can keep track of your health care services. When you tell us about starting participation in a clinical trial, we can let you know whether the clinical trial is Medicare-approved, and what services you will get from clinical trial providers instead of from our plan.

You may view or download the publication *Medicare and Clinical Trials* at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Under “Search Tools” select “Find a Medicare Publication.” Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

## **How to Access Care in Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institutions**

Care in a Medicare-certified Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institution (RNHCI) is

covered by our plan under certain conditions. Covered services in an RNHCI are limited to non-religious 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 “non-excepted” medical treatment. (“Excepted” medical treatment is medical care or treatment that you receive involuntarily or that is required under federal, state or local law. “Non-excepted” medical treatment is any other medical care or treatment.) Medicare inpatient hospital coverage limits apply.

# 3. Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Member of Our Plan

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## Introduction to Your Rights and Protections

Since you have Medicare, you have certain rights to help protect you. In this section, we explain your Medicare rights and protections as a member of our plan, and we explain what you can do if you think you are being treated unfairly or your rights are not being respected.

## Your Right to Be Treated With Dignity, Respect and Fairness

You have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness at all times. Our plan must obey laws that protect you from discrimination or unfair treatment. We don't discriminate based on a person's race, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, health, ethnicity, creed, age, or national origin.

If you need help with communication, such as help from a language interpreter, please call Customer Service. Customer Service can also help if you need to file a complaint about access (such as wheel chair access). You may also call the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019 or TTY/TDD 1-800-537-7697, or your local Office for Civil Rights.

Also, we do not discriminate based on a person's educational background, economic or health status, English proficiency, reading skills or source of payment for your care. Expect these rights to be upheld by the plan.

You also have the right to:

- Expect this plan to provide thoughtful and courteous care that takes into account your personal privacy and human dignity.
- Expect to get health care services in a language you can understand and in a culturally sensitive way, and to be treated

with dignity, respect and fairness at all times.

- Expect that your health care records will be kept confidential, except when law permits or requires their release. This includes the right to talk with your health care providers in private, and to have us keep confidential all communications about your care and all information in your medical records.
- Extend your rights to any person legally authorized by you to represent you regarding your medical care.
- Refuse treatment, or leave a medical facility, even against the advice of your doctor and be told the consequences of your refusal.
- Be involved in decisions to withhold resuscitative services, or to forego or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.

## Your Right to the Privacy of Your Medical Records and Personal Health Information

There are federal and state laws that protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information. We protect your personal health information under these laws. Any personal information that you give us when you enroll in this plan is protected.

We will make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records. Generally, we must get written permission from you (or from someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you) before we can give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care.

There are exceptions allowed or required by law, such as release of health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care. The laws that protect your privacy give you rights related to getting information and controlling how your health

information is used. We are required to provide you with a notice that tells about these rights and explains how we protect the privacy of your health information.

You have the right to look at medical records held at the plan, and to get a copy of your records (there may be a fee charged 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 review your request and figure out whether the changes are appropriate).

You have the right to know how your health information has been given out and used for non-routine purposes. If you have questions or concerns about privacy of your personal information and medical records, please call Customer Service.

## **Protecting Your Records**

When you became covered under your plan, you agreed that your plan, or its designee, may use or disclose confidential information for payment purposes, review of claims, and any services related to the managed care operations of your plan, or as permitted or required by law.

In addition you agreed that any health care provider, health care payer or government agency shall furnish to your plan or its designee all records pertaining to medical history, services rendered, and payments made for use and/or disclosure by your plan to administer the terms of this plan.

Release of confidential information to outside vendors for purposes of payment for health care operations is made only in accordance with appropriate confidentiality agreements and contractual arrangements; release of confidential information to outside vendors for purposes of research is presented in a way that maintains member confidentiality and does not allow doctor or member identification. Identifiable personal health information is not shared with an employer, unless permitted or required by law.

## **Accessing Your Records**

- Because your plan is not a provider of actual medical services, it does not maintain medical records created by your medical service provider.
- If you would like access to your personal medical records, please contact your doctor to learn how to obtain this information.
- If you would like access to your confidential information maintained by your plan, please contact a Customer Service representative to arrange for access.
- Your plan requires all of its employees to comply with state and federal laws regarding confidentiality of patient records to ensure privacy of members' personal and medical information.
- You have the right to know how your health information has been given out and used for non-routine purposes.

## **Releasing Your Records**

- Your plan does not release members' confidential medical information without specific written authorization from the member, except as stated above for payment activities and plan administration, and as may be permitted or required by law.
- The written authorization shall specify what information may be disclosed, the purpose for which the information will be used and a time period for which the authorization applies, and that it may be revoked at any time.
- In the case of adults lacking capacity to provide authorization, your plan shall request authorization from a person with legal authority to provide authorization.

## **Confidentiality Policy**

- Your plan is committed to keeping all members' medical information confidential. Your plan uses and enforces appropriate measures to protect the confidentiality, security and integrity of members' confidential medical information.
- Members' confidential medical information is available only to those of your plan's

employees and authorized third persons who need the documents to perform their jobs.

- There are state and federal laws, along with your plan policies, that everyone must obey concerning the use, disclosure, release, security, storage and destruction of members' medical information.

## Questions or Concerns

If you have questions or concern about privacy of your personal information and medical records, please call Customer Service at the phone number on the cover of this booklet.

## Your Right to Get Covered Services Within a Reasonable Period of Time

As explained in this booklet, you will get most or all of your care from licensed providers who have agreed to accept our plan's terms and conditions of payment and treat you. You have the right to seek care from any provider in the U.S. who is eligible to be paid by Medicare and agrees to accept our plan's terms and conditions of payment. You have the right to timely access to providers. "Timely access" means that you can get services within a reasonable amount of time.

## Your Right to Know Your Treatment Options and Participate in Decisions About Your Health Care

You have the right to get full information from your providers when you go for medical care, and the right to participate fully in decisions about your health care. Your providers must explain things in a way that you can understand.

Your rights include knowing 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. 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, and be given the choice of refusing experimental treatments.

You have the right to receive a detailed explanation from us if you believe that a provider has denied care that you believe you were entitled to receive or care you believe you should continue to receive. In these cases, you must request an initial decision called an organization determination. Organization determinations are discussed in Section 5.

You have the right to refuse treatment. This includes the right to leave a hospital or other medical facility, even if your doctor advises you not to leave. This includes the right to stop taking your medication. If you refuse treatment, you accept responsibility for what happens as a result of your refusing treatment.

## Your Right to Use Advance Directives (Such as a Living Will or a Power of Attorney)

You have the right to ask someone such as a family member or friend to help you with decisions about your health care. Sometimes, people become unable to make health care decisions for themselves due to accidents or serious illness.

If you want to, you can use a special form to give someone the legal authority to make decisions for you if you ever become unable to make decisions for yourself.

You also have the right to 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 in 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 have an advance directive, you can get 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.

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.

It is important to sign this form and keep a copy at home. You should give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form as the one to make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members as well.

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. If you are admitted to the hospital, they 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.

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital hasn't followed the instructions in it, you may file a complaint with the Department of Health in your state.

## Your Right to Get Information About Our Plan

You have the right to get information from us about our plan. This includes information about our financial condition, and how our plan compares to other health plans. *To get any of this information, call Customer Service.*

You have the right to:

- Receive information about this plan that is easy to understand, on a regular, consistent basis. This includes getting information about which medical services are covered and not covered by this plan, what costs are covered by this plan, what you must pay

deemed or non-participating plan providers, member rights and responsibilities, and what to do if you have a concern or complaint.

- Have someone help you make decisions, or to give another person the legal responsibility to make decisions about medical care on your behalf.
- Receive information regarding how medical treatment decisions and payments are made by this plan or another entity to which it delegates medical treatment decisions.
- Receive information about your medications — what they are, how to take them and possible side effects.
- Receive an explanation of the reason why the plan is denying payment for a service, including the right to file a request for reconsideration or appeal our decision to not cover a service.
- Receive prompt notification of termination or changes in benefits or services.
- Offer suggestions to improve your health care plan's policies and procedures.
- Make recommendations regarding rights and responsibilities policy of the organization's members.
- Request and receive information on the procedures we use to control utilization of services and expenditures.
- Request and receive information on the number and disposition in aggregate of grievances and appeals filed by members of this plan.
- Request and receive a description of our financial condition, including a summary of our most recently audited financial statement.
- Request and receive a summary description of the method of compensation for physicians used by this plan.
- Receive a document as a hospital patient called *Important Messages From Medicare*, which explains your rights as a hospital patient. These include the right to be told why you are being discharged (released from the hospital), and what to do if you feel you are being discharged too soon.

- Request and receive a summary description of your plan's quality improvement program including our goals and achievements.
- Request and receive this EOC in large print, if you are visually impaired.

## Your Right to Get Information in Other Formats

You have the right to get your questions answered. Our plan must have individuals and translation services available to answer questions from non-English speaking beneficiaries, and must provide information about our benefits that is accessible and appropriate for persons eligible for Medicare because of disability.

If you have difficulty obtaining information from your plan based on language or a disability, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

## Your Right to Get Information About Our Providers

You have the right to get information from us about our providers. To get this information, call Customer Service.

## Your Right to Get Information About Your Part C Medical Care or Services and Costs

You have the right to an explanation from us about any Part C medical care or service not covered by our plan. We must tell you in writing why we will not pay for or approve a Part C medical care or service, and how you can file an appeal to ask us to change this decision. *See Section 5 for more information about filing an appeal.*

You also have the right to this explanation even if you obtain the Part C medical care or service from a provider not affiliated with our organization.

## Your Right to Make Complaints

You have the right to make a complaint if you have concerns or problems related to your coverage or care. *See Section 4 and Section 5 for more information about complaints.*

If you make a complaint, we must treat you fairly (i.e., not retaliate against you) because you made a complaint. You have the right to get a summary of information about the appeals and grievances that members have filed against our plan in the past. *To get this information, call Customer Service.*

## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

### Effective July 1, 2007

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

We keep the health and financial information of our current and former members private as required by law, accreditation standards, and our rules. This notice explains your rights. It also explains our legal duties and privacy practices. We are required by federal law to give you this notice.

## Your Protected Health Information

We may collect, use, and share your Protected Health Information (PHI) for the following reasons and others as allowed or required by law, including the HIPAA privacy rule:

**For Payment:** We use and share PHI to manage your account or benefits; or to pay claims for health care you get through your plan. For example, we keep information about your premium and deductible payments. We may give information to a doctor's office to confirm your benefits.

**For Health Care Operations:** We use and share PHI for our health care operations. For example, we may use PHI to review the quality of care and services you get. We may also use PHI to provide you with case management or

care coordination services for conditions like asthma, diabetes, or traumatic injury.

**For Treatment Activities:** We do not provide treatment. This is the role of a health care provider such as your doctor or a hospital. But, we may share PHI with your health care provider so that the provider may treat you.

**To You:** We must give you access to your own PHI. We may also contact you to let you know about treatment options or other health-related benefits and services. When you or your dependents reach a certain age, we may tell you about other products or programs for which you may be eligible. This may include individual coverage. We may also send you reminders about routine medical checkups and tests.

**To Others:** You may tell us in writing that it is OK for us to give your PHI to someone else for any reason. Also, if you are present, and tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person. We would do this if it has to do with your current treatment or payment for your treatment. If you are not present, if it is an emergency, or you are not able to tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person if sharing your PHI is in your best interest.

**As Allowed or Required by Law:** We may also share your PHI, as allowed by federal law, for many types of activities. PHI can be shared for health oversight activities. It can also be shared for judicial or administrative proceedings, with public health authorities, for law enforcement reasons, and to coroners, funeral directors or medical examiners (about decedents). PHI can also be shared for certain reasons with organ donation groups, for research, and to avoid a serious threat to health or safety. It can be shared for special government functions, for Workers' Compensation, to respond to requests from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and to alert proper authorities if we reasonably believe that you may be a victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence or other crimes. PHI can also be shared as required by law.

If you are enrolled with us through an employer-sponsored group health plan, we may share PHI with your group health plan. We

and/or your group health plan may share PHI with the sponsor of the plan. Plan sponsors that receive PHI are required by law to have controls in place to keep it from being used for reasons that are not proper.

**Authorization:** We will get an OK from you in writing before we use or share your PHI for any other purpose not stated in this notice. You may take away this OK at any time, in writing. We will then stop using your PHI for that purpose. But, if we have already used or shared your PHI based on your OK, we cannot undo any actions we took before you told us to stop.

## Your Rights

Under federal law, you have the right to:

- Send us a written request to see or get a copy of certain PHI or ask that we correct your PHI that you believe is missing or incorrect. If someone else (such as your doctor) gave us the PHI, we will let you know so you can ask them to correct it.
- Send us a written request to ask us not to use your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations activities. We are not required to agree to these requests.
- Give us a verbal or written request to ask us to send your PHI using other means that are reasonable. Also let us know if you want us to send your PHI to an address other than your home if sending it to your home could place you in danger.
- Send us a written request to ask us for a list of certain disclosures of your PHI.

Call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your identification (ID) card to use any of these rights. They can give you the address to send the request. They can also give you any forms we have that may help you with this process.

## How We Protect Information

We are dedicated to protecting your PHI. We set up a number of policies and practices to help make sure your PHI is kept secure.

We keep your oral, written, and electronic PHI safe using physical, electronic, and procedural means. These safeguards follow federal and

state laws. Some of the ways we keep your PHI safe include offices that are kept secure, computers that need passwords, and locked storage areas and filing cabinets. We require our employees to protect PHI through written policies and procedures. The policies limit access to PHI to only those employees who need the data to do their job. Employees are also required to wear ID badges to help keep people who do not belong out of areas where sensitive data is kept. Also, where required by law, our affiliates and non-affiliates must protect the privacy of data we share in the normal course of business. They are not allowed to give PHI to others without your written OK, except as allowed by law.

## **Potential Impact of Other Applicable Laws**

HIPAA (the federal privacy law) generally does not preempt, or override other laws that give people greater privacy protections. As a result, if any state or federal privacy law requires us to provide you with more privacy protections, then we must also follow that law in addition to HIPAA.

## **Complaints**

If you think we have not protected your privacy, you can file a complaint with us. You may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will not take action against you for filing a complaint.

## **Contact Information**

Please call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your ID card. They can help you apply your rights, file a complaint, or talk with you about privacy issues.

## **Copies and Changes**

You have the right to get a new copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to get this notice by electronic means, you still have the right to a paper copy. We reserve the right to change this notice. A revised notice will apply to PHI we already have about you as well

as any PHI we may get in the future. We are required by law to follow the privacy notice that is in effect at this time. We may tell you about any changes to our notice in a number of ways. We may tell you about the changes in a member newsletter or post them on our website. We may also mail you a letter that tells you about any changes.

Si necesita ayuda en español para entender este documento, puede solicitarla sin costo adicional, llamando al número de servicio al cliente que aparece al dorso de su tarjeta de identificación o en el folleto de inscripción.

This notice is provided by the following companies:

UniCare Life and Health Insurance Company

## **State Notice of Privacy Practices**

### **Effective July 1, 2007**

As we told you in our HIPAA notice, we must follow state laws that are more strict than the federal HIPAA privacy law. This notice explains your rights and our legal duties under state law.

## **Your Personal Information**

We may collect, use and share your nonpublic personal information (PI) as described in this notice. PI identifies a person and is often gathered in an insurance matter. PI could also be used to make judgments about your health, finances, character, habits, hobbies, reputation, career, and credit.

We may collect PI about you from other persons or entities such as doctors, hospitals, or other carriers.

We may share PI with persons or entities outside of our company without your OK in some cases.

If we take part in an activity that would require us to give you a chance to opt-out, we will contact you. We will tell you how you can let us know that you do not want us to use or share your PI for a given activity.

You have the right to access and correct your PI.

We take reasonable safety measures to protect the PI we have about you.

A more detailed state notice is available upon request. Please call the phone number printed on your ID card.

Si necesita ayuda en español para entender este documento, puede solicitarla sin costo adicional, llamando al número de servicio al cliente que aparece al dorso de su tarjeta de identificación o en el folleto de inscripción.

This notice is provided by the following companies:

UniCare Life and Health Insurance Company

## How to Get More Information About Your Rights

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and protections, you can

1. Call Customer Service at the number on the cover of this booklet.
2. Get free help and information from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Contact information for your SHIP is in Section 8 of this booklet.
3. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) to view or download the publication Your Medicare Rights & Protections.
4. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

## What Can You Do If You Think You Have Been Treated Unfairly or Your Rights Are Not Being Respected?

If you think you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected, you may call Customer Service or:

- If you think you have been treated unfairly due to your race, color, national origin, disability, age, or religion, you can call the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019 or TTY/TDD 1-800-537-7697, or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

- If you have any other kind of concern or problem related to your Medicare rights and protections described in this section, you can also get help from your SHIP.

## Your Responsibilities as a Member of Our Plan Include:

- Getting familiar with your coverage and the rules you must follow to get care as a member. You can use this booklet to learn about your coverage, what you have to pay, and the rules you need to follow. *Call Customer Service if you have questions.*
- Using all of your insurance coverage. If you have additional health insurance coverage besides our plan, it is important that you use your other coverage in combination with your coverage as a member of our plan to pay your health care expenses. This is called “coordination of benefits” because it involves coordinating all of the health benefits that are available to you.
- **You are required to tell our plan if you have additional health insurance. *Call Customer Service.***
- Playing an active role in your health care decisions.
- Notifying providers when seeking care (unless it is an emergency) that you are enrolled in our plan and you must present your plan membership card to the provider.
- Giving your doctor, other providers and your health plan the information they need to care for you, and following the treatment plans and instructions that you and your doctors agree upon. Be sure to ask your doctors and other providers if you have any questions and have them explain your treatment in a way you can understand.
- Acting in a way that supports the care given to other patients and helps the smooth running of your doctor’s office, hospitals, and other offices.
- Paying your plan premiums and coinsurance or copayment for your covered services. You must pay for services that aren’t covered.

- Notifying us if you move. If you move within our service area, we need to keep your membership record up to date. If you move outside of our plan service area, you cannot remain a member of our plan, but we can let you know if we have a plan in that area.
- Letting us know if you have any questions, concerns, problems, or suggestions. *If you do, please call Customer Service.*

# 4. How to File a Grievance

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## What Is a Grievance?

A grievance is any complaint, other than one that involves a request for an initial determination or an appeal as described in Section 5 of this manual.

Grievances do not involve problems related to approving or paying for Part C medical care or services, problems about having to leave the hospital too soon, and problems about having Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Home Health Agency (HHA), or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services ending too soon.

If we will not pay for or give you the Part C medical care or services you want, you believe that you are being released from the hospital or SNF too soon, or your HHA or CORF services are ending too soon, you must follow the rules outlined in Section 5.

## What Types of Problems Might Lead to Your Filing a Grievance?

- Problems with the service you receive from Customer Service.
- If you feel that you are being encouraged to leave (disenroll from) the plan.
- If you disagree with our decision not to give you a “fast” decision or a “fast” appeal. We discuss these fast decisions and appeals in Section 5.
- We don’t give you a decision within the required time frame.
- We don’t give you required notices.
- You believe our notices and other written materials are hard to understand.
- Problems with the quality of the medical care or services you receive, including quality of care during a hospital stay.
- Problems with how long you have to wait on the phone, in the waiting room, or in the exam room.

- Problems getting appointments when you need them, or waiting too long for them.
- Rude behavior by doctors, nurses, receptionists, or other staff.
- Cleanliness or condition of doctor’s offices, clinics, or hospitals.

If you have one of these types of problems and want to make a complaint, it is called “filing a grievance.”

## Who May File a Grievance

You or someone you name may file a grievance. The person you name would be your “representative.” You may name a relative, friend, lawyer, advocate, doctor, or anyone else to act for you. Other persons may already be authorized by the court or in accordance with state law to act for you.

If you want someone to act for you who is not already authorized by the court or under state law, then you and that person must sign and date a statement that gives the person legal permission to be your representative. *To learn how to name your representative, you may call Customer Service.*

## Filing a Grievance With Our Plan

If you have a complaint, you or your representative may call the phone number for Part C Grievances (for complaints about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8. We will try to resolve your complaint over the phone. If you ask for a written response, file a written grievance, or your complaint is related to quality of care, we will respond in writing to you. **If we cannot resolve your complaint over the phone, we have a formal procedure to review your complaints.** We call this the Grievance Procedure.

Expedited grievances can be filed concerning decisions not to conduct expedited organization determinations or reconsiderations, or to take an extension on initial decisions or appeals.

The plan must respond to your expedited grievance within 24 hours.

The grievance must be submitted within 60 days of the event or incident. We must address your grievance as quickly as your case requires based on your health status, but no later than 30 days after receiving your complaint. We may extend the time frame by up to 14 days if you ask for the extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest.

If we deny your grievance in whole or in part, our written decision will explain why we denied it, and will tell you about any dispute resolution options you may have.

## **Fast Grievances**

In certain cases, you have the right to ask for a “fast grievance,” meaning we will answer your grievance within 24 hours. We discuss

situations where you may request a fast grievance in Section 5.

## **For Quality of Care Problems, You May Also Complain to the QIO**

You may complain about the quality of care received under Medicare, including care during a hospital stay. You may complain to us using the grievance process, to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), or both. If you file with the QIO, we must help the QIO resolve the complaint. *See Section 8 for more information about the QIO and for the name and phone number of the QIO in your state.*

# 5. Complaints and Appeals About Your Part C Medical Care and Services

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## Introduction

This section explains how you ask for coverage of your Part C medical care or services or payments in different situations. This section also explains how to make complaints when you think you are being asked to leave the hospital too soon, or you think your skilled nursing facility (SNF), home health (HHA) or comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) services are ending too soon. These types of requests and complaints are discussed below in Part 1, Part 2, or Part 3.

Other complaints that do not involve the types of requests or complaints discussed below in Part 1, Part 2, or Part 3 are considered **grievances**. You would file a grievance if you have any type of problem with us or one of our network providers that does not relate to coverage for Part C medical care or services. *For more information about grievances, see Section 4.*

### **Part 1. Requests for Part C Medical Care or Services or Payments**

### **Part 2. Complaints If You Think You Are Asked to Leave the Hospital Too Soon**

### **Part 3. Complaints If You Think Your Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Home Health (HHA) or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) Services Are Ending Too Soon**

## ***Part 1. Requests for Medical Care or Services or Payments***

This part explains what you can do if you have problems getting the Part C medical care or service you request, or payment (including the amount you paid) for a Part C medical care or service you already received.

If you have problems getting the Part C medical care or services you need, or payment for a Part C service you already received, you must request an initial determination with the plan.

## Initial Determinations

The initial determination we make is the starting point for dealing with requests you may have about covering a Part C medical care or service you need, or paying for a Part C medical care or service you already received. Initial decisions about Part C medical care or services are called “organization determinations.” With this decision, we explain whether we will provide the Part C medical care or service you are requesting, or pay for the Part C medical care or service you already received.

The following are examples of requests for initial determinations:

- You are not getting Part C medical care or services you want, and you believe that this care is covered by the plan.
- We will not approve the medical treatment your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe that this treatment is covered by the plan.
- You are being told that a medical treatment or service you have been getting will be reduced or stopped, and you believe that this could harm your health.
- You have received Part C medical care or services that you believe should be covered by the plan, but we have refused to pay for this care.

## Who May Ask for an Initial Determination?

You, your prescribing physician, or someone you name may ask us for an initial determination. The person you name would be your “appointed representative.” You may name a relative, friend, advocate, doctor, or anyone else to act for you. Other persons may already be authorized under state law to act for you.

If you want someone to act for you who is not already authorized under state law, then you and that person must sign and date a statement that gives the person legal permission to be your appointed representative. If you are requesting Part C medical care or services, this statement must be sent to us at the address or fax number listed under “Part C Organization Determinations” in Section 8. *To learn how to name your appointed representative, you may call Customer Service.*

You also have the right to have a lawyer act for you. 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.

## Asking for a “Standard” or “Fast” Initial Determination

A decision about whether we will give you, or pay for, the Part C medical care or service you are requesting can be a “standard” decision that is made within the standard time frame, or it can be a “fast” decision that is made more quickly. A fast decision is also called an “expedited” decision.

## Asking for a Standard Decision

To ask for a standard decision for a Part C medical care or service you, your doctor, or your representative should call, fax or write us at the numbers or address listed under **Part C Organization Determinations** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

For review requests made outside of regular weekday business hours, please call Customer Service at one of the numbers listed in Section 8. You, your doctor or your appointed representative will be instructed on how to leave a message.

## Asking for a Fast Decision

You may ask for a fast decision **only** if you or your doctor believe that waiting for a standard decision could seriously harm your health or your ability to function. (Fast decisions apply only to requests for benefits that you have not yet received. You cannot get a fast decision if you are asking us to pay you back for a benefit that you already received.)

If you are requesting a Part C medical care or service that you have not yet received, you, your doctor, or your representative may ask us to give you a fast decision by calling, faxing, or writing us at the numbers or address listed under **Part C Organization Determinations** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

For review requests made outside of regular weekday business hours, please call Customer Service at one of the numbers listed in Section 8. You, your doctor or your appointed representative will be instructed on how to leave a message.

Be sure to ask for a “fast” or “expedited” review. If your doctor asks for a fast decision for you, or supports you in asking for one, and the doctor indicates that waiting for a standard decision could seriously harm your health or your ability to function, we will automatically give you a fast decision.

If you ask for a fast decision without support from a doctor, we will decide if your health requires a fast decision. If we decide that your medical condition does not meet the requirements for a fast decision, we will send you a letter informing you that if you get a doctor’s support for a fast review, we will automatically give you a fast decision. The letter will also tell you how to file a “fast grievance.” You have the right to file a fast grievance if you disagree with our decision to deny your request for a fast review (*for more information about fast grievances, see Section 4*).

If we deny your request for a fast initial determination, we will give you a standard decision.

## What Happens When You Request an Initial Determination?

- *For a decision about **payment for Part C medical care or services** you already received:*

If we do not need more information to make a decision, we have up to 30 days to make a decision after we receive your request, although a small number of decisions may take longer.

However, if we need more information in order to make a decision, we have up to 60 days from the date of the receipt of your request to make a decision. You will be told in writing when we make a decision.

If you have not received an answer from us within 60 days of your request, you have the right to appeal.

- *For a **standard** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*

We have 14 days to make a decision after we receive your request. However, we can take up to 14 more days if you ask for additional time, or if we need more information (such as medical records) that may benefit you. If we take additional days, we will notify you in writing. If you believe that we should not take additional days, you can make a specific type of complaint called a “fast grievance.” *For more information about fast grievances, see Section 4.*

If you have not received an answer from us within 14 days of your request (or by the end of any extended time period), you have the right to appeal.

- *For a **fast** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*

If you receive a “fast” decision, we will give you our decision about your requested medical care or services within 72 hours after we receive the request. However, we can take up to 14 more days if we find that some information is missing that may benefit you, or if you need more time to prepare for this review.

If we take additional days, we will notify you in writing. If you believe that we should not take any extra days, you can file a fast

grievance. We will call you as soon as we make the decision.

If we do not tell you about our decision within 72 hours (or by the end of any extended time period), you have the right to appeal. If we deny your request for a fast decision, you may file a “fast grievance.” *For more information about fast grievances, see Section 4.*

## What Happens If We Decide Completely in Your Favor?

- *For a decision about **payment for Part C medical care or services** you already received:*

Generally, we must send payment no later than 30 days after we receive your request, although a small number of decisions may take up to 60 days. If we need more information in order to make a decision, we have up to 60 days from the date of the receipt of your request to make payment.

- *For a **standard** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*

We must authorize or provide your requested care within 14 days of receiving your request. If we extended the time needed to make our decision, we will authorize or provide your medical care before the extended time period expires.

- *For a **fast** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*

We must authorize or provide your requested care within 72 hours of receiving your request. If we extended the time needed to make our decision, we will authorize or provide your medical care before the extended time period expires.

## What Happens If We Decide Against You?

If we decide against you, we will send you a written decision explaining why we denied your request. If an initial determination does not give you all that you requested, you have the right to appeal the decision. (*See Appeal Level 1.*)

## Appeal Level 1: Appeal to the Plan

You may ask us to review our initial determination, even if only part of our decision is not what you requested. An appeal to the plan about Part C medical care or services is also called a plan “reconsideration.”

When we receive your request to review the initial determination, we give the request to people at our organization who were not involved in making the initial determination. This helps ensure that we will give your request a fresh look.

### Who May File Your Appeal of the Initial Determination?

If you are appealing an initial decision about Part C medical care or services, the rules about who may file an appeal are the same as the rules about who may ask for an organization determination. Follow the instructions under “Who May Ask for an Initial Determination?”

However, providers who do not have a contract with the plan may also appeal a payment decision as long as the provider signs a “waiver of payment” statement saying it will not ask you to pay for the Part C medical care or service under review, regardless of the outcome of the appeal.

### How Soon Must You File Your Appeal?

You must file the appeal request within 60 *calendar days* from the date included on the notice of our initial determination. We may give you more time if you have a good reason for missing the deadline.

### How to File Your Appeal

#### 1. Asking for a *standard* appeal:

To ask for a standard appeal about a Part C medical care or service a signed, *written* appeal request must be sent to the address listed under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about medical care or services) in Section 8. You may also ask for a standard appeal by calling us at the phone number shown under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

#### 2. Asking for a *fast* appeal:

If you are appealing a decision we made about giving you a Part C medical care or service that you have not received yet, you and/or your doctor will need to decide if you need a fast appeal. The rules about asking for a fast appeal are the same as the rules about asking for a fast initial determination. You, your doctor, or your representative may ask us for a fast appeal by calling, faxing, or writing us at the numbers or address listed under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

For review requests made outside of regular weekday business hours, please call Customer Service at one of the numbers listed in Section 8. You, your doctor or your appointed representative will be instructed on how to leave a message.

Be sure to ask for a “fast” or “expedited” review. Remember, if your doctor provides a written or oral supporting statement explaining that you need the fast appeal, we will automatically give you a fast appeal.

If you ask for a fast decision without support from a doctor, we will decide if your health requires a fast decision. If we decide that your medical condition does not meet the requirements for a fast decision, we will send you a letter informing you that if you get a doctor’s support for a fast review, we will automatically give you a fast decision.

The letter will also tell you how to file a “fast grievance.” You have the right to file a fast grievance if you disagree with our decision to deny your request for a fast review. (*For more information about fast grievances, see Section 4.*) If we deny your request for a fast appeal, we will give you a standard appeal.

### Getting Information to Support Your Appeal

We must gather all the information we need to make a decision about your appeal. If we need your assistance in gathering this information, we will contact you or your representative.

You have the right to obtain and include additional information as part of your appeal.

For example, you may already have documents related to your request, or you may want to get your doctor's records or opinion to help support your request. You may need to give the doctor a written request to get information.

You may give us your additional information to support your appeal by calling, faxing, or writing us at the numbers or address listed under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

You may also deliver additional information in person to the address listed under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8.

You also have the right to ask us for a copy of information regarding your appeal. You may call or write us at the phone number or address listed under **Part C Appeals** (for appeals about Part C medical care or services) in Section 8. We are allowed to charge a fee for copying and sending this information to you.

### How Soon Must We Decide on Your Appeal?

- *For a decision about **payment for Part C medical care or services** you already received:*  
After we receive your appeal request, we have 60 days to decide. If we do not decide within 60 days, your appeal automatically goes to Appeal Level 2.
- *For a **standard** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*  
After we receive your appeal, we have 30 days to decide, but will decide sooner if your health condition requires. However, if you ask for more time, or if we find that helpful information is missing, we can take up to 14 more days to make our decision. If we do not tell you our decision within 30 days (or by the end of the extended time period), your request will automatically go to Appeal Level 2.
- *For a **fast** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*  
After we receive your appeal, we have 72 hours to decide, but will decide sooner if your health condition requires. However, if you ask for more time, or if we find that

helpful information is missing, we can take up to 14 more days to make our decision. If we do not decide within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period), your request will automatically go to Appeal Level 2.

### What Happens If We Decide Completely in Your Favor?

- *For a decision about **payment for Part C medical care or services** you already received:*  
We must pay within 60 days of receiving your appeal request.
- *For a **standard** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*  
We must authorize or provide your requested care within 30 days of receiving your appeal request. If we extended the time needed to decide your appeal, we will authorize or provide your requested care before the extended time period expires.
- *For a **fast** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*  
We must authorize or provide your requested care within 72 hours of receiving your appeal request. If we extended the time needed to decide your appeal, we will authorize or provide your requested care before the extended time period expires.

### Appeal Level 2: Independent Review Entity (IRE)

At the second level of appeal, your appeal is reviewed by an outside Independent Review Entity (IRE) that has a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the government agency that runs the Medicare program. The IRE has no connection to us. You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file that we sent to this entity. We are allowed to charge you a fee for copying and sending this information to you.

### How to File Your Appeal

If you asked for Part C medical care or services, or payment for Part C medical care or services, and we did not rule completely in your favor at

Appeal Level 1, your appeal is automatically sent to the IRE.

### **How Soon Must the IRE Decide?**

The IRE has the same amount of time to make its decision as the plan had at Appeal Level 1.

### **If the IRE Decides Completely in Your Favor**

The IRE will tell you in writing about its decision and the reasons for it.

- *For a decision about **payment for Part C medical care or services** you already received:*  
We must pay within 30 days after we receive notice reversing our decision.
- *For a **standard** decision about **Part C medical care or services** you have not yet received:*  
We must authorize your requested Part C medical care or service within 72 hours, or provide it to you within 14 days after we receive notice reversing our decision.
- *For a **fast** decision about **Part C medical care or services**:*  
We must authorize or provide your requested Part C medical care or services within 72 hours after we receive notice reversing our decision.

### **Appeal Level 3: Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)**

If the IRE does not rule completely in your favor, you or your representative may ask for a review by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) if the dollar value of the Part C medical care or service you asked for meets the minimum requirement provided in the IRE's decision.

During the ALJ review, you may present evidence, review the record (by either receiving a copy of the file or accessing the file in person when feasible), and be represented by counsel.

### **How to File Your Appeal**

The request must be filed with an ALJ within *60 calendar days* of the date you were notified of the decision made by the IRE (Appeal Level 2).

The ALJ may give you more time if you have a good reason for missing the deadline. The decision you receive from the IRE will tell you how to file this appeal, including who can file it.

The ALJ will not review your appeal if the dollar value of the requested Part C medical care or service does not meet the minimum requirement specified in the IRE's decision. If the dollar value is less than the minimum requirement, you may not appeal any further.

### **How Soon Will the Judge Make a Decision?**

The ALJ will hear your case, weigh all of the evidence, and make a decision as soon as possible.

### **If the Judge Decides in Your Favor:**

See the section "Favorable Decisions by the ALJ, MAC, or a Federal Court Judge" below for information about what we must do if our decision denying what you asked for is reversed by an ALJ.

### **Appeal Level 4: Medicare Appeals Council (MAC)**

If the ALJ does not rule completely in your favor, you or your representative may ask for a review by the Medicare Appeals Council (MAC).

### **How to File Your Appeal**

The request must be filed with the MAC within *60 calendar days* of the date you were notified of the decision made by the ALJ (Appeal Level 3). The MAC may give you more time if you have a good reason for missing the deadline. The decision you receive from the ALJ will tell you how to file this appeal, including who can file it.

### **How Soon Will the Council Make a Decision?**

The MAC will first decide whether to review your case (it does not review every case it receives). If the MAC reviews your case, it will make a decision as soon as possible. If it decides not to review your case, you may

request a review by a Federal Court Judge (*see Appeal Level 5*).

The MAC will issue a written notice explaining any decision it makes. The notice will tell you how to request a review by a Federal Court Judge.

### **If the Council Decides in Your Favor:**

*See the section “Favorable Decisions by the ALJ, MAC, or a Federal Court Judge” below for information about what we must do if our decision denying what you asked for is reversed by the MAC.*

## **Appeal Level 5: Federal Court**

You have the right to continue your appeal by asking a Federal Court Judge to review your case if the amount involved meets the minimum requirement specified in the Medicare Appeals Council’s decision, you received a decision from the Medicare Appeals Council (Appeal Level 4), and:

- the decision is not completely favorable to you, or
- the decision tells you that the MAC decided not to review your appeal request.

### **How to File Your Appeal**

In order to request judicial review of your case, you must file a civil action in a United States district court within *60 calendar days* after the date you were notified of the decision made by the Medicare Appeals Council (Appeal Level 4). The letter you get from the Medicare Appeals Council will tell you how to request this review, including who can file the appeal.

Your appeal request will not be reviewed by a federal court if the dollar value of the requested Part C medical care or service does not meet the minimum requirement specified in the MAC’s decision.

### **How Soon Will the Judge Make a Decision?**

The Federal Court Judge will first decide whether to review your case. If it reviews your

case, a decision will be made according to the rules established by the federal judiciary.

### **If the Judge Decides in Your Favor:**

*See the section “Favorable Decisions by the ALJ, MAC, or a Federal Court Judge” below for information about what we must do if our decision denying what you asked for is reversed by a Federal Court Judge.*

### **If the Judge Decides Against You:**

You may have further appeal rights in the federal courts. Please refer to the Judge’s decision for further information about your appeal rights.

### **Favorable Decisions by the ALJ, MAC, or a Federal Court Judge**

This section explains what we must do if our initial decision denying what you asked for is reversed by the ALJ, MAC, or a Federal Court Judge.

- For a decision about *Part C medical care or services*, we must pay for, authorize, or provide the medical care or service you have asked for within 60 days of the date we receive the decision.

## ***Part 2. Complaints (Appeals) If You Think You Are Being Discharged from the Hospital Too Soon***

When you are admitted to the hospital, you have the right to get all the hospital care covered by the plan that is necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury. The day you leave the hospital (your discharge date) is based on when your stay in the hospital is no longer medically necessary. This part explains what to do if you believe that you are being discharged too soon.

## Information You Should Receive During Your Hospital Stay

Within two days of admission as an inpatient or during pre-admission, someone at the hospital must give you a notice called the *Important Message from Medicare* (call Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get a sample notice or see it online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI>. This notice explains:

- Your right to get all medically necessary hospital services paid for by the plan (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles).
- Your right to be involved in any decisions that the hospital, your doctor, or anyone else makes about your hospital services and who will pay for them.
- Your right to get services you need after you leave the hospital.
- Your right to appeal a discharge decision and have your hospital services paid for by us during the appeal (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles).

You (or your representative) will be asked to sign the *Important Message from Medicare* to show that you received and understood this notice. **Signing the notice does not mean that you agree that the coverage for your services should end – only that you received and understand the notice.**

If the hospital gives you the *Important Message from Medicare* more than 2 days before your discharge day, it must give you a copy of your signed *Important Message from Medicare* before you are scheduled to be discharged.

## Review of Your Hospital Discharge by the Quality Improvement Organization

You have the right to request a review of your discharge. You may ask a Quality Improvement Organization to review whether you are being discharged too soon.

## What Is the “Quality Improvement Organization”?

“QIO” stands for Quality Improvement Organization. The QIO is a group of doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the care given to Medicare patients. They are not part of the plan or the hospital. There is one QIO in each state. QIOs have different names, depending on which state they are in. The doctors and other health experts in the QIO review certain types of complaints made by Medicare patients. These include complaints from Medicare patients who think their hospital stay is ending too soon.

## Getting the QIO to Review Your Hospital Discharge

You must quickly contact the QIO. The Important Message from Medicare gives the name and telephone number of the QIO and tells you what you must do.

- You must ask the QIO for a “**fast review**” of your discharge. This “fast review” is also called an “immediate review.”
- You must request a review from the QIO no later than the day you are scheduled to be discharged from the hospital. **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 QIO.**
- The QIO will look at your medical information provided to the QIO by us and the hospital.
- During this process, you will get a notice called the *Detailed Notice of Discharge* giving our reasons why we believe that your discharge date is medically appropriate. Call Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227 — TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048) to get a sample notice or see it online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/>.
- The QIO will decide, within one day after receiving the medical information it needs, whether it is medically appropriate for you to be discharged on the date that has been set for you.

## **What Happens If the QIO Decides in Your Favor?**

We will continue to cover your hospital stay (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

## **What Happens If the QIO Agrees With the Discharge?**

You will not be responsible for paying the hospital charges until noon of the day after the QIO gives you its decision. However, you could be financially liable for any inpatient hospital services provided after noon of the day after the QIO gives you its decision. You may leave the hospital on or before that time and avoid any possible financial liability.

If you remain in the hospital, you may still ask the QIO to review its first decision if you make the request within 60 days of receiving the QIO's first denial of your request. However, you could be financially liable for any inpatient hospital services provided after noon of the day after the QIO gave you its first decision.

## **What Happens If You Appeal the QIO Decision?**

The QIO has 14 days to decide whether to uphold its original decision or agree that you should continue to receive inpatient care. If the QIO agrees that your care should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the discharge date on the Important Message from Medicare, and provide you with inpatient care (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

If the QIO upholds its original decision, you may be able to appeal its decision to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). *Please see Appeal Level 3 in Part 1 of this section for guidance on the ALJ appeal.* If the ALJ upholds the decision, you may also be able to ask for a review by the Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) or a federal court.

If any of these decision makers agree that your stay should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the discharge date, and provide you with inpatient care (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

## **What If You Do Not Ask the QIO for a Review by the Deadline?**

If you do not ask the QIO for a fast review of your discharge by the deadline, you may ask us for a "fast appeal" of your discharge, which is discussed in Part 1 of this section. If you ask us for a fast appeal of your discharge and you stay in the hospital past your discharge date, you may have to pay for the hospital care you receive past your discharge date. Whether you have to pay or not depends on the decision we make.

- If we decide, based on the fast appeal, that you need to stay in the hospital, we will continue to cover your hospital care (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.
- If we decide that you should not have stayed in the hospital beyond your discharge date, we will not cover any hospital care you received after the discharge date.

If we uphold our original decision, we will forward our decision and case file to the Independent Review Entity (IRE) within 24 hours. *Please see Appeal Level 2 in Part 1 of this section for guidance on the IRE appeal.* If the IRE upholds our decision, you may also be able to ask for a review by an ALJ, MAC, or a federal court.

If any of these decision makers agree that your stay should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the discharge date on the notice you got from your provider, and provide you with any services you asked for (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded

our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

### ***Part 3. Complaints (Appeals) If You Think Coverage for Your Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health Agency, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility Services Is Ending Too Soon***

When you are a patient in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Home Health Agency (HHA), or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF), you have the right to get all the SNF, HHA or CORF care covered by the plan that is necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury. The day we end coverage for your SNF, HHA or CORF services is based on when these services are no longer medically necessary. This part explains what to do if you believe that coverage for your services is ending too soon.

#### **Information You Will Receive During Your SNF, HHA or CORF Stay**

Your provider will give you written notice called the *Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage* at least 2 days before coverage for your services ends (call Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get a sample notice or see it online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/>).

You (or your representative) will be asked to sign and date this notice to show that you received it. **Signing the notice does not mean that you agree that coverage for your services should end – only that you received and understood the notice.**

#### **Getting QIO Review of Our Decision to End Coverage**

You have the right to appeal our decision to end coverage for your services. As explained in the notice you get from your provider, you may ask the Quality Improvement Organization (the “QIO”) to do an independent review of whether

it is medically appropriate to end coverage for your services.

#### **How Soon Do You Have to Ask for QIO Review?**

You must quickly contact the QIO. The written notice you got from your provider gives the name and telephone number of your QIO and tells you what you must do.

- If you get the notice 2 days before your coverage ends, you must contact the QIO no later than noon of the day after you get the notice.
- If you get the notice more than 2 days before your coverage ends, you must make your request no later than noon of the day *before* the date that your Medicare coverage ends.

#### **What Will Happen During the QIO’s Review?**

The QIO will ask 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 QIO will also look at your medical information, talk to your doctor, and review information that we have given to the QIO.

During this process, you will get a notice called the *Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage* giving the reasons why we believe coverage for your services should end. Call Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227, TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048) to get a sample notice or see it online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/>.

The QIO will make a decision within one full day after it receives all the information it needs.

#### **What Happens If the QIO Decides in Your Favor?**

We will continue to cover your SNF, HHA or CORF services (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

## What Happens If the QIO Agrees That Your Coverage Should End?

You will not be responsible for paying for any SNF, HHA, or CORF services provided before the termination date on the notice you get from your provider. You may stop getting services on or before the date given on the notice and avoid any possible financial liability. If you continue receiving services, you may still ask the QIO to review its first decision if you make the request within 60 days of receiving the QIO's first denial of your request.

## What Happens If You Appeal the QIO Decision?

The QIO has 14 days to decide whether to uphold its original decision or agree that you should continue to receive services. If the QIO agrees that your services should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the termination date on the notice you got from your provider, and provide you with any services you asked for (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

If the QIO upholds its original decision, you may be able to appeal its decision to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Please see Appeal Level 3 in Part 1 of this section for guidance on the ALJ appeal. If the ALJ upholds our decision, you may also be able to ask for a review by the Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) or a federal court.

If either the MAC or federal court agrees that your stay should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the termination date on the notice you got from your provider, and provide you with any services you asked for (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded

our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

## What If You Do Not Ask the QIO for a Review by the Deadline?

If you do not ask the QIO for a review by the deadline, you may ask us for a fast appeal, which is discussed in Part 1 of this section.

If you ask us for a fast appeal of your coverage ending and you continue getting services from the SNF, HHA, or CORF, you may have to pay for the care you get after your termination date. Whether you have to pay or not depends on the decision we make.

- If we decide, based on the fast appeal, that coverage for your services should continue, we will continue to cover your SNF, HHA, or CORF services (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.
- If we decide that you should not have continued getting services, we will not cover any services you received after the termination date.

If we uphold our original decision, we will forward our decision and case file to the Independent Review Entity (IRE) within 24 hours. *Please see Appeal Level 2 in Part 1 of this section for guidance on the IRE appeal.* If the IRE upholds our decision, you may also be able to ask for a review by an ALJ, MAC, or a federal court.

If any of these decision makers agree that your stay should continue, we must pay for or reimburse you for any care you have received since the discharge date on the notice you got from your provider, and provide you with any services you asked for (except for any applicable copayments or deductibles) for as long as it is medically necessary and you have not exceeded our plan coverage limitations as described in Section 10.

# 6. Ending Your Membership

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

- You might leave our plan because you have decided that you *want* to leave.
- There are also limited situations where we are required to end your membership. For example, if you move permanently out of our geographic service area.

## Voluntarily Ending Your Membership

There are only certain times during the year when you may voluntarily end your membership in our plan. The key time to make changes is the Medicare fall open enrollment period (also known as the “Annual Election period”), which occurs every year from November 15 through December 31.

This is the time to review your health care and drug coverage for the following year and make changes to your Medicare health or prescription drug coverage. Any changes you make during this time will be effective January 1.

Certain individuals, such as those with Medicaid, those who get extra help, or who move, can make changes at other times. *For more information on when you can make changes see the enrollment period table later in this section.*

If you want to end your membership in our plan during this time, this is what you need to do:

- **If you are planning on enrolling in a new Medicare Advantage plan:** Simply join the new plan. You will be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan’s coverage begins on January 1.
- **If you want to switch to Original Medicare Plan:** You must request to disenroll from our plan. For more information on how to request disenrollment contact Customer Service or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to request disenrollment from our plan. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Your enrollment in Original Medicare will be effective January 1.

If you are already enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you will continue to be enrolled in your current plan – disenrollment from our plan will not affect your enrollment. However, if you want to join a new Medicare prescription drug plan, you must request enrollment in the plan of your choice. Enrollment in the new drug plan will not automatically disenroll you from our plan. Your coverage will be effective January 1.

If you do not have Medicare prescription drug coverage with another plan, you can join another Medicare Advantage plan that does not offer drug coverage or you can switch to the Original Medicare Plan.

Enrollment Period	When?	Effective Date
<p><b>Fall Open Enrollment (Annual Election Period)</b> Time to review health and drug coverage and make changes.</p>	Every year from November 15 to December 31	January 1
<p><b>Medicare Advantage (MA) Open Enrollment</b> (MA-eligible beneficiaries can make 1 change to their health plan coverage. However, you cannot use this period to add, drop or change your Medicare prescription drug coverage.) Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you are in an MA plan that does not have Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can switch to another Medicare Advantage plan that does not offer drug coverage or go to Original Medicare.</li> <li>▪ If you are in Original Medicare Plan and have a Medicare prescription drug plan, you can join a Medicare Advantage plan that offers Medicare drug coverage.</li> <li>▪ If you are in an MA plan that offers Medicare drug coverage, you can leave and join Original Medicare Plan and a Medicare prescription drug plan.</li> </ul>	Every year from January 1 to March 31	First day of next month after plan receives your enrollment request
<p><b>Special Enrollment Periods</b> For limited special exceptions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You have a change in residence</li> <li>▪ You have Medicaid</li> <li>▪ You are eligible for extra help with Medicare prescriptions</li> <li>▪ You live in an institution (such as a nursing home)</li> </ul>	Determined by exception	Generally, first day of next month after plan receives your enrollment request

For more information about the options available to you during these enrollment periods, contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227.) TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Additional information can also be found in the *Medicare & You* handbook. This handbook is mailed to everyone with Medicare each fall. You may view or download a copy from [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Under “Search Tools,” select “Find a Medicare Publication.”

## Until Your Membership Ends, You Must Keep Getting Your Medicare Services Through Our Plan

If you leave our plan, it may take some time for your membership to end and your new way of getting Medicare to take effect. (We discuss when the change takes effect earlier in this section.)

While you are waiting for your membership to end, you are still a member and must continue to get your care as usual through our plan. If

you happen to be hospitalized on the day your membership ends, generally you will be covered by our plan until you are discharged. Call Customer Service for more information and to help us coordinate with your new plan.

## **We Cannot Ask You to Leave the Plan Because of Your Health**

We cannot ask you to leave your health plan for any health-related reasons. If you ever feel that you are being encouraged or asked to leave our plan because of your health, you should call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), which is the national Medicare help line. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **Involuntarily Ending Your Membership**

If any of the following situations occur, we will end your membership in our plan.

- If you do not stay continuously enrolled in Medicare A or B (or both).
- If you move out of the service area or are away from the service area for more than 6 months. If you plan to move or take a long trip, please call Customer Service to find out if the place you are moving to or traveling to is in our plan's service area.

- If you intentionally give us incorrect information on your enrollment request that would affect your eligibility to enroll in our plan.
- If you 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 others who are members of our plan. We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission first from Medicare.
- If you let someone else use your plan membership card to get medical care. If you are disenrolled for this reason, CMS may refer your case to the Inspector General for additional investigation.
- If you do not pay the plan premiums, we will tell you in writing that you have a 90-day grace period during which you may pay the plan premiums before your membership ends.

## **You Have the Right to Make a Complaint If We End Your Membership in Our Plan**

If we end your membership in our plan we will tell you our reasons in writing and explain how you may file a complaint against us if you want to.

# 7. Definitions of Important Words Used in the EOC

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**Allowed Amount** – The allowed amount is either: 1) the rate negotiated with network providers; 2) the Medicare-allowable amount for non-network providers who accept Medicare assignment; 3) the limiting charge for providers who do not accept assignment but who are subject to the limiting amount; and 4) the provider’s actual charge when the provider does not accept assignment and is not subject to the limiting amount.

**Appeal** – An appeal is a special kind of complaint you make if you disagree with a decision to deny a request for health care services or payment for services you already received. You may also make a complaint if you disagree with a decision to stop services that you are receiving. For example, you may ask for an appeal if our plan doesn’t pay for a drug/item/service you think you should be able to receive. Section 5 explains appeals, including the process involved in making an appeal.

**Benefit Period** – For both our plan and the Original Medicare Plan, a benefit period is used to determine coverage for inpatient stays in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. A benefit period begins on the first day you go to a Medicare-covered inpatient hospital or a skilled nursing facility.

The benefit period ends when you haven’t been an inpatient at any hospital or SNF for 60 days in a row. If you go to the hospital (or SNF) after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods you can have.

The type of care that is covered depends on whether you are considered an inpatient for hospital and SNF stays. You must be admitted to the hospital as an inpatient, not just under observation. You are an inpatient in an SNF only if your care in the SNF meets certain standards for skilled level of care. Specifically,

in order to be an inpatient in an SNF, you must need daily skilled nursing or skilled rehabilitation care, or both.

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** – The federal agency that runs the Medicare program. Section 8 explains how to contact CMS.

**Cost Sharing** – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when services are received. It includes any combination of the following three types of payments: 1) any deductible amount a plan may impose before services are covered; 2) any fixed “copayment” amounts that a plan may require be paid when specific services are received; or 3) any “coinsurance” amount that must be paid as a percentage of the total amount paid for a service.

**Covered Services** – The general term we use in this EOC to mean all of the health care services and supplies that are covered by our plan.

**Custodial Care** – Care for personal needs rather than medically necessary needs. Custodial care is care that can be provided by people who don’t have professional skills or training. This care includes help with walking, dressing, bathing, eating, preparation of special diets, and taking medication. Medicare does not cover custodial care unless it is provided as other care you are getting in addition to daily skilled nursing care and/or skilled rehabilitation services.

**Customer Service** – A department within our plan responsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits, grievances, and appeals. *See Section 8 for information about how to contact Customer Service.*

**Deductible** – The amount you must pay for the health care services or drugs you receive before our plan begins to pay its share of your covered services or drugs.

**Disenroll or Disenrollment** – The process of ending your membership in our plan. Disenrollment may be voluntary (your own choice) or involuntary (not your own choice). Section 6 discusses disenrollment.

**Durable Medical Equipment** – Certain medical equipment that is ordered by your doctor for use in the home. Examples are walkers, wheel chairs or hospital beds.

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

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

**Grievance** – A type of complaint you make about us or one of our network providers, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes. *See Section 4 for more information about grievances.*

**Home Health Aide** – A home health aide provides services that don't need the skills of a licensed nurse or therapist, such as help with personal care (e.g., bathing, using the toilet, dressing, or carrying out the prescribed exercises). Home health aides do not have a nursing license or provide therapy.

**Home Health Care** – Skilled nursing care and certain other health care services that you get in your home for the treatment of an illness or injury. Covered services are listed in the Benefits Chart in Section 10 under the heading "Home Health Care." If you need home health care services, our plan will cover these services for you provided the Medicare coverage requirements are met. Home health care can include services from a **home health aide** if the services are part of the home health plan of care for your illness or injury. They aren't covered unless you are also getting a covered skilled service. Home health services don't include the services of housekeepers, food service arrangements, or full-time nursing care at home.

**Hospice Care** – A special way of caring for people who are terminally ill and providing counseling for their families. Hospice care is physical care and counseling that is given by a team of people who are part of a Medicare-certified public agency or private company. Depending on the situation, this care may be given in the home, a hospice facility, a hospital, or a nursing home.

Care from a hospice is meant to help patients in the last months of life by giving comfort and relief from pain. The focus is on care, not cure. For more information on hospice care visit [www.medicare.gov](http://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 should call 1-877-486-2048.

**Inpatient Care** – Health care that you get when you are admitted to a hospital.

**Medically Necessary** – Services or supplies that are proper and needed for the diagnosis or treatment of your medical condition; are used for the diagnosis, direct care, and treatment of your medical condition; meet the standards of good medical practice in the local community; and are not mainly for your convenience or that of your doctor.

**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 (MA) Plan** – Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. A MA plan offers a specific set of health benefits at the same premium and level of cost sharing to all people with Medicare who live in the service area covered by the plan. Medicare Advantage organizations can offer one or more Medicare Advantage plan in the same service area. A Medicare Advantage plan can be an HMO, PPO, a Private Fee-for-Service

(PFFS) plan, or a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. 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**. Everyone who has Medicare Part A and Part B is eligible to join any Medicare Health plan that is offered in their area, except people with end-stage renal disease (unless certain exceptions apply).

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

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

**Organization Determination** – The Medicare Advantage organization has made an organization determination when it, or one of its providers, makes a decision about MA services or payment that you believe you should receive.

**Original Medicare Plan (“Traditional Medicare” or “Fee-for-service” Medicare)** – The Original Medicare Plan is the way many people get their health care coverage. It is the national pay-per-visit program that lets you go to any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay 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 U.S.

**Part C** – see “*Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan*”

**Preferred Provider Organization Plan** – A Preferred Provider Organization plan is an MA plan that has a network of contracted providers that have agreed to treat plan members for a specified payment amount. A PPO plan must cover all plan benefits whether they are received from network or out-of-network providers. Member cost sharing may be higher when plan benefits are received from out-of-network providers.

**Prior Authorization** – Approval in advance to get services or certain drugs that may or may not be on our formulary. In a PFFS plan you do not need prior authorization to obtain services. However, you may want to check with your plan before obtaining services to confirm that the service is covered by your plan and what your cost share responsibility is.

**Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)** – Groups of practicing doctors and other health care experts that are paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients. They must review your complaints about the quality of care given by Medicare Providers. *See Section 8 for information about how to contact the QIO in your state and Section 5 for information about making complaints to the QIO.*

**Rehabilitation Services** – These services include physical therapy, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy.

**Screening Exam** – A routine exam to detect evidence of unsuspected disease.

**Service Area** – “Service area” is the geographic area approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within which an eligible individual may enroll in a certain plan.

**Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care** – A level of care in an SNF ordered by a doctor that must be given or supervised by licensed health care professionals. It may be skilled nursing care, or skilled rehabilitation services, or both. Skilled nursing care includes services that require the skills of a licensed nurse to perform or supervise. Skilled rehabilitation

services are physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Physical therapy includes exercise to improve the movement and strength of an area of the body, and training on how to use special equipment, such as how to use a walker or get in and out of a wheel chair. Speech therapy includes exercise to regain and strengthen speech and/or swallowing skills. Occupational therapy helps you learn how to perform usual daily activities, such as eating and dressing by yourself.

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

**Urgently Needed Care** – Section 2 explains about “urgently needed” services. These are different from emergency services.

# 8. Helpful Phone Numbers and Resources

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## Contact Information for Our Plan Customer Service

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or write to our plan Customer Service. We will be happy to help you.

- Hours:** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week
- Call:** 1-888-445-8916. Calls to this number are free.
- TTY/TDD:** 1-800-425-5705. This number requires special telephone equipment. Calls to this number are free.
- Write:** SecurityChoice Essential  
P.O. Box 795180  
San Antonio, TX 78279
- Website:** [www.unicare.com/medicare](http://www.unicare.com/medicare)

## Contact Information for Grievances, Organization Determinations and Appeals

### Part C Organization Determinations (About Your Medicare Care and Services)

- Call:** 1-866-797-9884. Calls to this number are free.
- TTY/TDD:** 1-877-247-1657. This number requires special telephone equipment. Calls to this number are free.
- Fax:** 1-404-682-3262
- Write:** SecurityChoice Essential Part C Organization Determinations  
3350 Peachtree Road NE, Mail code: GAG008-001  
Atlanta, GA 30326

*For information about Part C organization determinations, see Section 5.*

### Part C Grievances (About Your Medical Care and Services)

- Call:** 1-888-445-8916 Calls to this number are free.
- TTY/TDD:** 1-800-425-5705. This number requires special telephone equipment. Calls to this number are free.
- Fax:** 1-877-811-5116
- Write:** SecurityChoice Essential Part C Grievances  
P.O. Box 1975  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1975

*For information about Part C grievances, see Section 4.*

## Part C Appeals (About Your Medical Care and Services)

- Call:** 1-888-445-8916. Calls to this number are free.
- TTY/TDD:** 1-800-425-5705. This number requires special telephone equipment. Calls to this number are free.
- Fax:** 1-877-811-5116
- Write:** SecurityChoice Essential Part C Appeals  
P.O. Box 1975  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1975

*For information about Part C appeals, see Section 5.*

## Other Important Contacts

Below is a list of other important contacts. For the most up-to-date contact information, check your *Medicare & You* handbook. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and choose “Find Helpful Phone Numbers and Resources,” or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

### State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) are state programs that get money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

Your SHIP can explain your Medicare rights and protections, help you make complaints about care or treatment, and help straighten out problems with Medicare bills.

Your SHIP has information about Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Cost plans and about Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) policies. This includes information about whether to drop your Medigap policy while enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and special Medigap rights for people who have tried a Medicare Advantage plan for the first time.

You may contact the SHIP in your state at the address and telephone number in the back of this booklet. You may also find the website for your local SHIP at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Under “Search Tools,” select “Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites.”

You may contact the SHIP in your state at the address and telephone number listed after Section 10.

### Quality Improvement Organization

“QIO” stands for Quality Improvement Organization. The QIO is a group of doctors and health professionals in your state that reviews medical care and handles certain types of complaints from patients with Medicare, and is paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the care given to Medicare patients. There is a QIO in each state. QIOs have different names, depending on which state they are in.

The doctors and other health experts in the QIO review certain types of complaints made by Medicare patients. These include complaints about quality of care and appeals filed by Medicare patients who think the coverage for their hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health agency, or comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation stay is ending too soon. *See Sections 4 and 5 for more information about complaints, appeals and grievances.*

You may contact the QIO at the address and number shown in the back of this booklet.

### How to Contact the Medicare Program

Medicare is 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). Our organization contracts with the federal government.

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to ask questions or get free information booklets from Medicare 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, including weekends.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) for information. This is the official government website for Medicare. This website gives you up-to-date information about Medicare and nursing homes and other current Medicare issues. It includes booklets you can print directly from your computer. It has tools to help you compare Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare prescription drug plans in your area. You can also search under “Search Tools” for Medicare contacts in your state. Select “Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites.” 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.

## Medicaid

Medicaid is a state government program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited incomes and resources. Some people with Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid has programs that can help pay for your Medicare premiums and other costs, if you qualify. To find out more about Medicaid and its programs, contact the agency in your state at the address or phone number shown in the back of this booklet

## Social Security

Social Security programs include retirement benefits, disability benefits, family benefits, survivors’ benefits, and benefits for the aged and blind. You may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call

1-800-325-0778. You may also visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) on the Web.

## State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP)

State Pharmacy Assistance Programs (SPAPs) are state organizations that provide limited income and medically needy senior citizens and individuals with disabilities financial help for prescription drugs. You may contact the SPAP in your state at the address, telephone number or website shown in the back of this booklet.

## Railroad Retirement Board

If you get benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, you may call your local Railroad Retirement Board office or 1-800-808-0772. TTY users should call 1-312-751-4701. You may also visit [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov) on the Web.

## Employer (or “Group”) Coverage

If you get, or your spouse gets, benefits from your current or former employer or union, or from your spouse’s current or former employer or union, call the employer/union benefits administrator or Customer Service if you have any questions about your employer/union benefits, plan premiums, or the open enrollment season.

**Important note:** You (or your spouse’s) employer/union benefits may change, or you (or your spouse) may lose the benefits, if you enroll in Medicare Part D. Call your employer/union benefits administrator or Customer Service to find out whether the benefits will change or be terminated if you or your spouse enrolls in Part D.

# 9. Legal Notices

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## Notice About Governing Law

Many laws apply to this Evidence of Coverage and some additional provisions may apply because they are required by law. This may affect your rights and responsibilities even if the laws are not included or explained in this document.

The principal law that applies to this document is Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the regulations created under the Social Security Act by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS.

In addition, other toward laws may apply and, under certain circumstances, the laws of the state you live in.

## Notice About Non-Discrimination

We don't discriminate based on a person's race, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, health, ethnicity, creed, age, or national origin.

All organizations that provide Medicare Advantage plans or Medicare prescription drug plans, like our plan, must obey federal laws

against discrimination, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, all other laws that apply to organizations that get federal funding, and any other laws and rules that apply for any other reason.

## Our Quality Improvement Program Keeps Improving

We're committed to continuously improving the access to quality care and services we provide to our members through our quality improvement program. Through ongoing comprehensive analyses of patient care and services, we're able to consistently make improvements to how our members access their care.

Our current program concentrates on member satisfaction and safety, accessibility and availability, preventive health care, health promotion, chronic care initiatives, care management and improving health outcomes.

# 10. How Much You Pay for Your Part C Medical Benefits

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Our plan is a Medicare Advantage Private Fee-for-Service plan. A Medicare Advantage Private Fee-for-Service plan works differently than a Medicare supplement plan. Your doctor or hospital is not required to agree to accept the plan's terms and conditions, and thus may choose not to treat you, with the exception of emergencies. If your doctor or hospital does not agree to accept our payment terms and conditions, they may choose not to provide healthcare services to you, except in emergencies. Providers can find the plan's terms and conditions on our website at: [www.unicare.com/medicare](http://www.unicare.com/medicare).

## Your Monthly Premium for Our Plan

This plan does not have a monthly premium.

## How Much You Pay for Part C Medical Benefits

This section has a Benefits Chart that gives a list of your covered services and tells what you must pay for each covered service. These are the benefits and coverage you get as a member of our plan. Later in this section under "General Exclusions" you can find information about services that are not covered. It also tells about limitations on certain services.

## What Do You Pay for Covered Services?

"Copayments" and "coinsurance" are the amounts you pay for covered services.

- A **"copayment"** is a payment you make for your share of the cost of certain covered services you get. A copayment is a set

amount per service. You pay it when you get the service.

- **"Coinsurance"** is a payment you make for your share of the cost of certain covered services you receive. Coinsurance is a percentage of the cost of the service. You pay your coinsurance when you get the service.

## What Is the Maximum Amount You Will Pay for Covered Medical Services?

There is a limit to how much you have to pay out-of-pocket for covered health care services each year. If, during the year, your costs for these services reach the annual out-of-pocket limit amount, you do not pay any further costs for these covered services for the rest of the year. Your out-of-pocket maximum is \$4,500.

In addition to the overall out-of-pocket maximum, your plan specifically limits the amount you would pay out-of-pocket annually for inpatient hospital care. These out-of-pocket costs also apply to the overall out-of-pocket maximum.

## Benefits Chart

The Benefits Chart on the following pages lists the services our plan covers and what you pay for each service. The covered services listed in the Benefits Chart in this section are covered only when all requirements listed below are met:

- Services must be provided according to the Medicare coverage guidelines established by the Medicare program.
- The medical care, services, supplies, and equipment that are listed as covered services must be medically necessary. Certain preventive care and screening tests are also covered.

- Our plan has prior notification requirements when you receive certain health care services from a provider. The plan should be notified for planned inpatient hospital admissions, SNF

admissions and inpatient psychiatric admissions.

<b>Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services</b>	<b>What you must pay when you get these covered services</b>
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### *Inpatient Services*

#### **Inpatient Hospital Care**

Covered services include:

- Semiprivate room (or a private room if medically necessary)
- Meals, including special diets
- Regular nursing services
- Costs of special care units (such as intensive or coronary care units)
- Drugs and medications
- Lab tests
- X-rays and other radiology services
- Necessary surgical and medical supplies
- Use of appliances, such as wheel chairs
- Operating and recovery room costs
- Physical, occupational, and speech language therapy
- Under certain conditions, the following types of transplants are covered: corneal, kidney, kidney-pancreatic, heart, liver, lung, heart/lung, bone marrow, stem cell, and intestinal/multivisceral. If you need a transplant, we will arrange to have your case reviewed by a Medicare-approved transplant center that will decide whether you are a candidate for a transplant.
- Blood — including storage and administration. Coverage begins with the first pint used.
- Physician services

You may go to any doctor, Specialist, or hospital that accepts the plan's Terms and Conditions of payment except in emergencies.

For Medicare-covered hospital stays:

Days 1 - 5: \$250 copay per day

Days 6 - 90: \$0 copay per day

\$0 copay for additional hospital days

\$1,250 out of pocket limit every year.

No limit to the number of days covered by the plan each benefit period.

Pre-notification of a planned inpatient hospital admission is requested from the member.

#### **Inpatient Mental Health Care**

Covered services include mental health care services that require a hospital stay. There is a 190-day lifetime limit for inpatient services in a psychiatric hospital. The 190-day limit does not apply to mental health services provided in a psychiatric unit of a general hospital.

For hospital stays:

Days 1 - 5: \$250 copay per day

Days 6 - 90: \$0 copay per day

\$1,250 out of pocket limit every year.

<b>Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services</b>	<b>What you must pay when you get these covered services</b>
	<p>You get up to 190 days in a Psychiatric Hospital in a lifetime.</p> <p>Pre-notification of a planned inpatient hospital admission is requested from the member.</p>
<p><b>Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Semiprivate room (or a private room if medically necessary)</li> <li>▪ Meals, including special diets</li> <li>▪ Regular nursing services</li> <li>▪ Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy</li> <li>▪ Drugs administered to you as part of your plan of care (This includes substances that are naturally present in the body, such as blood clotting factors)</li> <li>▪ Blood — including storage and administration. Coverage begins with the first pint used.</li> <li>▪ Medical and surgical supplies ordinarily provided by SNFs</li> <li>▪ Laboratory tests ordinarily provided by SNFs</li> <li>▪ X-rays and other radiology services ordinarily provided by SNFs</li> <li>▪ Use of appliances such as wheelchairs ordinarily provided by SNFs</li> <li>▪ Physician services</li> </ul>	<p>For SNF stays:</p> <p>Days 1 - 20: \$0 copay per day</p> <p>Days 21 - 100: \$125 copay per day</p> <p>Plan covers up to 100 days each benefit period</p> <p>No prior hospital stay is required.</p> <p>Pre-notification of a planned skilled nursing facility admission is requested from the member.</p>
<p><b>Inpatient Services Covered When the Hospital or SNF Days Aren't, or Are No Longer, Covered</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physician services</li> <li>▪ Tests (like X-ray or lab tests)</li> <li>▪ X-ray, radium, and isotope therapy including technician materials and services</li> <li>▪ Surgical dressings, splints, casts and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations</li> <li>▪ Prosthetics and orthotics devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of an internal body organ (including contiguous tissue), or all or part of the function of a</li> </ul>	<p>Member is responsible for 100% of the cost.</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
<p>permanently inoperative or malfunctioning internal body organ, including replacement or repairs of such devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leg, arm, back, and neck braces; trusses, and artificial legs, arms, and eyes, including adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient’s physical condition</li> <li>▪ Physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Home Health Agency Care</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing and home health aide services (to be covered under the home health care benefit, your skilled nursing and home health aide services combined must total less than eight hours per day and 35 or fewer hours per week)</li> <li>▪ Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy</li> <li>▪ Medical social services</li> <li>▪ Medical equipment and supplies</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered home health visits.</p>
<p><b>Hospice Care</b></p> <p>You may receive care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. The Original Medicare Plan (rather than our plan) will pay the hospice provider for the services you receive. Your hospice doctor can be a network provider or an out-of-network provider. You will still be a plan member and will continue to get the rest of your care that is unrelated to your terminal condition through our plan. Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drugs for symptom control and pain relief, short-term respite care, and other services not otherwise covered by the Original Medicare Plan</li> <li>▪ Home care</li> <li>▪ Our plan covers hospice consultation services (one time only) for a terminally ill person who hasn’t elected the hospice benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>You must get care from a Medicare-certified hospice.</p>

## Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services

What you must pay when you get these covered services

### *Outpatient Services*

#### **Physician Services (Including Doctor Office Visits)**

Covered services include:

- Office visits, including medical and surgical care in a physician's office or certified ambulatory surgical center
- Consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a specialist
- Hearing and balance exams, if your doctor orders it to see if you need medical treatment
- Telehealth office visits including consultation, diagnosis and treatment by a specialist
- Second opinion prior to surgery
- Outpatient hospital services
- Non-routine dental care (covered services are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures, setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, extraction of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatments of neoplastic cancer disease, or services that would be covered when provided by a doctor)

You may go to any doctor, Specialist, or hospital that accepts the plan's payment.

See "Physical Exams," for more information.

\$20 copay for each primary care doctor visit for Medicare-covered benefits.

\$30 copay for each Specialist visit for Medicare-covered benefits.

If a provider bills for a telehealth office visit, then a \$20 copayment will be applied for office services from a primary care physician or a \$30 copayment will be applied for office services billed from a specialist.

#### **Chiropractic Services**

Covered services include:

- Manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation

\$30 copay for Medicare-covered visits.

Medicare-covered chiropractic visits are for manual manipulation of the spine to correct a displacement or misalignment of a joint or body part.

#### **Podiatry Services**

Covered services include:

- Treatment of injuries and diseases of the feet (such as hammer toe or heel spurs).
- Routine foot care for members with certain medical conditions affecting the lower limbs.

\$30 copay for each Medicare-covered visit.

Medicare-covered podiatry benefits are for medically-necessary foot care.

#### **Outpatient Mental Health Care (Including Partial Hospitalization Services)**

Covered services include:

- Mental health services provided by a doctor, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, clinical nurse

50% of the cost for each Medicare-covered individual or group therapy visit.

<b>Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services</b>	<b>What you must pay when you get these covered services</b>
<p>specialist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other Medicare-qualified mental health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws. “Partial hospitalization” is a structured program of active treatment that is more intense than the care received in your doctor’s or therapist’s office and is an alternative to inpatient hospitalization.</p>	
<p><b>Outpatient Substance Abuse Services</b></p>	<p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered individual or group visits.</p>
<p><b>Outpatient Surgery (Including Services Provided at Ambulatory Surgical Centers)</b></p>	<p>\$100 copay for each elective scheduled (non-urgent, non-emergency) Medicare-covered ambulatory surgical center surgery.</p> <p>\$20 copay for any associated physician services (non-surgical) rendered in an outpatient hospital facility.</p> <p>\$200 copay for each elective scheduled (non-urgent, non-emergency) Medicare covered Outpatient Hospital surgeries.</p>
<p><b>Ambulance Services</b></p> <p>Covered ambulance services include fixed wing, rotary wing and ground ambulance services to the nearest appropriate facility that can provide care only if they are furnished to a member whose medical condition is such that other means of transportation are contraindicated (could endanger the person’s health). The member’s condition must require both the ambulance transportation itself and the level of service provided in order for the billed service to be considered medically necessary. Non-emergency transportation by ambulance is appropriate if it is documented that the members’ condition is such that other means of transportation are contraindicated (could endanger the person’s health) and that transportation by ambulance is medically required.</p>	<p>\$150 copay for Medicare-covered ambulance benefits.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Care</b></p> <p>This coverage is worldwide and is limited to what is allowed under the Medicare fee schedule for services performed/received in the United States.</p>	<p>\$50 copay for Medicare-covered emergency room visits.</p> <p>Worldwide coverage.</p> <p>If you are admitted to the hospital within 72-hour(s) for the same</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
	<p>condition, you pay \$0 for the emergency room visit</p> <p>Coverage for foreign travel emergency room services while traveling outside the United States during a temporary absence of less than 6 months is \$50 per visit. Inpatient copay applies if member is admitted to hospital (this benefit is limited to 60 days per lifetime).</p>
<p><b>Urgently Needed Care</b></p> <p>This coverage is worldwide and is limited to what is allowed under the Medicare fee schedule for services performed/received in the United States.</p>	<p>\$20 copay for Medicare-covered urgently needed care by a primary care doctor. \$30 copay for Medicare-covered urgently needed care by a Specialist.</p>
<p><b>Outpatient Rehabilitation Services</b></p> <p>Covered services include: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy, and cardiac rehabilitative therapy.</p>	<p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered Occupational Therapy visits.</p> <p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered Physical and/ Speech/Language, and Comprehensive Rehabilitation visits.</p>
<p><b>Durable Medical Equipment and Related Supplies</b></p> <p>Covered items include: wheel chairs, crutches, hospital bed, IV infusion pump, oxygen equipment, nebulizer, and walker. See definition of “Durable Medical Equipment” in Section 7.</p>	<p>30% of the cost for Medicare-covered items.</p>
<p><b>Prosthetic Devices and Related Supplies (Other Than Dental) That Replace a Body Part or Function</b></p> <p>These include colostomy bags and supplies directly related to colostomy care, pacemakers, braces, prosthetic shoes, artificial limbs, and breast prostheses (including a surgical brassiere after a mastectomy). Includes certain supplies related to prosthetic devices, and repair and/or replacement of prosthetic devices. Also includes some coverage following cataract removal or cataract surgery – see “Vision Care” later in this section for more detail.</p>	<p>30% of the cost for Medicare-covered items.</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
<p><b>Diabetes Self-Monitoring, Training and Supplies – for All People Who Have Diabetes (Insulin and Non-Insulin Users)</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blood glucose monitor, blood glucose test strips, lancet devices and lancets, and glucose-control solutions for checking the accuracy of test strips and monitors</li> <li>▪ One pair per calendar year of therapeutic shoes for people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease, including fitting of shoes or inserts</li> <li>▪ Self-management training is covered under certain conditions</li> </ul> <p>For persons at risk of diabetes: Fasting plasma glucose tests. You are covered for up to 2 fasting plasma glucose tests per year.</p>	<p>\$0 copay for Diabetes self-monitoring training.</p> <p>\$0 copay for Nutrition Therapy for Diabetes.</p> <p>20% member cost sharing for Diabetic Supplies (lancets, syringes, test strips, and all others). 30% member cost sharing for DME and glucose meters.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Diabetes Self-Monitoring Training or Nutrition Therapy. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.</p>
<p><b>Medical Nutrition Therapy – for People With Diabetes, Renal (Kidney) Disease (But Not on Dialysis), and After a Transplant When Referred by Your Doctor</b></p>	<p>\$0 copay for Nutrition Therapy</p>
<p><b>Outpatient Diagnostic Tests and Therapeutic Services and Supplies</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ X-rays</li> <li>▪ Radiation therapy</li> <li>▪ Surgical supplies, such as dressings</li> <li>▪ Supplies, such as splints and casts</li> <li>▪ Laboratory tests</li> <li>▪ Blood — Coverage begins with the first pint of blood that you need.</li> <li>▪ Other outpatient diagnostic tests</li> </ul>	<p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered lab services.</p> <p>\$100 copay for Medicare-covered diagnostic services defined as Complex Test</p> <p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered diagnostic procedures and tests.</p> <p>\$30 copay for Medicare-covered X-rays.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the diagnostic procedure, test, lab service, radiology services, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
	<p>primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.</p> <p>\$100 copay for Medicare-covered diagnostic radiology services.</p> <p>20% of the cost for Medicare-covered therapeutic radiology services, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.</p> <p>A \$100 copayment applies for tier 2 diagnostic tests and X-rays, and are considered complex and include heart catheterizations, sleep studies, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance procedures (MRIs and MRAs), and nuclear medicine studies, which includes PET scans. A member copayment may apply for associated office visit.</p> <p>\$0 copay for Blood, storage, processing and administration services.</p> <p>\$0 copay for Surgical dressings and supplies such as casts and splints.</p>
<p><b>Vision Care</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outpatient physician services for eye care.</li> <li>▪ For people who are at high risk of glaucoma, such as people with a family history of glaucoma, people with diabetes, and African-Americans who are age 50 and older: glaucoma screening once per year</li> <li>▪ One pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens. Corrective lenses/frames (and replacements) needed after a cataract removal without a lens implant.</li> </ul> <p>For information about routine vision care, see “Vision Care” later in the Benefits Chart.</p>	<p>\$25 copay for exams to diagnose and treat diseases and conditions of the eye.</p> <p>\$0 copay for one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after cataract surgery</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
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***Preventive Care and Screening Tests***

<p><b>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening</b></p> <p>A one-time screening ultrasound for people at risk. Medicare only covers this screening if you get a referral for it as a result of your “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam.</p>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.</p>
<p><b>Bone-Mass Measurements</b></p> <p>For qualified individuals (generally, this means people at risk of losing bone mass or at risk of osteoporosis), the following services are covered every 2 years or more frequently if medically necessary: procedures to identify bone mass, detect bone loss, or determine bone quality, including a physician’s interpretation of the results.</p>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered bone mass measurement</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Bone Mass Measurement . The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.</p>
<p><b>Colorectal Screening</b></p> <p>For people 50 and older, the following are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flexible sigmoidoscopy (or screening barium enema as an alternative) every 48 months</li> <li>▪ Fecal occult blood test, every 12 months</li> </ul> <p>For people at high risk of colorectal cancer, we cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Screening colonoscopy (or screening barium enema as an alternative) every 24 months</li> </ul> <p>For people not at high risk of colorectal cancer, we cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Screening colonoscopy every 10 years, but not within 48 months of a screening sigmoidoscopy</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered colorectal screenings.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Colorectal Screening . The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist. In the event the procedure goes beyond a screening exam and involves biopsy or removal of any growth during the procedure, the procedure will be considered outpatient surgery and the outpatient surgery member copayment of \$200 will apply.</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
<p><b>Immunizations</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pneumonia vaccine</li> <li>▪ Flu shots, once a year in the fall or winter</li> <li>▪ Hepatitis B vaccine if you are at high or intermediate risk of getting hepatitis B</li> <li>▪ Other vaccines if you are at risk</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Flu and Pneumonia vaccines.</p> <p>\$0 copay for Hepatitis B vaccine for persons at risk and immunizations required because of an injury or risk of infection will be covered.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Immunization. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.</p>
<p><b>Mammography Screening</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One baseline exam between the ages of 35 and 39</li> <li>▪ One screening every 12 months for women age 40 and older</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered screening mammograms.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Mammography Screening. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist</p>
<p><b>Pap Tests, Pelvic Exams, and Clinical Breast Exam</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For all women, Pap tests, pelvic exams, and clinical breast exams are covered once every 24 months</li> <li>▪ If you are at high risk of cervical cancer or have had an abnormal Pap test and are of childbearing age: one Pap test every 12 months</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered pap smears and pelvic exams.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Pap/Pelvic Exam. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist</p>
<p><b>Prostate Cancer Screening Exams</b></p> <p>For men age 50 and older, covered services include the following — once every 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital rectal exam</li> <li>▪ Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test</li> </ul>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered prostate cancer screening.</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Prostate Cancer Screening Exam. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for</p>

<b>Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services</b>	<b>What you must pay when you get these covered services</b>
	services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist.
<p><b>Cardiovascular Disease Testing</b></p> <p>Blood tests for the detection of cardiovascular disease (or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease) as appropriate.</p>	<p>\$ 0 copay for Cardiovascular Disease Testing</p> <p>The office visit copayment may apply if an office visit service is billed in addition to the Cardiovascular Disease Testing. The office visit copayment will be \$20 for services received from a primary care physician, or \$30 for services received by a specialist</p>
<p><b>Physical Exams</b></p> <p>A one-time physical exam for members within the first 12 months that they have Medicare Part B. Includes measurement of height, weight, body mass index, blood pressure; end-of-life planning; education, counseling and referral with respect to covered screening and preventive services. Doesn't include lab tests.</p>	<p>Members are covered for one routine physical exam each year with a \$0 copay (not including lab services). If an office visit, other than a routine physical exam, is billed in addition to the preventive service, a \$20 copayment will be applied for office service received from a primary care physician or \$30 copayment will be applied for office services received from a specialist.</p>
<p><b><i>Other Services</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Dialysis (Kidney)</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outpatient dialysis treatments (including dialysis treatments when temporarily out of the service area, as explained in Section 2)</li> <li>▪ Inpatient dialysis treatments (if you are admitted to a hospital for special care)</li> <li>▪ Self-dialysis training (includes training for you and anyone helping you with your home dialysis treatments)</li> <li>▪ Home dialysis equipment and supplies</li> <li>▪ Certain home support services (such as, when necessary, visits by trained dialysis workers to check on your home dialysis, to help in emergencies, and check your dialysis</li> </ul>	<p>20% of the cost for renal dialysis</p> <p>\$0 copay for Nutrition Therapy for End-Stage Renal Disease</p>

<b>Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services</b>	<b>What you must pay when you get these covered services</b>
equipment and water supply)	
<p><b>Medicare Part B Prescription Drugs</b></p> <p>These drugs are covered under Part B of the Original Medicare Plan. Members of our plan receive coverage for these drugs through our plan. Covered drugs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drugs that usually aren't self-administered by the patient and are injected while you are getting physician services</li> <li>▪ Drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that was authorized by the plan</li> <li>▪ Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia</li> <li>▪ Immunosuppressive drugs, if you were enrolled in Medicare Part A at the time of the organ transplant</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ Antigens</li> <li>▪ Certain oral anti-cancer drugs and anti-nausea drugs</li> <li>▪ Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when medically necessary, topical anesthetics, and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (such as Epogen®, Procrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp® or Darbepoetin Alfa)</li> <li>▪ Intravenous immune globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases</li> </ul>	<p>Most drugs not covered.</p> <p>20% of the cost for Part B-covered drugs (not including Part B-covered chemotherapy drugs).</p> <p>20% of the cost for Part B-covered chemotherapy drugs.</p> <p>This plan does not offer prescription drug coverage.</p>

### ***Additional Benefits***

<p><b>Dental Services</b></p> <p>Services by a dentist or oral surgeon are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures, setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, extraction of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatments of neoplastic disease or services that would be covered when provided by a doctor.</p>	<p>\$0 copay for Medicare-covered dental benefits</p> <p>In general, preventive dental benefits (such as cleaning) not covered.</p>
<p><b>Hearing Services</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diagnostic hearing exams</li> </ul>	<p>Hearing aids not covered.</p> <p>\$25 copay for Medicare-covered diagnostic hearing exams</p> <p>\$25 copay for up to 1 routine</p>

Benefits Chart – Your Covered Services	What you must pay when you get these covered services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routine hearing exams (limited to 1 exam every 12 months)</li> </ul> <p>Routine hearing exams are performed without relationship to treatment or diagnosis for a specific illness, symptom, complaint or injury and are not required by third parties (i.e., insurance companies, business establishments, government agencies).</p>	<p>hearing test(s) every year</p>
<p><b>Vision Care</b></p> <p>Covered services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routine eye exams (limited to 1 exam per calendar year); routine exams for the purpose of prescribing, fitting, changing eyeglasses (and contact) or determining refractive state of the eyes.</li> <li>▪ Routine eyewear (limited to 1 pair of glasses or contacts every 2 years). Please note that if you select eyewear that is over \$75, you will be responsible for any amounts over the \$75 allowance.</li> </ul>	<p>\$25 copay for up to 1 routine eye exam(s) every year</p> <p>\$75 limit for eye wear every two years.</p> <p>- up to 1 pair(s) of glasses every two years</p> <p>- up to 1 pair(s) of contacts every two years</p>
<p><b>Health and Wellness Education Programs</b></p> <p>A nurse hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p>	<p>This plan covers the following health/wellness education benefits:</p> <p>Nursing Hotline: You can get answers to your health care questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at no additional charge. Call the nurse line at 1-800-700-9184. TTY users should call 1-800-425-5705</p>

## Sample Plan Membership Card

Here is an example of what your plan membership card looks like. See Section 1 for more information on using your plan membership card.



## If You Get Services and Items That Are Not Covered, You Must Pay for Them Yourself

We won't pay for the exclusions that are listed in this section (or elsewhere in this EOC), and neither will the Original Medicare Plan, unless they are found upon appeal to be services, items, or drugs that we should have paid or covered. (*Appeals are discussed in Section 5.*)

## What Services Are Not Covered or Are Limited by Our Plan?

In addition to any exclusions or limitations described in the Benefits Chart, or anywhere else in this EOC, **the following items and services aren't covered under the Original Medicare Plan or by our plan:**

1. Services that aren't reasonable and necessary, according to the standards of the Original Medicare Plan, unless these services are otherwise listed by our plan as a covered service.
2. Experimental or investigational medical and surgical procedures, equipment and medications, unless covered by the Original Medicare Plan or unless, for certain services, the procedures are covered under an approved clinical trial. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue to pay through Original Medicare for clinical trial items and services covered under the September 2000 National Coverage Determination that are provided to plan members. Experimental procedures and items are those items and procedures determined by our plan and the Original Medicare Plan to not be generally accepted by the medical community.
3. Surgical treatment of morbid obesity unless medically necessary and covered under the Original Medicare Plan.
4. Private room in a hospital, unless medically necessary.
5. Private duty nurses.

## General Exclusions

### Introduction

The purpose of this part of Section 10 is to tell you about medical care and services and items that aren't covered ("are excluded") or are limited by our plan. The list below tells about these exclusions and limitations. The list describes services and items that aren't covered under any conditions, and some services that are covered only under specific conditions. (The Benefits Chart earlier also explains about some restrictions or limitations that apply to certain services).

6. Personal convenience items, such as a telephone or television in your room at a hospital or skilled nursing facility.
7. Nursing care on a full-time basis in your home.
8. Custodial care unless it is provided in conjunction with skilled nursing care and/or skilled rehabilitation services. This includes care that helps people with activities of daily living like walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, eating, using the bathroom, preparation of special diets, and supervision of medication that is usually self-administered.
9. Homemaker services.
10. Charges imposed by immediate relatives or members of your household.
11. Meals delivered to your home.
12. Elective or voluntary enhancement procedures, services, supplies and medications including but not limited to: Weight loss, hair growth, sexual performance, athletic performance, cosmetic purposes, anti-aging and mental performance unless medically necessary.
13. Cosmetic surgery or procedures, unless needed because of accidental injury or to improve the function of a malformed part of the body. All stages of reconstruction are covered for a breast after a mastectomy, as well as for the unaffected breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
14. Unless otherwise stated in your Benefits Chart, routine dental care (such as cleanings, fillings, or dentures) or other dental services. However, nonroutine dental services received at a hospital may be covered.
15. Chiropractic care is generally not covered under the plan, (with the exception of manual manipulation of the spine,) and is limited according to Medicare guidelines.
16. Unless otherwise stated in your Benefits Chart, routine foot care is generally not covered under the plan and is limited according to Medicare guidelines.
17. Unless otherwise stated in your Benefits Chart, orthopedic shoes, unless they are part of a leg brace and are included in the cost of the brace. Exception: Therapeutic shoes are covered for people with diabetic foot disease.
18. Supportive devices for the feet. Exception: Orthopedic or therapeutic shoes are covered for people with diabetic foot disease.
19. Unless otherwise stated in your Benefits Chart, hearing aids.
20. Radial keratotomy, LASIK surgery, vision therapy and other low vision aids and services.
21. Self-administered prescription medication for the treatment of sexual dysfunction, including erectile dysfunction, impotence, and anorgasm or hypogasm.
22. Reversal of sterilization procedures, sex change operations, and nonprescription contraceptive supplies and devices.
23. Acupuncture.
24. Naturopath services.
25. Services provided to veterans in Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. However, in the case of emergency services received at a VA hospital, if the VA cost sharing is more than the cost sharing required under our plan, we will reimburse veterans for the difference. Members are still responsible for our plan cost-sharing amount.
26. Any of the services listed above that aren't covered will remain not covered even if received at an emergency facility. For example, non-authorized, routine conditions that do not appear to a reasonable person to be based on a medical emergency are not covered if received at an emergency facility.

## State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)

<b>State</b>	<b>State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)</b>	<b>Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Alabama Department of Senior Services 770 Washington Avenue, RSA Plaza Suite 470 P.O. Box Montgomery, AL 36130-1851 1-800-AGELINE	AQAF Two Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 200 West Birmingham, Al 35243-2337 1-205-970-1600
<b>Arizona</b>	Arizona Department of Economic Security 1789 West Jefferson, #950A Phoenix, AZ 85007 1-800-432-4040	Health Services Advisory Group 1600 East Northern Ave., Ste. 100 Phoenix, AZ 85020 1-602-264-6382
<b>Arkansas</b>	Arkansas Insurance Department 1200 West Third Street Little Rock, AR 72201 1-800-224-6330	Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care 401 West Capitol Little Rock, AR 72201 1-501-212-8600
<b>Florida</b>	Florida Department of Elder Affairs 4040 Esplanade Way Tallahassee, FL 32399-7000 1-800-963-5337	FMQAI 5201 W. Kennedy Boulevard Ste 900 Tampa, Fl 33609-1822 1-813-354-9111
<b>Idaho</b>	State of Idaho Department of Insurance P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0043 1-800-247-4422	Qualis Health 720 Park Blvd. #120 Boise, ID 83712 1-800-488-1118
<b>Illinois</b>	Illinois Division of Insurance 320 W. Washington 4th Floor Springfield, IL 62767-001 1-800-548-9034	Illinois Foundation for Quality Health Care 2625 Butterfield Road, Suite 102E Oak Brook, IL 60523-1234 1-800-386-6431
<b>Iowa</b>	Iowa Insurance Division 330 Maple Des Moines, IA 50319 1-800-351-4664	Iowa Foundation for Medical Care 6000 Westown Parkway West Des Moines, IA 50266-7771 1-800-383-2856
<b>Louisiana</b>	State of Louisiana Department of Insurance 11-702 North 3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 1-800-433-4958	Louisiana Health Care Review 8591 United Plaza Blvd. – Suite 270 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 1-800-433-4958

<b>State</b>	<b>State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)</b>	<b>Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program SHIP Maryland Department of Aging 301 W. Preston Street, Room 1007 Baltimore, MD 21201 1-800-243-3425	Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care 9240 Centreville Road Easton, MD 21601 1-410-822-0697
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Serving Health Information Needs of Elders SHINE Massachusetts Executive Office of Elders Affairs 1 Ashburton Place 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108 1-800-AGE-INFO	MassPRO 245 Winter Street Waltham, MA 02451-1231 1-781-890-0011
<b>Michigan</b>	MMAP Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Michigan Office of Services to the Aging 7109 W. Saginaw Highway Lansing, MI 48917 1-800-803-7174	MPRO 22670 Haggerty Road – Suite 100 Farmington Hills, MI 48335-2611 1-248-465-7300
<b>Minnesota</b>	Minnesota State Health Insurance Assistance Program Minnesota Board on Aging P.O. Box 64976 St. Paul, MN 55164-0976 1-800-333-2433	Stratis Health 2901 Metro Drive – Suite 400 Bloomington, MN 55425-1525 1-877-787-2847
<b>Mississippi</b>	MS Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program MICAP Mississippi Department of Human Services 750 North State Street Suite 606 Jackson, MS 39202 1-800-948-3090	Information and Quality Healthcare Renaissance Place – Suite 504, 385B Highland Colony Parkway Ridgeland, MS 39157-6035 1-601-957-1575
<b>Montana</b>	Montana state Auditors Office Insurance Department 840 Helena Avenue Helena, MT 59601 1-800-322-6148	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health 3404 Cooney Dr. Helena, MT 59602 1-406-443-4020
<b>Nebraska</b>	Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program State of Nebraska Department of Insurance 941 O Street, Suite 400 Lincoln, NE 68508 1-800-234-7119	CIMRO of Nebraska 1230 O Street, Suite 120 Lincoln, NE 68508 1-800-458-4262

<b>State</b>	<b>State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)</b>	<b>Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)</b>
<b>New Jersey</b>	State Health Insurance Assistance Program SHIP New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services P.O. Box 360 Trenton, NJ 08625-0360 1-800-792-8820	Healthcare Quality Strategies Inc. 557 Cranbury Road, Suite 21 East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4026 1-732-238-5570
<b>New Mexico</b>	New Mexico Benefits Counseling Program NM Aging & Long Term Services Department 2550 Cerrillos Road Santa Fe, NM 87505 1-800-432-2080	New Mexico Medical Review Association 5801 Osuna Road NE, Suite 200 Albuquerque, NM 87109 1-800-663-6351
<b>New York</b>	Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program New York State Office for the Aging 2 Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg. #2 4th Floor New York, NY 12223-1251 1-800-701-0501	Island Peer Review Organization 1979 Marcus Avenue Lake Success, NY 11042-1002 1-516-326-7767
<b>North Carolina</b>	SeniorsÆ Health Insurance Information Program SHIIP North Carolina Department of Insurance P.O. Box 26387 Raleigh, NC 27611 1-800-443-9354	The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence 100 Regency Forest Drive, Suite 200 Cary, NC 27518-8598 1-800-682-2650
<b>North Dakota</b>	Senior Health Insurance Counseling SHIC North Dakota Insurance Department 600 East Boulevard, Dept. 401 Bismarck, ND 58505-0320 1-888-575-6611	North Dakota Health Care Review 800 31st Ave SW, Minot, ND 58701 1-800-472-2902
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program SHIP Oklahoma Insurance Department 2401 N.W. 23rd, Suite 28 Oklahoma City, OK 73107 1-800-763-2828	Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality 14000 Quail Springs Parkway, Suite 400 Oklahoma City, OK 73134-2600 1-405-840-2891
<b>Oregon</b>	Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance SHIBA Office of Private Health Partnerships 250 Church St. SE STE 200 Salem, OR 97303-3921 1-800-722-4134	Acumentra Health 2020 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 520 Portland, OR 97201-4960 1-503-279-0100

<b>State</b>	<b>State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)</b>	<b>Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)</b>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	APPRISE Pennsylvania Department of Aging 555 Walnut Street, Fifth Floor Harrisburg, PA 17105 1-800-783-7067	Quality Insights of Pennsylvania 2601 Market Place Street, Suite 320 Harrisburg, PA 17110 1-877-346-6180
<b>South Carolina</b>	I-CARE Insurance Counseling Assistance and Referrals Lt. GovernorÆs Office on Aging 1301 Gervais Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29202 1-800-868-9095	The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence 246 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29210 1-800-922-3089
<b>South Dakota</b>	Senior Health Information & Insurance Education SHINE South Dakota Department of Social Services 700 Governors Drive Pierre, SD 57501-2291 1-800-536-8197	South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care 2600 West 49th Street Suite 300 P.O. Box 7406 Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7406 1-605-336-3505
<b>Tennessee</b>	TN Commission on Aging and Disability SHIP TN Commission on Aging and Disability 500 Deaderick Street, Suite 825 Nashville, TN 37243-0860 1-877-801-0044	Qsource 3175 Lenox Park Blvd., Suite 309 Memphis, TN 38115 1-800-528-2655
<b>Texas</b>	Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services 701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W350 Austin, TX 78751 1-800-252-9240	TMF Health Quality Institute Bridgepoint I Suite 300 5918 West Courtyard Drive, Austin, TX 78730-5036 1-800-725-9216
<b>Vermont</b>	State Health Insurance and Assistance Program SHIP Vermont Department of Aging and Disabilities 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671 1-800-642-5119	Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation 15 Old Rollinsford Road, Suite 1-302 Dover, NH 03820-2830 1-800-772-0151
<b>Washington</b>	Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors SHIBA WA Office of Insurance P.O. Box 40256 Olympia, WA 98504-0256 1-800-562-6900	Qualis Health P.O. Box 33400 Seattle, WA 98133-0400 1-800-949-7536

<b>State</b>	<b>State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)</b>	<b>Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	West Virginia State Health Insurance Assistance Program West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Mail -3rd Floor Town Center Charleston, WV 25305-0160 1-877-987-4463	WVMI Quality Insights 3001 Chesterfield Place Charleston, WV 25304 1-800-642-8686
<b>Wyoming</b>	Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program WSHIP State of Wyoming 106 East 6th Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 1-800-856-4398	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health 2206 Dell Range Blvd, Suite G Cheyenne, WY 82009 1-877-810-6248

## Medicaid Agencies and State Pharmacy Assistance Programs (SPAPs)

<b>State</b>	<b>Medicaid Agency</b>	<b>State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP)</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Medicaid Agency of Alabama 501 Dexter Avenue, P.O. Box 5624 Montgomery, AL 36103 1-800-362-1504	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Arizona</b>	Arizona Department of Health Services 801 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034 1-800-654-8713	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Arkansas</b>	Department of Human Services of Arkansas P.O. Box 1437 Slot 1100 Donaghey Plaza South Little Rock, AR 72203 1-800-482-5431	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Florida</b>	Florida Department of Health 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #B06 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1734 850-245-4494	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Idaho</b>	Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Division of Medicaid 3232 Elder Boise, ID 83705 1-877-200-5441	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Illinois</b>	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services 201 South Grand Avenue, East Springfield, IL 62763 1-217-782-1200	Illinois Cares Rx Illinois Department on Aging P.O. Box 19021 Springfield, IL 62794 1-800-226-0768
<b>Iowa</b>	Iowa Department of Human Services Hoover State Office Building - 5th Floor Des Moines, IA 50319 1-800-338-8366	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Louisiana</b>	Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital P.O. Box 91278 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9278 1-888-342-6207	An SPAP is not available in this state.

<b>State</b>	<b>Medicaid Agency</b>	<b>State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP)</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene P.O. Box 17259 Baltimore, MD 21203-7259 1-800-492-5231	Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program SPDAP P.O.Box 33387 Indianapolis, IN 46203 1-800-551-5995
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Office of Health and Human Services of Massachusetts 1 Ashburton Place, 11th Floor Boston, MA 02108 1-800-841-2900	Prescription Advantage P.O. Box 15153 Worcester, MA 01615-0153 1-800-243-4636
<b>Michigan</b>	Michigan Department of Community Health 320 South Walnut Street, Sixth Floor Lewis Cass Building Lansing, MI 48913 1-800-642-3195	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Minnesota</b>	Department of Human Services of Minnesota 444 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155 1-800-657-3739	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Mississippi</b>	Mississippi Department of Health 550 High Street Jackson, MS 39201 1-800-421-2408	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Montana</b>	Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Division of Child and Adult Health Resources 111 North Sanders, NW P.O. Box 4210 Helena, MT 59620 1-800-362-8312	Big Sky Rx Program P.O. Box 202915, Helena, MT 59620 1-866-369-1233
<b>Nebraska</b>	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System P.O. Box 95044 Lincoln, NE 68509-5044 1-402-471-8566	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>New Jersey</b>	Department of Human Services of New Jersey Quakerbridge Plaza Building 7 P.O. Box 712 Trenton, NJ 08625-0712 1-800-356-1561	Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program P.O. Box 724 Trenton, NJ 08625 1-800-792-9745

<b>State</b>	<b>Medicaid Agency</b>	<b>State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP)</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	Department of Human Resources of New Mexico P.O. Box 2348 Sante Fe, NM 87504-2348 1-888-997-2583	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>New York</b>	New York State Department of Health Officer of the Commissioner Empire State Plaza Corning Tower Bldg, 14th floor Albany, NY 12237 1-518-486-9057	Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) P.O. Box 15018, Albany, NY 12212 1-800-332-3742
<b>North Carolina</b>	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Medical Assistance 1-501 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-2501 1-800-662-7030	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>North Dakota</b>	Department of Human Services of North Dakota 600 E. Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505 1-800-755-2604	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Oklahoma State Department of Health 1000 N.E. 10th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73117 1-405-522-5818	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Oregon</b>	Oregon Department of Human Services 500 Summer Street, NE 3rd floor Salem, OR 94310 1-800-527-5772	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Department of Public Welfare of Pennsylvania Health and Welfare Building Room 515, P.O. Box 2675 Harrisburg, PA 94310 1-800-692-7462	Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly PACE Program 1st. Health Services, 4000 Crums Mill Road Suite 301 Harrisburg, PA 17112 1-800-225-7223
<b>South Carolina</b>	South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services P.O. Box 8206 Columbia, SC 29202 1-803-898-2500	Gap Assistance Pharmacy Program for Seniors GAPS P.O. Box 8206 Columbia, SC 29202 1-888-549-0820

<b>State</b>	<b>Medicaid Agency</b>	<b>State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP)</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	Department of Social Services of South Dakota 700 Governors Drive, Richard F Kneip Bldg Pierre, SD 57501 1-800-452-7691	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Tennessee</b>	Bureau of Tennessee Care 310 Great Circle Rd. Nashville, TN 37243 1-866-311-4287	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Texas</b>	Health and Human Services Commission of Texas 4900 N. Lamar Boulevard, 4th Floor Austin, TX 78701 1-800-252-6758	Texas Kidney Health Care Program KHC 1100 W. 49th St, Austin, TX 78756 1-800-222-3986
<b>Vermont</b>	Agency of Human Services of Vermont 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 1-800-250-8427	V-Pharm 312 Hurricane Lane, Suite 201 Willston, VT 05495 1-800-250-8427
<b>Washington</b>	Department of Social and Health Services of Washington P.O. Box 45505, Olympia, WA 98504 1-800-562-1-3022	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>West Virginia</b>	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources 350 Capitol Street, Room 251 Charleston, WV 25301 1-304-558-1700	An SPAP is not available in this state.
<b>Wyoming</b>	Wyoming Department of Health 147 Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002 1-307-777-7531	An SPAP is not available in this state.

# Index

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	Page(s)
Annual Election Period .....	32
Appeal.....	22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34
Benefit Period .....	34
Coinsurance .....	42
Complaints .....	13, 15, 20, 26, 29
Contact Information.....	15, 38
Emergency Care.....	35, 47
Exception .....	57
Grievance.....	18, 35
Medically Necessary.....	35
Medicare Advantage .....	31, 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42
Medicare Part D.....	36, 40
Medicare Supplement .....	36
Medigap.....	36, 39
Part C.....	13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42
Phone Numbers.....	39, 40
Prior Authorization .....	36
Private Fee-for-Service.....	1, 35, 42
Resources .....	38, 39
Rights and Responsibilities.....	9
Service Area.....	36
Special Enrollment Period .....	32
Urgently Needed Care .....	6, 37, 48







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