January 1 – December 31, 2023

Evidence of Coverage:

Your Medicare Health Benefits and Services as a Member of Regence Valiance (HMO)

This document gives you the details about your Medicare health care coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2023. **This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.**

For questions about this document, please contact Customer Service at 1-855-522-8896. (TTY users should call 711). Our hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Live online chat assistance is also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. To access online chat, sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us.

This plan, Regence Valiance, is offered by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. (When this *Evidence of Coverage* says "we," "us," or "our," it means Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. When it says "plan" or "our plan," it means Regence Valiance.)

This document is available electronically and may be available in other alternate formats.

Benefits, premiums, and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2024.

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

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

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

Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

2023 Evidence of Coverage

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1:
Getting started as a member

SECTION 1 Introduction

Section 1.1 You are enrolled in Regence Valiance, which is a Medicare HMO

You are covered by Medicare, and you have chosen to get your Medicare health care through our plan, Regence Valiance. We are required to cover all Part A and Part B services. However, cost sharing and provider access in this plan differ from Original Medicare.

Our plan is a Medicare Advantage HMO Plan (HMO stands for Health Maintenance Organization) approved by Medicare and run by a private company. Regence Valiance does not include Part D prescription drug coverage.

Coverage under this Plan qualifies as Qualifying Health Coverage (QHC) and satisfies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual shared responsibility requirement. Please visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at: www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families for more information.

Section 1.2 What is the *Evidence of Coverage* document about?

This *Evidence of Coverage* document tells you how to get your medical care. It explains your rights and responsibilities, what is covered, what you pay as a member of the plan, and how to file a complaint if you are not satisfied with a decision or treatment.

The words "coverage" and "covered services" refer to the medical care and services available to you as a member of our plan.

It's important for you to learn what the plan's rules are and what services are available to you. We encourage you to set aside some time to look through this *Evidence of Coverage* document.

If you are confused or concerned or just have a question, please contact our plan's Customer Service.

Section 1.3 Legal information about the *Evidence of Coverage*

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

The contract is in effect for months in which you are enrolled in Regence Valiance between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Each calendar year, Medicare allows us to make changes to the plans that we offer. This means we can change the costs and benefits of our plan after December 31, 2023. We can also choose to stop offering the plan, or to offer it in a different service area, after December 31, 2023.

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

SECTION 2 What makes you eligible to be a plan member?

Section 2.1 Your eligibility requirements

You are eligible for membership in our plan as long as:

- You have both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B.
- --*and*-- You live in our geographic service area (Section 2.3 below describes our service area). Incarcerated individuals are not considered living in the geographic service area even if they are physically located in it.
- --*and*-- You are a United States citizen or are lawfully present in the United States.

Section 2.2 Here is the plan service area for Regence Valiance

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

Our service area includes these counties in Oregon and Washington: Clackamas, Deschutes, Lane, Multnomah, and Washington in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.

If you plan to move out of the service area, you cannot remain a member of this plan. Please contact Customer Service to see if we have a plan in your new area. When you move, you will have a Special Enrollment Period that will allow you to switch to Original Medicare or enroll in a Medicare health or drug plan that is available in your new location.

It is also important that you call Social Security if you move or change your mailing address. You can find phone numbers and contact information for Social Security in Chapter 2, Section 5.

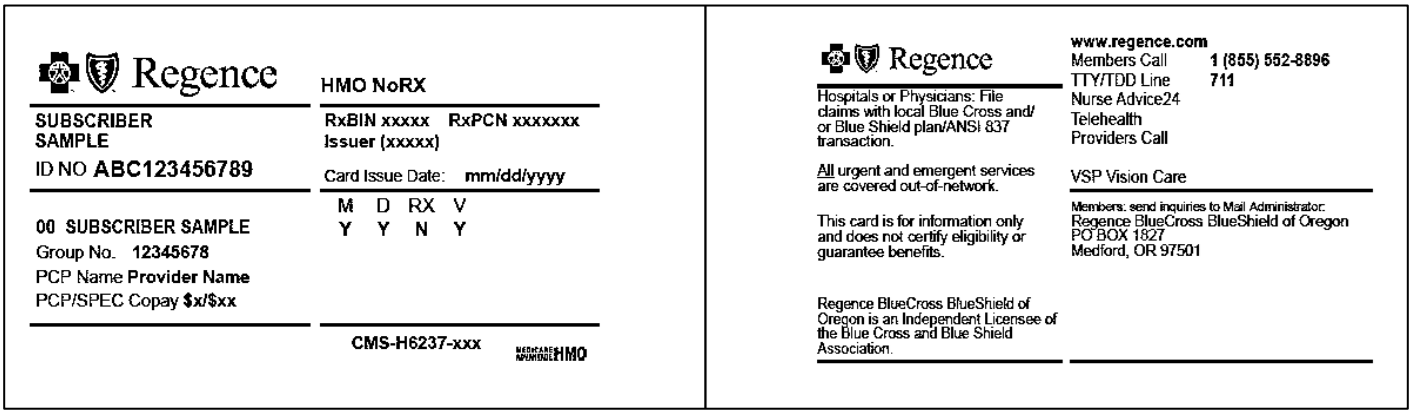
Section 2.3 U.S. citizen or lawful presence

A member of a Medicare health plan must be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States. Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) will notify our plan if you are not eligible to remain a member on this basis. We must disenroll you if you do not meet this requirement.

SECTION 3 Important membership materials you will receive

Section 3.1 Your plan membership card

While you are a member of our plan, you must use your membership card whenever you get services covered by this plan. You should also show the provider your Medicaid card, if applicable. Here's a sample membership card to show you what yours will look like:



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

If your plan membership card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call Customer Service right away and we will send you a new card.

Section 3.2 Provider Directory

The *Provider Directory* lists our network providers and durable medical equipment suppliers. **Network providers** are the doctors and other health care professionals, medical groups, durable medical equipment suppliers, hospitals, and other health care facilities that have an agreement with us to accept our payment and any plan cost sharing as payment in full.

You must use network providers to get your medical care and services. If you go elsewhere without proper authorization you will have to pay in full. The only exceptions are emergencies, urgently needed services when the network is not available (that is, in situations when it is unreasonable or not possible to obtain services in-network), out-of-area dialysis services, and cases in which our plan authorizes use of out-of-network providers.

The most recent list of providers and suppliers is available on our website at regence.com/medicare.

If you don't have your copy of the *Provider Directory*, you can request a copy from Customer Service.

SECTION 4 Your monthly costs for Regence Valiance

Your costs may include the following:

- Plan Premium (Section 4.1)
- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium (Section 4.2)
- Optional Supplemental Benefit Premium (Section 4.3)

Medicare Part B premiums differ for people with different incomes. If you have questions about these premiums review your copy of *Medicare & You 2023* handbook, the section called "2023 Medicare Costs." If you need a copy, you can download it from the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). Or you can order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 4.1 Plan premium

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

Section 4.2 Monthly Medicare Part B Premium

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums

As a member of our plan, you receive up to a $15 reduction of your monthly Medicare Part B premium. You do not have to complete any paperwork to receive this benefit. The reduction is set up by Medicare and administered through the Social Security Administration (SSA). This reduction only applies to the amounts *you* pay toward your Medicare Part B premium and are not issued on any premium amount paid by Medicaid. Depending on how you pay your Medicare Part B premium, your reduction may be credited to your Social Security check or credited on your Medicare Part B premium statement. Reductions may take several months to be issued; however, you will receive a full credit for amounts you have paid.

Please note if you disenroll from our plan, your Medicare Part B premium reduction will end on the date of disenrollment. As mentioned above, it could take several months for SSA to complete their processing. Any premium reductions you receive after you disenroll will eventually be deducted from your Social Security check.

You must continue paying your Medicare premiums to remain a member of the plan. This includes your premium for Part B. It may also include a premium for Part A which affects members who aren't eligible for premium free Part A.

Section 4.3 Optional Supplemental Benefit Premium

If you signed up for extra benefits, also called "optional supplemental benefits," then you pay an additional premium each month for these extra benefits. See Chapter 4, Section 2.2 for details. The additional monthly premium for the 2023 Dental OSB is $24. See Chapter 4, Section 2.2 for details.

SECTION 5 More information about your monthly premium

Section 5.1 Can we change your monthly plan premium during the year?

No. We are not allowed to change the amount we charge for the plan's monthly plan premium during the year. If the monthly plan premium changes for next year, we will tell you in September and the change will take effect on January 1.

SECTION 6 Keeping your plan membership record up to date

Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and telephone number. It shows your specific plan coverage including your Primary Care Provider.

The doctors, hospitals, and other providers in the plan's network need to have correct information about you. **These network providers use your membership record to know what services are covered and the cost-sharing amounts for you**. Because of this, it is very important that you help us keep your information up to date.

Let us know about these changes:

- Changes to your name, your address, or your phone number
- Changes in any other health insurance coverage you have (such as from your employer, your spouse's employer, workers' compensation, or Medicaid)
- If you have any liability claims, such as claims from an automobile accident
- If you have been admitted to a nursing home
- If you receive care in an out-of-area or out-of-network hospital or emergency room
- If your designated responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes
- If you are participating in a clinical research study (**Note:** You are not required to tell your plan about the clinical research studies you intend to participate in but we encourage you to do so)

If any of this information changes, please let us know by calling Customer Service. You can also let us know online at our secure website regence.com/medicare. Log into your account and follow the instructions on the screen.

It is also important to contact Social Security if you move or change your mailing address. You can find phone numbers and contact information for Social Security in Chapter 2, Section 5.

SECTION 7 How other insurance works with our plan

Other insurance

Medicare requires that we collect information from you about any other medical or drug insurance coverage that you have. That's because we must coordinate any other coverage you have with your benefits under our plan. This is called **Coordination of Benefits**.

Once each year, we will send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug insurance coverage that we know about. Please read over this information carefully. If it is correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information is incorrect, or if you have other coverage that is not listed, please call Customer Service. You may need to give your plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you have confirmed their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

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

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

- If you have retiree coverage, Medicare pays first.
- If your group health plan coverage is based on your or a family member's current employment, who pays first depends on your age, the number of people employed by your employer, and whether you have Medicare based on age, disability, or End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD):

  - If you're under 65 and disabled and you or your family member are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 100 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan that has more than 100 employees.
  - If you're over 65 and you or your spouse are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 20 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan that has more than 20 employees.
- If you have Medicare because of ESRD, your group health plan will pay first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare.

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

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

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

CHAPTER 2:
Important phone numbers and resources

SECTION 1 Regence Valiance contacts (how to contact us, including how to reach Customer Service)

How to contact our plan's Customer Service

For assistance with claims, billing, or member card questions, please call or write to our plan's Customer Service. We will be happy to help you.

Method	Customer Service – Contact Information
CALL	**1-855-522-8896** Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Live online chat assistance is also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. To access online chat, sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers. **TruHearing**: **1-855-542-1711** Calls to this number are free. Live telephone hours are 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (Pacific). An answering service is available from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday (Pacific) and October 1 to March 31 from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **VSP Vision Care**: **1-844-872-6065** Calls to this number are free. Live telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The automated system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
TTY	**711** Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Live online chat assistance is also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. To access online chat, sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. **TruHearing**: **711** Calls to this number are free. Live telephone hours are 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (Pacific). An answering service is available from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday (Pacific) and October 1 to March 31 from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **VSP Vision Care**: **711** Calls to this number are free. Live telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The automated system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
FAX	1-888-335-2985

Method	Customer Service – Contact Information
WRITE	Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon P.O. Box 1827 MS B32G Medford, OR 97501 Live chat assistance and secure email is available through the member portal. Sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. Live chat is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. Emails will receive a response within one business day.
WEBSITE	regence.com/medicare

How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or appeal about your medical care

A "coverage decision" is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical services. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made. For more information on asking for coverage decisions or appeals about your medical care, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints*)).

Method	Coverage Decisions for Medical Care – Contact Information
CALL	1-855-522-8896 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Utilization Management staff are available from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific) and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mountain). Voicemail and fax messages received after normal business hours will receive a response on the next business day.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Utilization Management staff are available from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific) and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mountain). Voicemail and fax messages received after normal business hours will receive a response on the next business day.
FAX	1-855-232-0085 Expedited Reviews: 1-855-240-6498
WRITE	Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon PO Box 1271 MS WW5-53 Portland, OR 97207-1271
WEBSITE	regence.com/medicare

Method	Appeals for Medical Care – Contact Information
CALL	1-866-749-0355 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (Pacific).
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (Pacific).
FAX	1-888-309-8784
WRITE	Medicare Advantage Appeals & Grievances PO Box 1827 MS B32AG Medford, OR 97501 medicareappeals@regence.com
WEBSITE	regence.com/medicare To access online appeal forms, log into your account, click 'See all claims', click 'Appeal a claim action or denial', then 'Appeal online'.

How to contact us when you are making a complaint about your medical care

You can make a complaint about us or one of our network providers, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes. For more information on making a complaint about your medical care, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints*)).

Method	Complaints about Medical Care – Contact Information
CALL	1-855-522-8896 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.
FAX	1-888-309-8784
WRITE	Medicare Advantage Appeals & Grievances PO Box 1827 MS B32AG Medford, OR 97501 medicareappeals@regence.com
MEDICARE WEBSITE	You can submit a complaint about us directly to Medicare. To submit an online complaint to Medicare, go to www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx.

Where to send a request asking us to pay for our share of the cost for medical care you have received

If you have received a bill or paid for services (such as a provider bill) that you think we should pay for, you may need to ask us for reimbursement or to pay the provider bill, see Chapter 5 (*Asking us to pay our share of a bill you have received for covered medical services*).

Please note: If you send us a payment request and we deny any part of your request, you can appeal our decision. See Chapter 7 *(What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints))* for more information.

Method	Payment Requests – Contact Information
FAX	1-888-335-2985
WRITE	Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon P.O. Box 1827 MS B32G Medford, OR 97501 Live chat assistance and secure email is available through the member portal. Sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. Live chat is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. Emails will receive a response within one business day.
WEBSITE	regence.com/medicare

SECTION 2 Medicare
(how to get help and information directly from the Federal Medicare program)

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

The Federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (sometimes called "CMS"). This agency contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations including us.

Method	Medicare – Contact Information
CALL	1-800-MEDICARE, or 1-800-633-4227 Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
TTY	1-877-486-2048 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.

Method	Medicare – Contact Information
WEBSITE	www.medicare.gov This is the official government website for Medicare. It gives you up-to-date information about Medicare and current Medicare issues. It also has information about hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities. It includes documents you can print directly from your computer. You can also find Medicare contacts in your state. The Medicare website also has detailed information about your Medicare eligibility and enrollment options with the following tools: • **Medicare Eligibility Tool:** Provides Medicare eligibility status information. • **Medicare Plan Finder:** Provides personalized information about available Medicare prescription drug plans, Medicare health plans, and Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policies in your area. These tools provide an *estimate* of what your out-of-pocket costs might be in different Medicare plans. You can also use the website to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about our plan: • **Tell Medicare about your complaint:** You can submit a complaint about us directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program. If you don't have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you visit this website using its computer. Or, you can call Medicare and tell them what information you are looking for. They will find the information on the website and review the information with you. (You can call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.)

SECTION 3 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (free help, information, and answers to your questions about Medicare)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. Contact information for your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) can be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document.

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

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

METHOD TO ACCESS SHIP and OTHER RESOURCES:

- Visit *www.medicare.gov*
- Click on "**Talk to Someone**" in the middle of the homepage
- You now have the following options
  - Option #1: You can have a **live chat with a 1-800-MEDICARE representative**
  - Option #2: You can select your **STATE** from the dropdown menu and click GO. This will take you to a page with phone numbers and resources specific to your state.

SECTION 4 Quality Improvement Organization

There is a designated Quality Improvement Organization for serving Medicare beneficiaries in each state. Contact information for your state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) can be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document.

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

You should contact your QIO in any of these situations:

- You have a complaint about the quality of care you have received.
- You think coverage for your hospital stay is ending too soon.
- You think coverage for your home health care, skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services are ending too soon.

SECTION 5 Social Security

Social Security is responsible for determining eligibility and handling enrollment for Medicare. U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who are 65 or older, or who have a disability or End-Stage Renal Disease and meet certain conditions, are eligible for Medicare. If you are already getting Social Security checks, enrollment into Medicare is automatic. If you are not getting Social Security checks, you have to enroll in Medicare. To apply for Medicare, you can call Social Security or visit your local Social Security office.

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

Method	Social Security– Contact Information
CALL	1-800-772-1213 Calls to this number are free. Available 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You can use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.

Method	Social Security– Contact Information
TTY	1-800-325-0778 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Available 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
WEBSITE	www.ssa.gov

SECTION 6 Medicaid

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

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

To find out more about Medicaid and its programs, contact your states Medicaid office. Contact information for them can be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document.

SECTION 7 How to contact the Railroad Retirement Board

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

Method	Railroad Retirement Board – Contact Information
CALL	1-877-772-5772 Calls to this number are free. If you press "0," you may speak with an RRB representative from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday. If you press "1", you may access the automated RRB HelpLine and recorded information 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.

Method	Railroad Retirement Board – Contact Information
TTY	1-312-751-4701 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are *not* free.
WEBSITE	rrb.gov/

SECTION 8 Do you have "group insurance" or other health insurance from an employer?

If you (or your spouse) get benefits from your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group as part of this plan, you may call the employer/union benefits administrator or Customer Service if you have any questions. You can ask about your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree health benefits, premiums, or the enrollment period. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this document.) You may also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY: 1-877-486-2048) with questions related to your Medicare coverage under this plan.

CHAPTER 3:
Using the plan for your medical services

SECTION 1 Things to know about getting your medical care as a member of our plan

This chapter explains what you need to know about using the plan to get your medical care covered. It gives definitions of terms and explains the rules you will need to follow to get the medical treatments, services, equipment, prescription drugs, and other medical care that are covered by the plan.

For the details on what medical care is covered by our plan and how much you pay when you get this care, use the benefits chart in the next chapter, Chapter 4 (*Medical Benefits Chart, what is covered and what you pay*).

Section 1.1 What are "network providers" and "covered services"?

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

Section 1.2 Basic rules for getting your medical care covered by the plan

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

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

- **The care you receive is included in the plan's Medical Benefits Chart** (this chart is in Chapter 4 of this document).
- **The care you receive is considered medically necessary**. "Medically necessary" means that the services, supplies, equipment, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.
- **You have a network primary care provider (a PCP) who is providing and overseeing your care.** As a member of our plan, you must choose a network PCP (for more information about this, see Section 2.1 in this chapter).
    - In most situations, your network PCP must give you approval in advance before you can use other providers in the plan's network, such as specialists, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, or home health care agencies. This is called giving you a "referral." For more information about this, see Section 2.3 of this chapter.
    - Referrals from your PCP are not required for emergency care or urgently needed services. There are also some other kinds of care you can get without having approval in advance from your PCP (for more information about this, see Section 2.2 of this chapter).
- **You must receive your care from a network provider** (for more information about this, see Section

2 in this chapter). In most cases, care you receive from an out-of-network provider (a provider who is not part of our plan's network) will not be covered. This means that you will have to pay the provider in full for the services furnished. *Here are three exceptions:*

- The plan covers emergency or urgently needed services that you get from an out-of-network provider. For more information about this, and to see what emergency or urgently needed services means, see Section 3 in this chapter.
- If you need medical care that Medicare requires our plan to cover but there are no specialists in our network that provide this care, you can get this care from an out-of-network provider at the same cost sharing you normally pay in-network. Before you receive care from an out-of-network provider your PCP must obtain approval from the plan on your behalf. In this situation, you will pay the same as you would pay if you got the care from a network provider. For information about getting approval to see an out-of-network doctor, see Section 2.4 in this chapter.
- The plan covers kidney dialysis services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you are temporarily outside the plan's service area or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible. The cost sharing you pay the plan for dialysis can never exceed the cost sharing in Original Medicare. If you are outside the plan's service area and obtain the dialysis from a provider that is outside the plan's network, your cost sharing cannot exceed the cost sharing you pay in-network. However, if your usual in-network provider for dialysis is temporarily unavailable and you choose to obtain services inside the service area from a provider outside the plan's network the cost sharing for the dialysis may be higher.

SECTION 2 Use providers in the plan's network to get your medical care

Section 2.1 You must choose a Primary Care Provider (PCP) to provide and oversee your medical care

What is a "PCP" and what does the PCP do for you?

When you become a member of our plan, you must choose a network provider to be your Primary Care Provider (PCP). Your PCP is a health care professional who meets state requirements and is trained to give you basic medical care. Our plan considers a physician (M.D. or D.O.), physician's assistant (P.A.), or nurse practitioner (N.P.) with one of the following specialties to be a PCP:

- Adult Medicine
- Family Practice
- General Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Internal Medicine

A physician (M.D. or D.O.), physician's assistant (P.A.), or nurse practitioner (N.P.) with a Pediatrics specialty may also be used as a PCP if appropriate to your situation. Refer to your *Provider Directory* for a full list of providers who may act as your PCP.

You will get most of your routine or basic care from your PCP. Your PCP will also coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a plan member. For example, in order to see a network specialist, you usually need to get your PCP's approval first (this is called getting a "referral" to a specialist). A referral is an approval from

your PCP for you to see a specialist or other provider. In most cases, medical services obtained without a PCP referral will not be covered. See Section 2.2 for more information on services that are available without a referral. Your PCP will also help you arrange or coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a member of our Plan. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Hospital services
- X-rays
- Care from specialists and behavioral health care providers
- Laboratory tests
- Occupational and physical therapy, speech-language pathology
- Follow-up care

"Coordinating" your covered services include checking or consulting with other plan providers about your care and how it is going. Certain services and supplies require prior authorization (approval in advance) to be covered. If the service you need requires prior authorization, your PCP or other physician will request the authorization from our plan. Since your PCP will provide and coordinate your medical care, you should have all your past medical records sent to your PCP's office.

How do you choose your PCP?

As a plan member, you will need to choose a network PCP upon enrollment. Refer to your *Provider Directory* for the list of plan PCPs from which you may choose or contact Customer Service for assistance. List the PCP you choose on your enrollment form. If there is a particular plan specialist or hospital that you want to use, check first to be sure your PCP gives referrals to that specialist or uses that hospital. If you do not choose a PCP or if you choose a PCP that is not available with this plan, we will automatically assign you to a PCP near your home. The name of your PCP is printed on your member ID card.

Changing your PCP

You may change your PCP for any reason, at any time. Also, it's possible that your PCP might leave our plan's network of providers and you would have to find a new PCP. If there is a particular plan specialist or hospital that you want to use, check first to be sure your new PCP gives referrals to that specialist or uses that hospital.

To change your PCP, contact Customer Service by phone or live chat, or you may visit our website at regence.com/medicare to make your PCP request. Your request will be effective on the first day of the month following the date our plan receives your request. If you are seeing specialists or getting other covered services that needed your PCP's approval (such as specialist referrals) you will need your new PCP to contact us to update your referrals. You will also receive a new member ID card that shows the name of your new PCP.

Section 2.2 What kinds of medical care can you get without a referral from your PCP?

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

- Routine women's health care, which includes breast exams, screening mammograms (x-rays of the breast), Pap tests, and pelvic exams as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Flu shots, COVID-19 vaccinations, Hepatitis B vaccinations, and pneumonia vaccinations as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Emergency services from network providers or from out-of-network providers.
- Urgently needed services are covered services that are not emergency services, provided when the

network providers are temporarily unavailable or inaccessible or when the enrollee is out of the service area. For example, you need immediate care during the weekend. Services must be immediately needed and medically necessary.

- Kidney dialysis services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you are temporarily outside the plan's service area. (If possible, please call Customer Service before you leave the service area so we can help arrange for you to have maintenance dialysis while you are away.)
- Outpatient mental health services as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Outpatient cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Durable medical equipment as long as you get the equipment from a network provider. Some equipment may require prior authorization.
- Prosthetic devices and related supplies, including orthotics, as long as you get them from a network provider. Some may require prior authorization.
- Routine vision services as long as you get them from a Vision Service Plan (VSP) network provider.
- Routine hearing services as long as you get them from a TruHearing network provider.
- Preventive or diagnostic dental services as long as you get them from a network provider.
- Acupuncture, chiropractic, massage, and naturopathy services as long as you get them from a network provider.
- If you have purchased the optional supplemental benefit coverage, you do not need a referral to receive the covered services from a network provider.

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

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

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

When your PCP thinks that you need specialized treatment, they will contact the plan to give you a referral to see a specialist or certain other providers. It is particularly important to get a referral from your PCP before you see a specialist or certain other providers (there are a few exceptions, see Section 2.2). If you don't have a referral before you get services from a specialist, you will have to pay for these services yourself.

- For some types of services, your PCP or referred specialist may need to get approval in advance from our plan (this is called getting "prior authorization"). Your PCP or referred specialist will contact the plan before you receive services to get the approval. The plan will review the request your doctor sends. There are no incentives tied to decisions made about your care. We will notify you and your doctor if the service is approved or not. See Chapter 4, Section 2.1 for information about which services require prior authorization.

Your PCP may have certain network specialists they use for referrals. Contact your PCP to see if the network specialist you want to see is one your PCP will refer to. If you want to see a network specialist that your PCP cannot refer you to you may consider changing your PCP. Earlier in this section, under "Changing your PCP", we explained how to change your PCP.

If there are specific hospitals you want to use, you must first find out whether your PCP, or the doctors you will be seeing, uses these hospitals. Except in an emergency, your PCP or specialist will arrange your admission to the hospital. For a list of network hospitals, please refer to the *Provider Directory*. Your doctor may not admit to all network hospitals. Please ask your doctor to find out the hospitals where they have privileges.

What if a specialist or another network provider leaves our plan?

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers) that are part of your plan during the year. If your doctor or specialist leaves your plan you have certain rights and protections summarized below:

- Even though our network of providers may change during the year, Medicare requires that we furnish you with uninterrupted access to qualified doctors and specialists.
- We will make a good faith effort to provide you with at least 30 days' notice that your provider is leaving our plan so that you have time to select a new provider.
- We will assist you in selecting a new qualified provider to continue managing your health care needs.
- If you are undergoing medical treatment, you have the right to request, and we will work with you to ensure that the medically necessary treatment you are receiving is not interrupted.
- If our network does not have a qualified specialist for a plan-covered service, we must cover that service at in-network cost sharing after prior authorization has been approved.
- If you find out your doctor or specialist is leaving your plan, please contact us so we can assist you in finding a new provider to manage your care.
- If you believe we have not furnished you with a qualified provider to replace your previous provider or that your care is not being appropriately managed, you have the right to file a quality of care complaint to the QIO, a quality of care grievance to the plan, or both. Please see Chapter 7.

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

If providers in our network cannot provide a Medicare-covered, medically necessary service or treatment that is not urgent or emergent, you may receive care from an out-of-network provider. However, before you receive care from an out-of-network provider, your PCP must obtain authorization from the plan. If the plan gives authorization, it will only cover the specifically requested treatment for a designated period, or until the treatment is completed. If prior authorization is not obtained by your PCP or has been denied by the plan, you will be responsible for the full charges associated with the care.

An authorization is not required for emergency or urgent care services, or for kidney dialysis when you are outside of the service area.

SECTION 3 How to get services when you have an emergency or urgent need for care or during a disaster

Section 3.1 Getting care if you have a medical emergency

What is a "medical emergency" and what should you do if you have one?

A **"medical emergency"** is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health

and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent your loss of life (and, if you are a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb or function of a limb, or loss of or serious impairment to a bodily function. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse.

If you have a medical emergency:

- **Get help as quickly as possible.** Call 911 for help or go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. Call for an ambulance if you need it. You do *not* need to get approval or a referral first from your PCP. You do not need to use a network doctor. You may get covered emergency medical care whenever you need it, anywhere in the United States or its territories, and from any provider with an appropriate state license even if they are not part of our network. Our plan also covers emergency and urgently needed services worldwide.

What is covered if you have a medical emergency?

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

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

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

What if it wasn't a medical emergency?

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

However, after the doctor has said that it was *not* an emergency, we will cover additional care *only* if you get the additional care in one of these two ways:

- You go to a network provider to get the additional care.
- --*or*-- The additional care you get is considered "urgently needed services" and you follow the rules for getting this urgent care (for more information about this, see Section 3.2 below).

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

What are "urgently needed services"?

An "urgently needed service" is a non-emergency, unforeseen medical illness, injury, or condition that requires immediate medical care. For example, an unforeseen flare-up of a known condition that you have or a severe sore throat that occurs over the weekend. Urgently needed services may be furnished by out of-network providers when it is unreasonable, given your circumstances, to obtain immediate care from network providers.

In an urgent situation you should try to contact your PCP first. If your PCP is not available, or you need care after normal business hours, your plan includes benefits for virtual primary care, behavioral health, and urgent care visits through your telephone or computer with a PCP, a covering provider, or Doctor On Demand (a virtual care provider). You also have access to a free 24-hour nurse advice line. Network urgent care facilities

are available throughout our service area. If you need assistance locating a network urgent care facility, contact Customer Service or visit our website at regence.com/medicare for a list of providers.

Our plan covers worldwide emergency and urgent care services outside the United States under the following circumstances:

- You have a condition that cannot wait until you return to the service area, such as an illness that is worsening or an infection.
- You need immediate medical help, but your health is not in serious danger, such as a sprained ankle or an injury that requires stitches.
- You believe your health is in serious danger, such as appendicitis or a broken bone.

In short, worldwide coverage for urgently needed services (or emergency services) is when medical services are needed right away because of an illness, injury or for a condition that you did not expect or anticipate, and you cannot wait until you are back in our plan's service area to obtain services. Charges for non-emergency, non-urgent, pre-scheduled or pre-planned treatments (including dialysis for an ongoing condition), any dental services, routine vision services, and prescribed medications **will not be covered**. See Chapter 4, Section 2.1 (*Medical Benefits Chart – What is covered and what you pay*) for more information.

Section 3.3 Getting care during a disaster

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

Please visit the following website: regence.com/medicare for information on how to obtain needed care during a disaster.

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

SECTION 4 What if you are billed directly for the full cost of your services?

Section 4.1 You can ask us to pay our share of the cost of covered services

If you have paid more than your plan cost-sharing for covered services, or if you have received a bill for the full cost of covered medical services, go to Chapter 5 (*Asking us to pay our share of a bill you have received for covered medical services*) for information about what to do.

Section 4.2 If services are not covered by our plan, you must pay the full cost

Our plan covers all medically necessary services as listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 of this document. If you receive services not covered by our plan or services obtained out-of-network and were not authorized, you are responsible for paying the full cost of services.

For covered services that have a benefit limitation, you also pay the full cost of any services you get after you have used up your benefit for that type of covered service. Once a benefit limit has been reached, additional costs will not count toward your out-of-pocket maximum.

SECTION 5 How are your medical services covered when you are in a "clinical research study"?

Section 5.1 What is a "clinical research study"?

A clinical research study (also called a "clinical trial") is a way that doctors and scientists test new types of medical care, like how well a new cancer drug works. Certain clinical research studies are approved by Medicare. Clinical research studies approved by Medicare typically request volunteers to participate in the study.

Once Medicare approves the study, and you express interest, someone who works on the study will contact you to explain more about the study and see if you meet the requirements set by the scientists who are running the study. You can participate in the study as long as you meet the requirements for the study *and* you have a full understanding and acceptance of what is involved if you participate in the study.

If you participate in a Medicare-approved study, Original Medicare pays most of the costs for the covered services you receive as part of the study. If you tell us that you are in a qualified clinical trial, then you are only responsible for the in-network cost sharing for the services in that trial. If you paid more, for example, if you already paid the Original Medicare cost-sharing amount, we will reimburse the difference between what you paid and the in-network cost sharing. However, you will need to provide documentation to show us how much you paid. When you are in a clinical research study, you may stay enrolled in our plan and continue to get the rest of your care (the care that is not related to the study) through our plan.

If you want to participate in any Medicare-approved clinical research study, you do *not* need to tell us or to get approval from us or your PCP. The providers that deliver your care as part of the clinical research study do *not* need to be part of our plan's network of providers.

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

If you participate in a study that Medicare has *not* approved, *you will be responsible for paying all costs for your participation in the study*.

Section 5.2 When you participate in a clinical research study, who pays for what?

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

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

After Medicare has paid its share of the cost for these services, our plan will pay the difference between the cost sharing in Original Medicare and your in-network cost sharing as a member of our plan. This means you will pay the same amount for the services you receive as part of the study as you would if you received these services from our plan. However, you are required to submit documentation showing how much cost sharing you paid. Please see Chapter 5 for more information for submitting requests for payments.

Here's an example of how the cost sharing works: Let's say that you have a lab test that costs $100 as part of the research study. Let's also say that your share of the costs for this test is $20 under Original Medicare,

but the test would be $10 under our plan's benefits. In this case, Original Medicare would pay $80 for the test and you would pay the $20 copay required under Original Medicare. You would then notify your plan that you received a qualified clinical trial service and submit documentation such as a provider bill to the plan. The plan would then directly pay you $10. Therefore, your net payment is $10, the same amount you would pay under our plan's benefits. Please note that in order to receive payment from your plan, you must submit documentation to your plan such as a provider bill.

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

- Generally, Medicare will *not* pay for the new item or service that the study is testing unless Medicare would cover the item or service even if you were *not* in a study.
- Items or services provided only to collect data, and not used in your direct health care. For example, Medicare would not pay for monthly CT scans done as part of the study if your medical condition would normally require only one CT scan.

Do you want to know more?

You can get more information about joining a clinical research study by visiting the Medicare website to read or download the publication "Medicare and Clinical Research Studies." (The publication is available at: www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/02226-Medicare-and-Clinical-Research-Studies.pdf.) You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

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

Section 6.1 What is a religious non-medical health care institution?

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

Section 6.2 Receiving Care from a Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institution

To get care from a religious non-medical health care institution, you must sign a legal document that says you are conscientiously opposed to getting medical treatment that is "non-excepted."

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

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

- The facility providing the care must be certified by Medicare.
- Our plan's coverage of services you receive is limited to *non-religious* aspects of care.

- If you get services from this institution that are provided to you in a facility, the following conditions apply:
    - You must have a medical condition that would allow you to receive covered services for inpatient hospital care or skilled nursing facility care;
    - --*and*-- You must get approval in advance from our plan before you are admitted to the facility, or your stay will not be covered.

See Chapter 4, section 2.1 (*Medical Benefits Chart – What is covered and what you pay*) for more information about inpatient hospital care cost-sharing amounts for these services. You are covered for unlimited days.

SECTION 7 Rules for ownership of durable medical equipment

Section 7.1 Will you own the durable medical equipment after making a certain number of payments under our plan?

Durable medical equipment (DME) includes items such as oxygen equipment and supplies, wheelchairs, walkers, powered mattress systems, crutches, diabetic supplies, speech generating devices, IV infusion pumps, nebulizers, and hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home. The member always owns certain items, such as prosthetics. In this section, we discuss other types of DME that you must rent.

In Original Medicare, people who rent certain types of DME own the equipment after paying copayments for the item for 13 months. As a member of our plan, however, you usually will not acquire ownership of rented DME items no matter how many copayments you make for the item while a member of our plan, even if you made up to 12 consecutive payments for the DME item under Original Medicare before you joined our plan. Under certain limited circumstances we will transfer ownership of the DME item to you. Call Customer Service for more information.

Examples of durable medical equipment items which are immediately owned by the member:

- Prosthetics
- Supply items (e.g. catheter, ostomy, CPAP supplies)

Examples of durable medical equipment items which may have ownership transferred after the Medicare-defined rental period:

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Hospital beds
- CPAP/BiPAP machines

Examples of durable medical equipment items which will never have ownership transferred after the Medicare-defined rental period:

- Oxygen delivery systems
- Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) devices

Example of durable medical equipment items that the rental payment continues monthly for as long as you have the equipment:

- Non-invasive ventilators
- Invasive ventilators

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

If you did not acquire ownership of the DME item while in our plan, you will have to make 13 new consecutive payments after you switch to Original Medicare in order to own the item. The payments made while enrolled in your plan do not count.

Example 1: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. The payments you made in Original Medicare do not count. You will have to make 13 payments to our plan before owning the item.

Example 2: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. You were in our plan but did not obtain ownership while in our plan. You then go back to Original Medicare. You will have to make 13 consecutive new payments to own the item once you join Original Medicare again. All previous payments (whether to our plan or to Original Medicare) do not count.

Section 7.2 Rules for oxygen equipment, supplies, and maintenance

What oxygen benefits are you entitled to?

If you qualify for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage we will cover:

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 4:

Medical Benefits Chart (what is covered and what you pay)

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

This chapter provides a Medical Benefits Chart that lists your covered services and shows how much you will pay for each covered service as a member of our plan. Later in this chapter, you can find information about medical services that are not covered. It also explains limits on certain services.

Section 1.1 Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for your covered services

To understand the payment information we give you in this chapter, you need to know about the types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for your covered services:

- A **"copayment"** is a fixed amount you pay each time you receive certain medical services. You pay a copayment at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart in Section 2 tells you more about your copayments.)
- **"Coinsurance"** is a percentage you pay of the total cost of certain medical services. You pay a coinsurance at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart in Section 2 tells you more about your coinsurance.)

Most people who qualify for Medicaid or for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program should never pay deductibles, copayments or coinsurance. Be sure to show your proof of Medicaid or QMB eligibility to your provider, if applicable.

Section 1.2 What is the most you will pay for Medicare Part A and Part B covered medical services?

Because you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, there is a limit on the amount you have to pay out-of-pocket each year for in-network medical services that are covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. This limit is called the maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) amount for medical services. For calendar year 2023 this amount is $4,900.

The amounts you pay for copayments, and coinsurance for in-network covered services count toward this maximum out-of-pocket amount. (The amount you pay for your Dental OSB premium, if purchased, does not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.) In addition, amounts you pay for some services do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount. These services are marked with an asterisk in the Medical Benefits Chart. If you reach the maximum out-of-pocket amount of $4,900, you will not have to pay any out-of-pocket costs for the rest of the year for in-network covered Part A and Part B services. However, you must continue to pay your Dental OSB premium (if purchased) and the Medicare Part B premium (unless your Part B premium is paid for you by Medicaid or another third party).

Section 1.4 Our plan does not allow providers to "balance bill" you

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

Here is how this protection works:

- If your cost sharing is a copayment (a set amount of dollars, for example, $15.00), then you pay only

that amount for any covered services from a network provider.

- If your cost sharing is a coinsurance (a percentage of the total charges), then you never pay more than that percentage. However, your cost depends on which type of provider you see:
    - If you receive the covered services from a network provider, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the plan's reimbursement rate (as determined in the contract between the provider and the plan).
    - If you receive the covered services from an out-of-network provider who participates with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for participating providers. (Remember, the plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral or for emergencies or urgently needed services.)
    - If you receive the covered services from an out-of-network provider who does not participate with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for non-participating providers. (Remember, the plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral, or for emergencies or urgently needed services.)
- If you believe a provider has "balance billed" you, call Customer Service.

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

Section 2.1 Your medical benefits and costs as a member of the plan

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

- Your Medicare covered services must be provided according to the coverage guidelines established by Medicare.
- Your services (including medical care, services, supplies, equipment, and Part B prescription drugs) *must* be medically necessary. "Medically necessary" means that the services, supplies, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.
- You receive your care from a network provider. In most cases, care you receive from an out-of-network provider will not be covered, unless it is emergent or urgent care or unless your plan or a network provider has given you a referral. This means that you will have to pay the provider in full for the services furnished.
- You have a primary care provider (a PCP) who is providing and overseeing your care. In most situations, your PCP must give you approval in advance before you can see other providers in the plan's network. This is called giving you a "referral."
- Some of the services listed in the Medical Benefits Chart are covered *only* if your doctor or other network provider gets approval in advance (sometimes called "prior authorization") from us. Covered services that need approval in advance are marked in the Medical Benefits Chart with a cross (†) and a footnote. In addition, the following services not listed in the Benefits Chart require prior authorization:
    - Genetic testing

- Sleep apnea treatment and surgery
- Potentially cosmetic and reconstructive procedures
- Gender affirming services
- Procedures determined to be investigational or experimental by the plan

Other important things to know about our coverage:

- Like all Medicare health plans, we cover everything that Original Medicare covers. For some of these benefits, you pay *more* in our plan than you would in Original Medicare. For others, you pay *less.* (If you want to know more about the coverage and costs of Original Medicare, look in your *Medicare & You 2023* handbook. View it online at www.medicare.gov or ask for a copy by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.)
- For all preventive services that are covered at no cost under Original Medicare, we also cover the service at no cost to you. However, if you also are treated or monitored for an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, a copayment will apply for the care received for the existing medical condition.
- If Medicare adds coverage for any new services during 2023, either Medicare or our plan will cover those services.

Important Benefit Information for Enrollees with Certain Chronic Conditions

- If you are diagnosed by a plan provider with any of the following chronic condition(s) identified below and meet certain medical criteria, you may be eligible for targeted supplemental benefits and/or reduced cost sharing:
  - Diabetes
  - Pre-diabetes
- For further detail, please go to the "Help with Certain Chronic Conditions" row in the Medical Benefits Chart below.

Important Benefit Information for Enrollees with Chronic Conditions

- If you are diagnosed with the following chronic condition(s) identified below and meet certain criteria, you may be eligible for special supplemental benefits for the chronically ill.
- *Conditions include:*
  - Chronic Alcohol or other drug dependence
  - Cancer (excluding pre-cancer conditions or in-situ status)
  - Chronic heart failure
  - Certain autoimmune disorders (i.e., Polyarteritis nodosa, Polymyalgia rheumatica, Polymyositis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic lupus erythematosus)
  - Certain cardiovascular disorders (i.e., Cardiac arrhythmias, Coronary artery disease, Peripheral vascular disease, Chronic venous thromboembolic disorder)
  - Certain chronic lung disorders (i.e., Asthma, Chronic bronchitis, Emphysema, Pulmonary fibrosis, Pulmonary hypertension)
  - Certain hematological disorders (i.e., Aplastic anemia, Hemophilia, Immune thrombocytopenic purpura, Myelodysplastic syndrome, Sickle-cell disease (excluding sickle-cell trait), Chronic venous thromboembolic disorder)

- Certain neurological disorders (i.e., Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Epilepsy, Extensive paralysis (i.e., hemiplegia, quadriplegia, paraplegia, monoplegia), Huntington's disease, Multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Polyneuropathy, Spinal stenosis, Stroke-related neurologic deficit, Congestive heart failure)
- Certain chronic and disabling mental health conditions (i.e., Bipolar disorders, Major depressive disorder, Paranoid disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder)
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- End-stage liver disease
- End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
- HIV/AIDS
- Stroke

- *Criteria may include:*
  - Participation in care management
- Please go to the "Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill" row in the below Medical Benefits Chart for further detail.
- Please contact us to find out exactly which benefits you may be eligible for.

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

Medical Benefits Chart

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
 **Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening** A one-time screening ultrasound for people at risk. The plan only covers this screening if you have certain risk factors and if you get a referral for it from your physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for this preventive screening.
Acupuncture for chronic low back pain Covered services include: Up to 12 visits in 90 days are covered for Medicare beneficiaries under the following circumstances: For the purpose of this benefit, chronic low back pain is defined as: • Lasting 12 weeks or longer; • nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, disease, etc.); • not associated with surgery; and • not associated with pregnancy. An additional eight sessions will be covered for those patients demonstrating an improvement. No more than 20 acupuncture treatments may be administered annually. Treatment must be discontinued if the patient is not improving or is regressing.	$20 copay per provider per day

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Acupuncture for chronic low back pain (continued) Provider Requirements: Physicians (as defined in 1861(r)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act) may furnish acupuncture in accordance with applicable state requirements. Physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs)/clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) (as identified in 1861(aa)(5) of the Act), and auxiliary personnel may furnish acupuncture if they meet all applicable state requirements and have: • a masters or doctoral level degree in acupuncture or Oriental Medicine from a school accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM); and, • a current, full, active, and unrestricted license to practice acupuncture in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth (i.e., Puerto Rico) of the United States, or District of Columbia. Auxiliary personnel furnishing acupuncture must be under the appropriate level of supervision of a physician, PA, or NP/CNS required by our regulations at 42 CFR §§ 410.26 and 410.27. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions* In addition to the Medicare-covered acupuncture services, we also cover: **Additional acupuncture *** Certain acupuncture treatment services are covered from a certified Acupuncturist. • Benefits are combined with the Additional chiropractic services • Limited to 18 combined visits every calendar year *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	$20 copay per provider per day
Ambulance services † ***Prior authorization is required for elective fixed-wing air ambulance transport*** • 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 could endanger the person's health or if authorized by the plan. • Non-emergency transportation by ambulance is appropriate if it is documented that the member's condition is such that other means of transportation could endanger the person's health and that transportation by ambulance is medically required.	$225 copay per Medicare-covered one-way transport

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Annual physical exam In addition to the annual wellness visit you are eligible for an annual physical exam once every calendar year. The annual physical exam is a comprehensive physical examination by a physician or other health care professional.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the annual physical exam. If you are treated, monitored, or have lab work for a new or existing medical condition during this visit, the appropriate cost sharing will apply for care received for that medical condition.
Annual wellness visit If you've had Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get an annual wellness visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors. This is covered once every calendar year. **Note:** Your first annual wellness visit can't take place within 12 months of your "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit. However, you don't need to have had a "Welcome to Medicare" visit to be covered for annual wellness visits after you've had Part B for 12 months.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the annual wellness visit. If you are treated, monitored, or have lab work for a new or existing medical condition during this visit, the appropriate cost sharing will apply for care received for that medical condition.
Bone mass measurement For qualified individuals (generally, this means people at risk of losing bone mass or at risk of osteoporosis), the following services are covered every 24 months or more frequently if medically necessary: procedures to identify bone mass, detect bone loss, or determine bone quality, including a physician's interpretation of the results.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered bone mass measurement.
Breast cancer screening (mammograms) Covered services include: • One screening mammogram every calendar year • One clinical breast exam every calendar year	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for covered screening mammograms.
Cardiac rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of cardiac rehabilitation services that include exercise, education, and counseling are covered for members who meet certain conditions with a doctor's order. The plan also covers intensive cardiac rehabilitation programs that are typically more rigorous or more intense than cardiac rehabilitation programs.	$10 copay per provider per day

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease) We cover one visit per year with your primary care doctor to help lower your risk for cardiovascular disease. During this visit, your doctor may discuss aspirin use (if appropriate), check your blood pressure, and give you tips to make sure you're eating healthy.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the intensive behavioral therapy cardio-vascular disease preventive benefit.
Cardiovascular disease testing Blood tests for the detection of cardiovascular disease (or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease) once every five (5) years (60 months).	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for cardiovascular disease testing that is covered once every five (5) years.
Cervical and vaginal cancer screening Covered services include: • For all women: Pap tests and pelvic exams are covered once every 24 months. • If you are at high risk of cervical or vaginal cancer or you are of childbearing age and have had an abnormal Pap test within the past 3 years: one Pap test every 12 months.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered preventive Pap and pelvic exams.
Chiropractic services Covered services include: • We cover only manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions* In addition to the Medicare-covered chiropractic services, we also cover: **Additional chiropractic *** Covered services include manipulations considered maintenance therapy or to maintain alignment. • Benefits are combined with Additional acupuncture services. • Limited to 18 combined visits every calendar year. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	$20 copay per provider per day $20 copay per provider per day
Colorectal cancer screening For people 45 and older, the following are covered: • Flexible sigmoidoscopy (or screening barium enema as an alternative) every 48 months One of the following every 12 months: • Guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) • Fecal immunochemical test (FIT)	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for a Medicare-covered colorectal cancer screening exam.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Colorectal cancer screening (continued) DNA based colorectal screening every 3 years For people at high risk of colorectal cancer (for example family history) we cover: • Screening colonoscopy (or screening barium enema as an alternative) every 24 months For people not at high risk of colorectal cancer, we cover: • Screening colonoscopy every 10 years (120 months), but not within 48 months of a screening sigmoidoscopy	See the *Outpatient surgery, including services provided at hospital outpatient facilities and ambulatory surgical centers* section for costs sharing information when colonoscopy services are considered diagnostic rather than screening (for example personal history or current symptoms).
Dental services In general, preventive dental services (such as cleaning, routine dental exams, and dental x-rays) are not covered by Original Medicare. We cover: **Preventive/diagnostic dental services** * We cover these services: • 2 every calendar year: o Preventive and diagnostic exams o Bitewing and diagnostic x-rays o Cleanings (prophylaxis) or periodontal maintenance o Topical fluoride • 1 every calendar year: o Periodontal scaling/root planing (1 service) • 1 every 36-months: o Full mouth x-rays or panoramic x-rays **Restorative dental services – Comprehensive dental** * We cover certain: • Restorations, endodontics, certain periodontics, oral surgery, crowns, dentures, partials, bridges, and implants Coverage for *all* non-medicare covered dental services are limited to specific dental codes. Contact Customer Service for more information. Services are only covered with in-network dental providers. You are responsible for any amounts beyond the benefit limits. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	Medicare-covered dental services: $35 copay per provider per day Preventive/diagnostic dental services: $0 copay per provider per day Restorative dental services: Provided as an optional supplemental benefit. See Section 2.2 for more information.
Depression screening We cover one screening for depression per year. The screening must be done in a primary care setting that can provide follow-up treatment and/or referrals.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual depression screening visit.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Diabetes screening We cover this screening (includes fasting glucose tests) if you have any of the following risk factors: high blood pressure (hypertension), history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels (dyslipidemia), obesity, or a history of high blood sugar (glucose). Tests may also be covered if you meet other requirements, like being overweight and having a family history of diabetes. Based on the results of these tests, you may be eligible for up to two diabetes screenings every 12 months.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare covered diabetes screening tests.
Diabetes self-management training, diabetic services, and supplies † For all people who have diabetes (insulin and non-insulin users). Covered services include: • Supplies to monitor your blood glucose: Blood glucose monitor, blood glucose test strips and glucose-control solutions for checking the accuracy of test strips and monitors • Lancets and lancet devices • For people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease: One pair per calendar year of therapeutic custom-molded shoes (including inserts provided with such shoes) and two additional pairs of inserts, or one pair of depth shoes and three pairs of inserts (not including the non-customized removable inserts provided with such shoes). Coverage includes fitting. • Diabetes self-management training is covered under certain conditions **For *diabetic monitoring supplies* only:** Generally, our plan covers any DME covered by Original Medicare from the brands and manufacturers on this list. We will not cover other brands and manufacturers unless your doctor or other provider tells us that the brand is appropriate for your medical needs. However, if you are new to our plan and are using a brand of DME that is not on our list, we will continue to cover this brand for you for up to 90 days. During this time, you should talk with your doctor to decide what brand is medically appropriate for you after this 90-day period. (If you disagree with your doctor, you can ask him or her to refer you for a second opinion.) If you (or your provider) don't agree with the plan's coverage decision, you or your provider may file an appeal. You can also file an appeal if you don't agree with your provider's decision about what product or brand is appropriate for your medical condition. (For more information about appeals, see Chapter 7, *What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints).*)	Monitoring supplies: *From a retail pharmacy:* $0 copay (covered supplies limited to): • Ascensia (Contour and Breeze) • LifeScan (OneTouch) *From a durable medical equipment supplier:* $0 copay Continuous glucose monitor and supplies: $0 copay (covered supplies limited to): • Dexcom • Abbott FreeStyle Libre Lancets, lancet devices, therapeutic shoes, and inserts: $0 copay Diabetes self-management training: $0 copay per visit when diabetic education services are received from a Medicare-eligible educator, as part of a program certified by the American Diabetes Association and Medicare.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Durable medical equipment (DME) and related supplies † (For a definition of "durable medical equipment," see Chapter 10 as well as Chapter 3, Section 7 of this document.) Covered items include, but are not limited to wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies (see *Diabetes self-management training, diabetic services and supplies* for more information), hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment, nebulizers, and walkers. We cover all medically necessary DME covered by Original Medicare. If our supplier in your area does not carry a particular brand or manufacturer, you may ask them if they can special order it for you. The most recent list of suppliers is available on our website at regence.com/medicare.	20% coinsurance Your cost sharing for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage is 20% coinsurance every month for 36 months. You have no additional cost sharing for Medicare-covered oxygen equipment for months 37-60. During this time a maintenance visit is allowed once every 6 months at the normal cost sharing amount.
Emergency care Emergency care refers to services that are: • Furnished by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services, and • Needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life (and, if you are a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse. Cost sharing for necessary emergency services furnished out-of-network is the same as for such services furnished in-network. The benefits listed in this section are for services within the United States and its territories. See *Worldwide emergency and urgent care* for coverage information while outside the U.S. and its territories.	$90 copay per visit Your copay is waived if you are admitted to the hospital within 48 hours for the same condition. If you receive emergency care at an out-of-network hospital and need inpatient care after your emergency condition is stabilized, you must have your inpatient care at the out-of-network hospital authorized by the plan and your cost is the cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital.
Health and wellness education programs * **Regence Advice24** Licensed nurses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide immediate support to answer health questions, assess symptoms and recommend care. This program can also serve as an early warning system to flag health conditions before they become serious. Call 1-800-310-2973 (TTY users should call 711.)	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the health and wellness education programs.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Health and wellness education programs * (continued) **The Silver&Fit® Healthy Aging and Exercise Program** This program is offered to eligible Medicare Advantage beneficiaries and group retirees. As a Silver&Fit member, you have the following options available at no cost to you: • Workout Plans: By answering a few online questions about your areas of interest, you will receive a customized workout plan, including instructions on how to get started and suggested on-demand workout videos. • Digital Workouts: You can view on-demand videos through the website's digital workout library, including Silver&Fit Signature Series Classes®. • Fitness Membership: You can visit participating fitness centers or YMCAs near you that take part in the program.** (You also have access to the Premium Fitness Network, which includes additional fitness center and studio choices and unique experiences like swimming centers, rock climbing gyms, and rowing centers, each with a buy-up price.) Many participating fitness centers may also offer low-impact classes focused on improving and increasing muscular strength and endurance, mobility, flexibility, range of motion, balance, agility, and coordination. • Home Fitness Kits: You are eligible to receive one Home Fitness Kit per benefit year from a variety of fitness categories. • Well-Being Club: By setting your preferences for well-being topics on the website, you will see resources tailored to your interests, including articles, videos, live-streaming classes, and meetups.*** • Healthy Aging Coaching: You can participate in sessions by phone, video, or chat with a trained coach where you can discuss topics like exercise, nutrition, social isolation, and brain health. • The Silver&Fit Connected!™ Tool: The Silver&Fit Connected! tool will assist with tracking your activity. • Rewards: Earn a hat and pins for reaching new activity milestones. The Silver&Fit program has **Something for Everyone®**! **Non-standard services that call for an added fee are not part of the Silver&Fit program and will not be reimbursed. ***ASH Fitness has no affiliations, interest, endorsements, or sponsorships with any of the organizations or clubs. Some clubs may require a fee to join. Such fees are not part of the Silver&Fit programs and will not be reimbursed by ASH Fitness.	

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Health and wellness education programs * (continued) **The Silver&Fit® Healthy Aging and Exercise Program** The Silver&Fit program is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc. (ASH Fitness), a subsidiary of American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH). Silver&Fit, Silver&Fit Signature Series, Something for Everyone, and Silver&Fit Connected! are trademarks of ASH and used with permission herein. Limitations, member fees, and restrictions may apply. Participating facilities and fitness chains may vary by location and are subject to change. Kits and rewards are subject to change.	
Hearing services Diagnostic hearing and balance evaluations performed by your provider to determine if you need medical treatment are covered as outpatient care when furnished by a physician, audiologist, or other qualified provider. In addition to the Medicare-covered hearing services, we also cover: **Routine hearing exam *** 1 routine hearing exam every calendar year *See Section 3.1 for exclusions* **Routine hearing aids *** Up to two TruHearing-branded hearing aids every year (one per ear per year). Benefit is limited to TruHearing's Advanced and Premium hearing aids, which come in various styles and colors and are available in rechargeable style options for an additional $50 per aid. Call **1-855-542-1711** to schedule an appointment (TTY: dial 711). Hearing aid purchase includes: • First year of follow-up provider visits • 60-day trial period • 3-year extended warranty • 80 batteries per aid for non-rechargeable models Benefit does not include or cover any of the following: • Additional cost for optional hearing aid rechargeability • Ear molds • Hearing aid accessories • Additional provider visits • Additional batteries, batteries when a rechargeable hearing aid is purchased	$35 copay per provider per day $0 copay TruHearing providers must be used to receive this benefit. <u>Hearing aids:</u> $699 copay per aid for Advanced aids $999 copay per aid for Premium aids $50 additional cost per aid for optional hearing aid rechargeability <u>Fitting and evaluation:</u> $0 copay Unlimited visits for the first 12 months. TruHearing provider must be used to receive hearing aid benefits.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Hearing services (continued) **Routine hearing aids *** • Hearing aids that are not TruHearing-branded hearing aids • Costs associated with loss & damage warranty claims Costs associated with excluded items are the responsibility of the member and not covered by the plan. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	
Help with certain chronic conditions * **Routine podiatry services** Additional routine foot care is covered for members with a diabetes diagnosis. Covered services limited to: • Trimming/debridement of nails/tissue • 6 visits every calendar year. o Once limit is met, certain services may be covered with the *Podiatry services* benefit **Virtual diabetes prevention program** The virtual diabetes prevention program is fully CDC-recognized with services to include a structured health behavior change intervention that provides practical training in long-term dietary change, increased physical activity, and problem-solving strategies for overcoming challenges to sustaining weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. This benefit is for people who meet BMI, blood test requirements, and have no previous diagnosis of type 1 or 2 diabetes. Visit regence.com/medicare and log into your secure member account or contact the program at 1-800-945-4355.	Routine podiatry: $0 copay per provider per day Virtual diabetes program: $0 copay per visit The plan's contracted virtual diabetes program must be used to receive this benefit
HIV screening For people who ask for an HIV screening test or who are at increased risk for HIV infection, we cover: • One screening exam every 12 months For women who are pregnant, we cover: • Up to three screening exams during a pregnancy	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered preventive HIV screening.
Home health agency care † Prior to receiving home health services, a doctor must certify that you need home health services and will order home health services to be provided by a home health agency. You must be homebound, which means leaving home is a major effort.	$0 copay per visit

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Home health agency care † (continued) Covered services include, but are not limited to: • Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing and home health aide services (to be covered under the home health care benefit, your skilled nursing and home health aide services combined must total fewer than 8 hours per day and 35 hours per week) • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Medical and social services • Medical equipment and supplies	
Home infusion therapy Home infusion therapy involves the intravenous or subcutaneous administration of drugs or biologicals to an individual at home. The components needed to perform home infusion include the drug (for example, antivirals, immune globulin), equipment (for example, a pump), and supplies (for example, tubing and catheters). Covered services include, but are not limited to: • Professional services, including nursing services, furnished in accordance with the plan of care • Patient training and education not otherwise covered under the durable medical equipment benefit • Remote monitoring • Monitoring services for the provision of home infusion therapy and home infusion drugs furnished by a qualified home infusion therapy supplier	Equipment and supplies: 20% coinsurance Professional services: $0 copay per visit Home infusion drugs: *If Medicare Part B drugs* 20% coinsurance (Certain drugs may have a coinsurance lower than 20%) (including administration) *If Medicare Part D drugs:* Not covered by our plan
Hospice care You are eligible for the hospice benefit when your doctor and the hospice medical director have given you a terminal prognosis certifying that you're terminally ill and have 6 months or less to live if your illness runs its normal course. You may receive care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. Your plan is obligated to help you find Medicare-certified hospice programs in the plan's service area, including those the MA organization owns, controls, or has a financial interest in. Your hospice doctor can be a network provider or an out-of-network provider. Covered services include: • Drugs for symptom control and pain relief • Short-term respite care • Home care When you are admitted to a hospice you have the right to remain in your plan; if you chose to remain in your plan you must continue to pay plan premiums.	When you enroll in a Medicare-certified hospice program, your hospice services and your Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis are paid for by Original Medicare, not our plan.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Hospice care (continued) For hospice services and for services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are related to your terminal prognosis: Original Medicare (rather than our plan) will pay your hospice provider for your hospice services and any Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis. While you are in the hospice program, your hospice provider will bill Original Medicare for the services that Original Medicare pays for. You will be billed Original Medicare cost sharing. For services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are not related to your terminal prognosis: If you need non-emergency, non-urgently needed services that are covered under Medicare Part A or B and that are not related to your terminal prognosis, your cost for these services depends on whether you use a provider in our plan's network and follow plan rules (such as if there is a requirement to obtain prior authorization). • If you obtain the covered services from a network provider and follow plan rules for obtaining service, you only pay the plan cost-sharing amount for in-network services • If you obtain the covered services from an out-of-network provider, you pay the plan cost sharing for out-of-network services For services that are covered by our plan but are not covered by Medicare Part A or B: We will continue to cover plan-covered services that are not covered under Part A or B whether or not they are related to your terminal prognosis. You pay your plan cost-sharing amount for these services. **Note:** If you need non-hospice care (care that is not related to your terminal prognosis), you should contact us to arrange the services. Our plan covers hospice consultation services (one time only) for a terminally ill person who hasn't elected the hospice benefit.	One-time hospice consultation: $0 copay
Immunizations Covered Medicare Part B services include: • Pneumonia vaccine • Flu shots, once each flu season in the fall and winter, with additional flu shots if medically necessary • Hepatitis B vaccine if you are at high or intermediate risk of getting Hepatitis B • COVID-19 vaccine • Other vaccines if you are at risk and they meet Medicare Part B coverage rules	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the pneumonia, influenza, Hepatitis B, and COVID-19 vaccines. Other Part B vaccines (including administration): 0%-20% coinsurance

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
In-home support services * Papa is companionship and daily support for members. Covered services include: • House tasks: meal prep, organization, laundry • Companionship: conversation, board games, reading, exercise • Tech help: Setting up personal tech devices such as a phone or computer, assisting with telehealth appointments • Transportation: To and from doctor appointments, grocery shopping, errands • Virtual visits: virtual services and companionship. Service is provided for up to 48 hours per year. To schedule services please call 1-877-290-7229 or visit their website at joinpapa.com/regence.). Your initial call will include an assessment to help match your "pal" based on interests and needs. Papa Pals undergo criminal background checks, motor vehicle record checks, and participate in ongoing training and education. Cost associated with groceries or prescriptions are fully your responsibility and not covered by the plan. Additional hours may be purchased.	$0 copay per visit This benefit is provided exclusively through Papa
Inpatient hospital care † Includes inpatient acute, inpatient rehabilitation, long-term care hospitals, and other types of inpatient hospital services. Inpatient hospital care starts the day you are formally admitted to the hospital with a doctor's order. The day before you are discharged is your last inpatient day. You are covered for unlimited days per stay. Your stay must meet medical necessity requirements to be considered an inpatient stay, even with a physician order. Covered services include but are not limited to: • Semi-private room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals including special diets • Regular nursing services • Costs of special care units (such as intensive care or coronary care units) • Drugs and medications • Lab tests • X-rays and other radiology services • Necessary surgical and medical supplies • Use of appliances, such as wheelchairs • Operating and recovery room costs • Physical, occupational, and speech language therapy	Days 1 – 4: $375 copay per day Days 5 and beyond: $0 copay per day Cost sharing is charged for each inpatient stay and is assessed from the date of admission through the last full day stayed. If you get authorized inpatient care at an out-of-network hospital after your emergency condition is stabilized, your cost is the cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Inpatient hospital care † (continued) • Inpatient substance abuse services • Under certain conditions, the following types of transplants are covered: corneal, kidney, kidney-pancreatic, heart, liver, lung, heart/lung, bone marrow, stem cell, and intestinal/multivisceral. If you need a transplant, we will arrange to have your case reviewed by a Medicare-approved transplant center that will decide whether you are a candidate for a transplant. Transplant providers may be local or outside of the service area. If our in-network transplant services are outside the community pattern of care, you may choose to go locally as long as the local transplant providers are willing to accept the Original Medicare rate. If our plan provides transplant services at a location outside the pattern of care for transplants in your community and you choose to obtain transplants at this distant location, we will arrange or pay for appropriate lodging and transportation costs for you and a companion. **Note:** Lodging and transportation costs are reimbursable only in the event Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon **directs** you to receive transplant services at a distant facility or location even though those services are available closer to your home. • Blood - including storage and administration. Coverage for whole blood, packed red cells and all other components of blood are covered beginning with the first unit used. • Physician services **Note:** To be an inpatient, your provider must write an order to admit you formally as an inpatient of the hospital. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an "outpatient." If you are not sure if you are an inpatient or an outpatient, you should ask the hospital staff. You can also find more information in a Medicare fact sheet called "Are You a Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient? If You Have Medicare – Ask!" This fact sheet is available on the Web at www.medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/11435-Inpatient-or-Outpatient.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	
Inpatient services in a psychiatric hospital † 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 inpatient mental health services provided in a psychiatric unit of a general hospital	Days 1 – 4: $375 copay per day Days 5 – 190: $0 copay per day Cost sharing is charged for each inpatient stay and is assessed from the date of admission through the last full day stayed.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Inpatient stay: Covered services received in a hospital or SNF during a non-covered inpatient stay † If you have exhausted your inpatient benefits or if the inpatient stay is not reasonable and necessary, we will not cover your inpatient stay. However, in some cases, we will cover certain services you receive while you are in the hospital or the skilled nursing facility (SNF). Covered services include, but are not limited to: • Physician services • Diagnostic tests (like lab tests) • X-ray, radium, and isotope therapy including technician materials and services • Surgical dressings • Splints, casts, and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations • Prosthetics and orthotics devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of an internal body organ (including contiguous tissue), or all or part of the function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning internal body organ, including replacement or repairs of such devices • Leg, arm, back, and neck braces, trusses, and artificial legs, arms, and eyes including adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient's physical condition • Physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy	The listed services will be covered at the cost-sharing amounts shown in the Medical Benefits Chart for the specific service. For surgical dressings, splints, casts and other devices to reduce fractures and dislocations, benefits are determined by the location/provider they are received from.
Meal delivery service – Post discharge meals * Mom's Meals delivery program is available for qualified beneficiaries who have been discharged from an inpatient, skill nursing, or rehabilitation facility stay within the last 30 days. • Two meals per day for up to 28 days • 56 total meals per episode/discharge	$0 copay per meal Meal benefits provided exclusively through Mom's Meals
 **Medical nutrition therapy** This benefit is for people with diabetes, renal (kidney) disease (but not on dialysis), or after a kidney transplant when ordered by your doctor. We cover 3 hours of one-on-one counseling services during your first year that you receive medical nutrition therapy services under Medicare (this includes our plan, any other Medicare Advantage Plan, or Original Medicare), and 2 hours each year after that. If your condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, you may be able to receive more hours of treatment with a physician's order. A physician must prescribe these services and renew their order yearly if your treatment is needed into the next calendar year.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered medical nutrition therapy services.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
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Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Medicare diabetes prevention program (MDPP) MDPP services will be covered for eligible Medicare beneficiaries under all Medicare health plans. MDPP is a structured health behavior change intervention that provides practical training in long-term dietary change, increased physical activity, and problem-solving strategies for overcoming challenges to sustaining weight loss and a healthy lifestyle.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the MDPP benefit. Contact Customer Service for assistance locating an eligible MDPP supplier
Medicare Part B prescription drugs † These drugs are covered under Part B of Original Medicare. Members of our plan receive coverage for these drugs through our plan. Covered drugs include: • Drugs that usually aren't self-administered by the patient and are injected or infused while you are getting physician, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgical center services • Drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were authorized by the plan • Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia • Immunosuppressive Drugs, if you were enrolled in Medicare Part A at the time of the organ transplant • Injectable osteoporosis drugs, if you are homebound, have a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and cannot self-administer the drug • Antigens • Certain oral anti-cancer drugs and anti-nausea drugs • Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when medically necessary, topical anesthetics, and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (such as Epogen®, Procrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, or Darbepoetin Alfa) • Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases The following link will take you to a list of Part B Drugs that may be subject to Step Therapy: https://www.regence.com/go/all/2023/step-therapy.pdf. We also cover some vaccines under our Part B prescription drug benefit.	Part B prescription drugs: 20% coinsurance (Certain drugs may have a coinsurance lower than 20%) Benefit includes administration of drugs. Please note: Some drugs may require step therapy Part B insulin drugs: 20% coinsurance up to a $35 copay for a one-month supply
Naturopathy * Services billed by a licensed Naturopath practicing within their scope of license. • Limited to 6 visits/services every calendar year • A visit/service is defined by each service date billed *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	$20 copay per provider per day Out-of-network providers may bill you for any balances remaining over the allowed amount for covered services.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss If you have a body mass index of 30 or more, we cover intensive counseling to help you lose weight. This counseling is covered if you get it in a primary care setting, where it can be coordinated with your comprehensive prevention plan. Talk to your primary care doctor or practitioner to find out more.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for preventive obesity screening and therapy.
Opioid treatment program services † Members of our plan with opioid use disorder (OUD) can receive coverage of services to treat OUD through an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) which includes the following services: • U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved opioid agonist and antagonist medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medications. • Dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable) • Substance use counseling • Individual and group therapy • Toxicology testing • Intake activities • Periodic assessments	$0 copay per provider per day
Outpatient diagnostic tests and therapeutic services and supplies Covered services include, but are not limited to:	
• X-rays	$5 copay per provider per day
• Radiation (radium and isotope) therapy including technician materials and supplies †	20% coinsurance You may also have an office visit copay associated with this service. See the *Physician/Practitioner services* section for information on copay amounts
• Surgical supplies, such as dressings • Splints, casts, and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations	For these items and services, benefits are determined by the location/provider they are received from. For example, supplies during an outpatient surgery will apply to the outpatient surgical benefit.
• Laboratory tests †	$0 copay per provider per day for HbA1C testing $5 copay per provider per day for all other tests

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Outpatient diagnostic tests and therapeutic services and supplies (continued) • Blood – including storage and administration. Coverage for whole blood, packed red cells and all other components of blood are covered beginning with the first unit used • Other outpatient diagnostic tests †	$0 copay Diagnostic tests and procedures: $5 copay per provider per day Complex imaging – (MRI/ CT/ PET/ nuclear tests/ etc.): $0 copay per provider per day for diagnostic mammography $300 copay per provider per day for all other complex imaging
Outpatient hospital observation † Observation services are hospital outpatient services given to determine if you need to be admitted as an inpatient or can be discharged. For outpatient hospital observation services to be covered, they must meet the Medicare criteria and be considered reasonable and necessary. Observation services are covered only when provided by the order of a physician or another individual authorized by state licensure law and hospital staff bylaws to admit patients to the hospital or order outpatient tests. **Note:** Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you are an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an "outpatient". If you are not sure if you are an outpatient, you should ask the hospital staff. You can also find more information in a Medicare fact sheet called "Are You a Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient? If You Have Medicare – Ask!" This fact sheet is available on the Web at www.medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/11435-Inpatient-or-Outpatient.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	$90 copay per visit
Outpatient hospital services † We cover medically necessary services you get in the outpatient department of a hospital for diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury. Covered services include, but are not limited to: • Services in an emergency department or outpatient clinic, such as observation services or outpatient surgery	The listed services will be covered at the cost sharing amounts shown in the Medical Benefits Chart for the specific service.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Outpatient hospital services † (continued) • Laboratory and diagnostic tests billed by the hospital • Mental health care, including care in a partial-hospitalization program, if a doctor certifies that inpatient treatment would be required without it • X-rays and other radiology services billed by the hospital • Medical supplies such as splints and casts • Certain drugs and biologicals that you can't give yourself **Note:** Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you are an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an "outpatient". If you are not sure if you are an outpatient, you should ask the hospital staff. You can also find more information in a Medicare fact sheet called "Are You a Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient? If You Have Medicare – Ask!" This fact sheet is available on the Web at www.medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/11435-Inpatient-or-Outpatient.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	For surgical dressings, splints, casts and other devices to reduce fractures and dislocations, benefits are determined by the location/provider they are received from.
Outpatient mental health care † Covered services include: Mental health services provided by a state-licensed psychiatrist or doctor, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other Medicare-qualified mental health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws.	$0 copay per provider per day for PCP, NP, or LCSW $30 copay per provider per day for all other Medicare eligible providers
Outpatient rehabilitation services † Covered services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language therapy. Outpatient rehabilitation services are provided in various outpatient settings, such as hospital outpatient departments, independent therapist offices, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs).	$35 copay per provider per day
Outpatient substance abuse services † Covered services include outpatient services, diagnostic evaluation and education, organized individual, and group counseling. *See Section 3.1 for provider exclusions*	$30 copay per provider per day

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Outpatient surgery, including services provided at hospital outpatient facilities and ambulatory surgical centers † **Note:** If you are having surgery in a hospital facility, you should check with your provider about whether you will be an inpatient or outpatient. Unless the provider writes an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you are an outpatient and pay the cost sharing amounts for outpatient surgery. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an "outpatient."	Ambulatory Surgical Center (including diagnostic colonoscopy): $35 copay for certain wound care services $275 copay for all other services Outpatient hospital services (including diagnostic colonoscopy): $35 copay for certain wound care services $300 copay for all other services
Over the counter (OTC) items * Eligible OTC medications and health products are available to buy at participating retail locations or online with a reusable prepaid card. Money is loaded onto your card every quarter (January, April, July, October) to be used during that quarter. Balances do not carry forward. Your card can also be used as a discount card even if there is no balance. For more information, contact Customer Service or visit mybenefitscenter.com.	$40 allowance every quarter
Palliative care and support * Palliative care and support are designed to provide specialized medical care through the provider network for people living with serious illness. focusing on providing relief from symptoms and stress, and to improve quality of life. Covered services include: • A Specialty Palliative Care provider care team that works with you and your caregivers to: o Coordinate with current providers for care discussions and pain/symptom management (please note: some services are only available in a home, domiciliary, or rest home setting). o Find additional resources that may be beneficial to your family including psychosocial support to manage social, emotional, and spiritual needs o Advanced care planning assistance For more information or to find out if you are eligible for this benefit, contact Customer Service or your provider's office.	$0 copay per visit
Partial hospitalization services † "Partial hospitalization" is a structured program of active psychiatric treatment provided as a hospital outpatient service or by a community mental health center, that is more intense than the care received in your doctor's or therapist's office and is an alternative to inpatient hospitalization. Because there are no community mental health centers in our network, we cover partial hospitalization only as a hospital outpatient service.	$55 copay per day

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* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Personal emergency response system (PERS) * Coverage for one personal emergency response device and monthly monitoring through Lively. For more information go to lively.com/partners/cambia/regenceor or call 1-800-358-9586.	$0 copay This benefit is provided exclusively through Lively
Physician/Practitioner services, including doctor's office visits Covered services include: • Medically-necessary medical care or surgery services furnished in a physician's office, certified ambulatory surgical center, hospital outpatient department, or any other location • Consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a specialist • Basic hearing and balance exams performed by your PCP or specialist, if your doctor orders it to see if you need medical treatment • Certain telehealth services, including Primary care physician, psychiatric, mental health, and urgent care services o You have the option of getting these services through an in-person visit or by telehealth. If you choose to get one of these services by telehealth, you must use a provider who offers the service by telehealth. • Some telehealth services including consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a physician or practitioner, for patients in certain rural areas or other places approved by Medicare • Telehealth services for monthly end-stage renal disease-related visits for home dialysis members in a hospital-based or critical access hospital-based renal dialysis center, renal dialysis facility, or the member's home • Telehealth services to diagnose, evaluate, or treat symptoms of a stroke regardless of your location • Telehealth services for members with a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health disorder, regardless of their location • Telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of mental health disorders if: o You have an in-person visit within 6 months prior to your first telehealth visit o You have an in-person visit every 12 months while receiving these telehealth services o Exceptions can be made to the above for certain circumstances • Virtual check-ins (for example, by phone or video chat) with your doctor for 5-10 minutes **if**: o You're not a new patient **and** o The check-in isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days **and**	Primary care provider (PCP): $0 copay per provider per day Specialist: $35 copay per provider per day

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Physician/Practitioner services, including doctor's office visits (continued) o The check-in doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Evaluation of video and/or images you send to your doctor, and interpretation and follow-up by your doctor within 24 hours **if**: o You're not a new patient **and** o The evaluation isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days **and** o The evaluation doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, internet, or electronic health record • Second opinion prior to surgery • Non-routine dental care (covered services are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures, setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, extraction of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatments of neoplastic cancer disease, or services that would be covered when provided by a physician) In addition to the Medicare-covered Physician/Practitioner services, we also cover: • Primary care, urgent care, and mental health visits are covered virtually (telehealth) through your provider's office. Contact your care provider to see if they offer virtual visits and request an appointment. If your provider does not offer virtual visits, you may use Doctor On Demand. Through Doctor On Demand, you can access a doctor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by secure video, using your computer or mobile device such as a cellphone or tablet. Contact Doctor On Demand at 1-877-375-2603.	Virtual care (Telehealth): $0 copay per visit
Podiatry services Covered services include: • Diagnosis and the medical or surgical 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	$35 copay per provider per day
Prostate cancer screening exams For men aged 50 and older, covered services include the following once every calendar year: • Digital rectal exam • Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual PSA test.

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∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Prosthetic devices and related supplies † Devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of a body part or function. These include but are not limited to: 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.	20% coinsurance
Pulmonary rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of pulmonary rehabilitation are covered for members who have moderate to very severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and an order for pulmonary rehabilitation from the doctor treating the chronic respiratory disease.	$20 copay per provider per day
Screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse We cover one alcohol misuse screening for adults with Medicare (including pregnant women) who misuse alcohol but aren't alcohol dependent. If you screen positive for alcohol misuse, you can get up to four (4) brief face-to-face counseling sessions per year (if you're competent and alert during counseling) provided by a qualified primary care doctor or practitioner in a primary care setting.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse preventive benefit.
Screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography (LDCT) For qualified individuals, a LDCT is covered every 12 months. **Eligible members are**: people aged 50 – 77 years who have no signs or symptoms of lung cancer, but who have a history of tobacco smoking of at least 20 pack-years and who currently smoke or have quit smoking within the last 15 years, who receive a written order for LDCT during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit that meets the Medicare criteria for such visits and be furnished by a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. *For LDCT lung cancer screenings after the initial LDCT screening:* the member must receive a written order for LDCT lung cancer screening, which may be furnished during any appropriate visit with a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. If a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner elects to provide a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit for subsequent lung cancer screenings with LDCT, the visit must meet the Medicare criteria for such visits.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare covered counseling and shared decision-making visit or for the LDCT.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and counseling to prevent STIs We cover sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Hepatitis B. These screenings are covered for pregnant women and for certain people who are at increased risk for an STI when the tests are ordered by a primary care provider. We cover these tests once every 12 months or at certain times during pregnancy. We also cover up to two (2) individual 20 to 30 minute, face-to-face high-intensity behavioral counseling sessions each year for sexually active adults at increased risk for STIs. We will only cover these counseling sessions as a preventive service if they are provided by a primary care provider and take place in a primary care setting, such as a doctor's office.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening for STIs and counseling for STIs preventive benefit.
Services to treat kidney disease Covered services include:	
• Kidney disease education services to teach kidney care and help members make informed decisions about their care. For members with stage IV chronic kidney disease when referred by their doctor, we cover up to six sessions of kidney disease education services per lifetime	$0 copay per session
• Outpatient dialysis treatments (including dialysis treatments when temporarily out of the service area, as explained in Chapter 3) or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible	20% coinsurance
• Inpatient dialysis treatments (if you are admitted as an inpatient to a hospital for special care) †	Days 1 – 4: $375 copay per day Days 5 and beyond: $0 copay per day Inpatient copays are assessed from the date of admission through the last full day stayed
• Self-dialysis training (includes training for you and anyone helping you with your home dialysis treatments) • Home dialysis equipment and supplies • Certain home support services (such as, when necessary, visits by trained dialysis workers to check on your home dialysis, to help in emergencies, and check your dialysis equipment and water supply) Certain drugs for dialysis are covered under your Medicare Part B drug benefit. For information about coverage for Part B Drugs, please go to the section, "Medicare Part B prescription drugs."	20% coinsurance

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care † (For a definition of "skilled nursing facility care," see Chapter 10 of this document. Skilled nursing facilities are sometimes called "SNFs.") No prior hospital stay is required. Covered services include but are not limited to: • Semiprivate room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals, including special diets • Skilled nursing services • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Drugs administered to you as part of your plan of care (this includes substances that are naturally present in the body, such as blood clotting factors.) • Blood - including storage and administration. Coverage for whole blood, packed red cells and all other components of blood are covered beginning with the first unit used. • Medical and surgical supplies ordinarily provided by SNFs • Laboratory tests ordinarily provided by SNFs • X-rays and other radiology services ordinarily provided by SNFs • Use of appliances such as wheelchairs ordinarily provided by SNFs • Physician/Practitioner services Generally, you will get your SNF care from network facilities. However, under certain conditions listed below, you may be able to pay in-network cost sharing for a facility that isn't a network provider, if the facility accepts our plan's amounts for payment. • A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where you were living right before you went to the hospital (as long as it provides skilled nursing facility care) • A SNF where your spouse is living at the time you leave the hospital	Days 1 – 20: $0 copay per day Days 21 – 47: $188 copay per day Days 48 – 100: $0 copay per day You are covered up to 100 days each benefit period as long as you continue to meet medical necessity criteria. **Benefit Period** –The way that both our plan and Original Medicare measures your use of skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. A benefit period begins the day you go into a skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't received any skilled care in a SNF for 60 days in a row. If you go into a skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods.
🍏 **Smoking and tobacco use cessation (counseling to stop smoking or tobacco use)** If you use tobacco, but do not have signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease: We cover two counseling quit attempts within a 12-month period as a preventive service with no cost to you. Each counseling attempt includes up to four face-to-face visits. If you use tobacco and have been diagnosed with a tobacco-related disease or are taking medicine that may be affected by tobacco: We cover cessation counseling services. We cover two counseling quit attempts within a 12-month period, however, you will pay the applicable cost sharing. Each counseling attempt includes up to four face-to-face visits.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered smoking and tobacco use cessation preventive benefits.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Special supplemental benefits for the chronically ill **Chronic health conditions meal delivery*** If you are diagnosed by your provider with a chronic condition (refer to the list of eligible conditions above the Medical Benefits Chart), you may be eligible to receive refrigerated, ready-to-heat-and-eat meals delivered to your home to help you maintain a healthy diet and support your nutritional needs. Participation with care management is required and meal benefits may not be used for convenience or comfort purposes. • Two meals per day for up to 56 days • 112 total meals per episode	$0 copay per meal This benefit is provided exclusively through Mom's Meals
Supervised exercise therapy (SET) SET is covered for members who have symptomatic peripheral artery disease (PAD). Up to 36 sessions over a 12-week period are covered if the SET program requirements are met. The SET program must: • Consist of sessions lasting 30-60 minutes, comprising a therapeutic exercise-training program for PAD in patients with claudication • Be conducted in a hospital outpatient setting or a physician's office • Be delivered by qualified auxiliary personnel necessary to ensure benefits exceed harms, and who are trained in exercise therapy for PAD • Be under the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist who must be trained in both basic and advanced life support techniques SET may be covered beyond 36 sessions over 12 weeks for an additional 36 sessions over an extended period of time if deemed medically necessary by a health care provider.	$30 copay per session
Therapeutic massage * Certain services are covered from a licensed Massage Therapist. • Limited to 6 visits every calendar year • Up to 60-minutes per visit *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	$20 copay per session Out-of-network providers may bill you for any balances remaining over the allowed amount for covered services.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Urgently needed services Urgently needed services are provided to treat a non-emergency, unforeseen medical illness, injury, or condition that requires immediate medical care but given your circumstances, it is not possible, or it is unreasonable, to obtain services from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services that the plan must cover out of network are i) you need immediate care during the weekend, or ii) you are temporarily outside the service area of the plan. For example, you need immediate care during the weekend. Services must be immediately needed and medically necessary. If it is unreasonable given your circumstances to immediately obtain the medical care from a network provider, then your plan will cover the urgently needed services from a provider out-of-network. The benefits listed in this section are for services within the United States and its territories. See *Worldwide emergency and urgent care* for coverage information while outside the U.S. and its territories.	Urgent care center: $35 copay per visit Doctor On Demand telehealth visit: $0 copay per visit
Vision care Covered services include: • Outpatient physician services for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the eye, including treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Original Medicare doesn't cover routine eye exams (eye refractions) for eyeglasses/contacts • For people who are at high risk of glaucoma, we will cover one glaucoma screening each year. People at high risk of glaucoma include people with a family history of glaucoma, people with diabetes, African Americans who are age 50 and older, and Hispanic Americans who are 65 or older • For people with diabetes, screening for diabetic retinopathy is covered once per year • One pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens. (If you have two separate cataract operations, you cannot reserve the benefit after the first surgery and purchase two eyeglasses after the second surgery.) In addition to the Medicare-covered vision care services, we also cover: **Routine vision exam *** 1 routine vision exam every calendar year *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	$0 copay for Medicare-covered services $0 copay per visit VSP providers must be used to receive in-network benefits. Out-of-network services may require reimbursement from VSP.

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
∗ Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Services that are covered for you	What you must pay when you get these services:
Vision care (continued) **Routine vision hardware *** • Frames – 1 set of frames every calendar year up to the allowance • Lenses – 1 set every calendar year – includes basic single vision, lined bifocal, lined trifocal and lenticular lenses only (additional upgrades, extra charges and/or any customizations are not covered, e.g., tintings, coatings and/or special lens materials). o Frames and lenses must be purchased from the same provider/location **OR** • Elective contact lenses – Limited to the allowance every calendar year. Charges for contact lens fitting evaluation are applied to the contact benefit and are subject to the benefit limit. o Contact lenses are in lieu of glasses You are responsible for any amounts beyond the benefit limits *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	Frames OR Elective contact lenses (in lieu of glasses): $0 copay up to a $100 allowance Lenses: $0 copay Contact lenses that are visually necessary when you have certain eye conditions (in lieu of glasses): $0 copay VSP providers must be used to receive in-network benefits. Out-of-network services may require reimbursement from VSP.
“Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit The plan covers the one-time “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit. The visit includes a review of your health, as well as education and counseling about the preventive services you need (including certain screenings and shots), and referrals for other care if needed. **Important:** We cover the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit only within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B. When you make your appointment, let your doctor’s office know you would like to schedule your “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit. If you also are treated, monitored or have lab work for a new or existing medical condition during the same visit, the appropriate cost sharing will apply for care received for that medical condition.
Worldwide emergency and urgent care Worldwide urgent and emergency care is covered by our plan outside the United States and its territories. Coverage is limited to services that would be classified as emergency, urgently needed, or post-stabilization care, had the services been provided in the United States. Ambulance services are only covered in situations when getting to the emergency room in any other manner could endanger your health. You may need to pay for services upfront and submit to our plan for reimbursement (see Chapter 7, Section 2 *How to ask us to pay you back or to pay a bill you have received)*. We may not reimburse you for all out-of-pocket expenses as our contracted rates may be lower than provider rates outside the U.S. and its territories. You are responsible for any costs exceeding our contracted rate and any applicable member cost-share.	Emergency or urgent care: $90 copay per visit Ambulance services: $225 copay per covered one-way transport

† Prior authorization is required for (certain) services
* Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums.

Section 2.2 Extra "optional supplemental" (OSB) benefits you can buy

Our plan offers some extra benefits that are not covered by Original Medicare and not included in your benefits package. These extra benefits are called "**Optional Supplemental Benefits" (OSB).** If you want these optional supplemental benefits, you must sign up for them and you will have to pay an additional premium for them. The optional supplemental benefits described in this section are subject to the same appeals process as any other benefits.

The monthly Dental OSB premium is $24. This amount is in addition to your Medicare Part B premium.

Adding the Dental OSB package to your plan

Purchasing the Dental OSB is completely voluntary, however you **must** be enrolled in our plan to be eligible for the OSB package.

You are eligible to add the Dental OSB at the time of your enrollment in our plan. **If you do not enroll into the OSB when you first apply, you can add these optional benefits any time during the first month of your plan coverage.** Enrollment requests received by us will be in effect on the first of the following month. For example, if you call Customer Service and request to enroll in OSB on December 31st, your benefits for the OSB will begin on January 1st. **If you do not enroll within the first month of your plan's effective date, you will not be able to enroll into the OSB until the next Annual Enrollment Period.**

To add the OSB to your plan, contact Customer Service or download an application from our website at regence.com/medicare.

Paying for your Dental OSB premium

There are five ways you can pay your Dental OSB premium. You can choose your payment option when you enroll and make changes at any time by calling Customer Service at the phone number on the back cover of this booklet.

Note: Except as required by law, we will not accept payments of premium or other cost-sharing obligations on your behalf from a Hospital, Hospital system, health-affiliated aid program, healthcare Provider or other individual or entity that has received or may receive a financial benefit related to your choice of health care. As permitted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), we will accept premium and cost-sharing payments made on your behalf by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, other federal and state government programs that provide premium and cost-sharing support for specific individuals, Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Urban Indian Organizations.

If you decide to change the way you pay your premium, it can take up to three months for your new payment method to take effect. While we are processing your request for a new payment method, you are responsible for making sure that your plan premium is paid on time.

Option 1: Having your plan premium automatically withdrawn

You can have your monthly OSB premium automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account, credit card, or debit card. The funds will be deducted from your account on approximately the fifth of each month.

You may set up automatic payments from your bank account, credit card, or debit card by accessing your secure member account on our website regence.com/medicare and following the instructions to access the payment portal. Customer Service can also assist you with setting up automatic payments using your checking or savings account.

Option 2: Paying by check

You may pay your monthly, quarterly, or annual OSB premium payment directly to our plan by check or money

order. We will send you a bill on approximately the 15th of the month for monthly billing, or on the first of the month prior to your quarterly or annual payment due date. Your check or money order must be received by the first of the month. Your check or money order should be made payable to our plan and mailed to our plan at P.O. Box 2597, Portland, OR 97208-2597. Do not make checks or money orders payable to CMS, Medicare or HHS

Option 3: Paying over the phone

You can call our Customer Service department during regular business hours to request that we make a one-time withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Your payment will be posted to our system within one business day.

You can also pay over the phone using your bank account, credit card or debit card by using our automated telephone system at 1-888-431-2063.

Option 4: Paying online

You may make a payment online through our website regence.com/medicare. Sign into your secure account, click Claims & Costs in the navigation menu, then choose Payments. Follow the directions to make a payment using your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

Your account number is the numerical portion of your member ID. You can find this number on the front of your member ID card.

Option 5: Having the premium taken out of your monthly Social Security check

What to do if you are having trouble paying your Dental OSB premium

Your Dental OSB plan premium is due in our office by the 1st of the month. If we have not received your premium by the 12th of the month we will send you a notice telling you your coverage for the OSB will end if we do not receive your premium payment within 3 calendar months.

Disenrolling from your Dental OSB package

If you wish to disenroll from your Dental OSB, you may mail us a signed letter requesting disenrollment from the optional benefits. You may also contact Customer Service. Your disenrollment letter must clearly state that you wish to disenroll from your Dental OSB. It must also include (1) your printed name, (2) your signature, and (3) your member ID number located on the front of your ID card.

Disenrollment requests received by the last day of the month will be effective the first day of the following month. For example, if your request to disenroll is received in our office on March 1st, your OSB will not terminate until March 31st, even if you mailed the request in February. You will be responsible for your Dental OSB premium payment until it has terminated.

Disenrollment from your Dental OSB will not result in disenrollment from your health plan. Additionally, non-payment of the additional Dental OSB premium will not result in disenrollment from your health plan, only the loss of your Dental OSB itself.

If you disenroll from the Dental OSB, you cannot re-enroll in it until the next Annual Enrollment Period. If you disenroll from your Medicare Advantage plan, you will automatically be disenrolled from the Dental OSB as well.

Dental OSB benefits chart

The services listed in the benefit chart below are covered when purchased for an additional premium charge. Services not listed are not covered by the plan and you will be responsible for all charges.

Services that are covered for you:	What you must pay when you get these services in-network:
Dental OSB*	50% coinsurance
Restorative dental services – Comprehensive dental Restorative dental services are limited to a $1,000 benefit limit every calendar year. We cover certain: • Restorations, endodontics, certain periodontics, oral surgery, crowns, dentures, partials, bridges, implants Coverage for *all* non-medicare covered dental services are limited to specific dental codes. Contact Customer Service for more information. Services are only covered with in-network dental providers. You are responsible for any amounts beyond the benefit limits. *Copays, coinsurance and amounts beyond the benefit limits do not apply to any out-of-pocket maximums. *See Section 3.1 for exclusions*	

There are no waiting periods for Dental OSB covered services.

We do not reimburse any dentist for charges above the allowed amount. A network dentist will not balance bill you for covered services beyond your coinsurance amount, until your annual maximum for this benefit is exhausted.

Once your annual maximum has been met, you are responsible for the full cost (billed charge) of any service you receive.

If you have additional questions about the Dental OSB, please contact Customer Service.

Dental OSB organization determination, appeal and grievance procedures

See Chapter 7 – *What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)* for information regarding appeals and grievances procedures.

Exclusions for your Dental OSB

See Section 3.1 below.

SECTION 3 What services are not covered by the plan?

Section 3.1 Services we do *not* cover (exclusions)

This section tells you what services are "excluded" from Medicare coverage and therefore, are not covered by this plan.

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

If you get services that are excluded (not covered), you must pay for them yourself. except under the specific conditions listed below. Even if you receive the excluded services at an emergency facility, the excluded

services are still not covered and our plan will not pay for them.

The only exception is if the service is appealed and decided: upon appeal to be a medical service that we should have paid for or covered because of your specific situation. (For information about appealing a decision we have made to not cover a medical service, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.3 in this document.)

Services not covered by Medicare	Not covered under any condition	Covered only under specific conditions
Acupuncture		Available for people with chronic low back pain under certain circumstances. Additional acupuncture services are covered as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Additional acupuncture.
Cosmetic surgery or procedures		• Covered in cases of an accidental injury or for improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member. • Covered for all stages of reconstruction for a breast after a mastectomy, as well as for the unaffected breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
Custodial care. Custodial care is personal care that does not require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel, such as care that helps you with activities of daily living, such as bathing or dressing.	✓	
Experimental medical and surgical procedures, equipment, and medications. Experimental procedures and items are those items and procedures determined by Original Medicare to not be generally accepted by the medical community.		May be covered by Original Medicare under a Medicare-approved clinical research study or by our plan. (See Chapter 3, Section 5 for more information on clinical research studies.)
Fees charged for care by your immediate relatives or members of your household. Medicare considers the following to be immediate relatives/household members: • Spouse • Natural or adoptive parent, child, and siblings • Stepparent, stepchild, and stepsiblings • Father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law • Grandparent and grandchild • Spouse of grandparent and grandchild	✓	

Services not covered by Medicare	Not covered under any condition	Covered only under specific conditions
Full-time nursing care in your home.	✓	
Home-delivered meals		Home delivered meals are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Meal delivery service or Special supplemental benefits for the chronically ill.
Homemaker services including basic household assistance, such as light housekeeping or light meal preparation.		Certain basic homemaker services can be covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under In-home support services.
Naturopath services (uses natural or alternative treatments).		Naturopathy services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Naturopathy.
Non-routine dental care		Dental care required to treat illness or injury may be covered as inpatient or outpatient care. Coverage for dental care is limited to non-routine dental care as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Physician/Practitioner services, including doctor's office visits. Additional dental care services, such as restorative and major dental care services (e.g., fillings, crowns, dentures), are covered only as described in either Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Dental services.
Non-transport ambulance calls, stretcher car, wheelchair transport or other transport for convenience	✓	
Orthopedic shoes or supportive devices for the feet		Shoes (orthopedic shoes, modifications, and inserts) that are part of a leg brace and are included in the cost of the brace, or the shoes are for a person with diabetic foot disease.
Personal items in your room at a hospital or a skilled nursing facility, such as a telephone or a television.	✓	
Private room in a hospital		Covered only when medically necessary.
Reproduction prevention services (e.g., intrauterine device (IUD), implants, vasectomy, tubal ligation)		May be covered when medically necessary for a Medicare-approved condition or diagnosis.

Services not covered by Medicare	Not covered under any condition	Covered only under specific conditions
Reversal of sterilization procedures and or non-prescription contraceptive supplies	✓	
Routine chiropractic care		Manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation is covered. Additional chiropractic services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Additional chiropractic.
Routine dental care, such as cleanings, fillings, or dentures.		Preventive dental services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Dental services. Preventive dental care is limited to those services listed in the chart. Additional services, such as restorative and major dental care services (e.g., fillings, crowns, dentures), are not covered under the preventive dental benefit.
Routine eye examinations, eyeglasses, radial keratotomy, LASIK surgery, and other low vision aids.		Eye exam and one pair of eyeglasses (or contact lenses) are covered for people after cataract surgery. Additional routine vision services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Vision care.
Routine foot care		Some limited coverage provided according to Medicare guidelines (e.g., if you have diabetes). Additional routine podiatry services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Help with certain chronic conditions.
Routine hearing exams, hearing aids, or exams to fit hearing aids.		Routine hearing services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Hearing services. Hearing aids and provider visits to service hearing aids (except as specifically described in the Covered Benefits), ear molds, hearing aid accessories, warranty claim fees, and hearing aid batteries (beyond the 80 free batteries per non-rechargeable aid purchased).

Services not covered by Medicare	Not covered under any condition	Covered only under specific conditions
Services considered not reasonable and necessary, according to Original Medicare standards	✓	
Therapeutic massage		Therapeutic massage services are covered only as described in Section 2.1 *(Medical Benefits Chart)* under Therapeutic massage.
Ineligible mental health and substance abuse providers such as: • Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC) • Certified Mental Health Counselor (CMHC) • Certified Social Worker (CSW) • Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) • Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) • Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT) • Master of Social Worker (MSW) • National Certified Counselor (NCC) • Non –Medicare certified substance abuse treatment facilities (Methadone clinics) • Non-Medicare certified mental health facilities • Psychological Association (PA) • Registered Counselor (RC) • Sex offender treatment provider	✓	

In addition to the exclusions in the General Exclusions listed above, we will not provide benefits for **any of the following conditions, treatments, services, supplies or accommodations, including any direct complications or consequences that arise from them,** for comprehensive dental services:

Aesthetic dental procedures – Services and supplies provided in connection with dental procedures that are primarily aesthetic, including bleaching of teeth and labial veneers.

Collection of cultures and specimens

Cosmetic/reconstructive services and supplies – Except for dentally appropriate services and supplies to treat a congenital anomaly and to restore a physical bodily function lost as a result of Injury or Illness, we do not cover cosmetic and/or reconstructive services and supplies.

Cosmetic means services or supplies that are applied to normal structures of the body primarily to improve or change appearance (for example, bleaching of teeth).

Reconstructive means services, procedures or surgery performed on abnormal structures of the body, caused by congenital anomalies, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally performed to restore function, but, in the case of significant malformation, is also done to approximate a normal appearance.

Dental services that are not necessary.

Desensitizing – Application of desensitizing medicaments or desensitizing resin for cervical and/or root surface.

Diagnostic casts or study models

Duplicate x-rays – same date of service

Expenses before coverage begins or after coverage ends – Services and supplies incurred before your effective date under the plan or after your termination under the plan.

Facility charges – Services and supplies provided in connection with facility services, including hospitalization for dentistry and extended-care facility visits.

Fees, taxes, interest – Charges for shipping and handling, postage, interest, or finance charges that a dentist might bill.

Fractures of the mandible (Jaw) – treatment may be covered under medical benefits. Services and supplies provided in connection with the treatment of simple or compound fractures of the mandible.

Gold-foil restorations

Home visits

Implants – Services and supplies provided in connection with implants, whether or not the implant itself is covered, including, but not limited to:

- interim endosseous implants
- eposteal and transosteal implants
- sinus augmentations or lift
- radiographic/surgical implant index; and
- unspecified implant procedures.

Medications and supplies – Charges in connection with medication, including take home drugs, pre-medications, therapeutic drug injections and supplies associated with dental services are not covered.

Non-direct patient care – Charges or fees incurred for missed appointments, preparing or duplicating medical report/chart notes, and visits or consultations that are not in person, including telephone consultations and email exchanges.

Occlusal treatment – Services and supplies provided in connection with dental occlusion, including the following:

- occlusal analysis and adjustments; and
- occlusal guards.

Oral hygiene instructions

Oral surgery – Oral surgery treating any fractured jaw and orthognathic surgery. "Orthognathic surgery" means surgery to manipulate facial bones, including the jaw, in patients with facial bone abnormalities performed to restore the proper anatomic and functional relationship of the facial bones.

Orthodontic dental services – Services and supplies provided in connection with orthodontics, including the following:

- correction of malocclusion
- craniomandibular orthopedic treatment
- other orthodontic treatment

- preventive orthodontic procedures; and
- procedures for tooth movement, regardless of purpose.

Out-of-network services – Services performed by an out-of-network dentist if your plan does not have out-of-network coverage.

Photographic images

Precision attachments

Procedures that are considered experimental, investigational, or unproven. This includes pharmacological regimens not accepted by the American Dental Association Council on dental therapeutics. The fact that an experimental, investigational or unproven service, treatment, device or pharmacological regimen is the only available treatment for a particular condition will not result in coverage if the procedure is considered to be experimental, investigational or unproven in the treatment of that particular condition.

Prosthesis – Services and supplies provided in connection with dental prosthesis, including the following:

- maxillofacial prosthetic procedures; and
- modification of removable prosthesis following implant surgery.

Replacements – Services and supplies provided in connection with the replacement of any dental appliance (including, but not limited to, dentures and retainers), whether lost or stolen.

Self-help, self-care, training or instructional programs

Separate charges – Services and supplies that may be billed as separate charges (these are considered inclusive of the billed procedure), including the following:

- any supplies
- local anesthesia; and
- sterilization.

Services for injuries or conditions covered by Workers' Compensation or employer liability laws, and service that are provided without cost to the covered persons by any municipality, county, or other political subdivision.

Services Performed in a Laboratory

Services rendered by a provider with the same legal residence – as a covered person or who is a member of a covered person's family, including a spouse, brother, sister, parent, or child.

Surgical procedures – Services and supplies provided in connection with the following surgical procedures:

- exfoliative cytology sample collection or brush biopsy
- incision and drainage of abscess extraoral soft tissue, complicated or non-complicated
- radical resection of maxilla or mandible
- removal of nonodontogenic cyst, tumor or lesion
- surgical stent; or
- surgical procedures for isolation of a tooth with rubber dam.

Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) disorder treatment – Treatment may be covered under medical benefits. Services and supplies provided in connection with temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder.

Tooth transplantation – Services and supplies provided in connection with tooth transplantation, including reimplantation from one site to another and splinting and/or stabilization.

Veneers

CHAPTER 5:

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

SECTION 1 Situations in which you should ask us to pay our share of the cost of your covered services

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

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

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

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

You can receive emergency or urgently needed services from any provider, whether or not the provider is a part of our network. In these cases, you are only responsible for paying your share of the cost. Ask the provider to bill the plan for our share of the cost.

- If you pay the entire amount yourself at the time you receive the care, ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Send us the bill, along with documentation of any payments you have made.
- You may get a bill from the provider asking for payment that you think you do not owe. Send us this bill, along with documentation of any payments you have already made.
    - If the provider is owed anything, we will pay the provider directly.
    - If you have already paid more than your share of the cost of the service, we will determine how much you owed and pay you back for our share of the cost.

2. When a network provider sends you a bill you think you should not pay

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

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

between the amount you paid and the amount you owed under the plan.

3. If you are retroactively enrolled in our plan

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

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

All of the examples above are types of coverage decisions. This means that if we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. Chapter 7 of this document has information about how to make an appeal.

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

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

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

- You don't have to use the form, but it will help us process the information faster. If you wish to submit your request without the form, please include your name, member ID (including the 3-letter prefix), date of birth, and address; your provider's name, address, phone number, and NPI; the NPI of any referring provider; the date of service, place of service, any service CPT/HCPC codes and/or descriptions, and the total amount billed. You can ask your provider to give you a "superbill" which generally will contain most of the needed information required.
- Either download a copy of the form from our website (regence.com/medicare) or call Customer Service and ask for the form.

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

Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon
P.O. Box 1827 MS B32G
Medford, OR 97501

You may also submit your claim online by logging into your account at regence.com/medicare.

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

Section 3.1 We check to see whether we should cover the service and how much we owe

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

- If we decide that the medical care is covered and you followed all the rules, we will pay for our share of the cost. If you have already paid for the service, we will mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. If you have not paid for the service yet, we will mail the payment directly to the provider.

- If we decide that the medical care is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we will not pay for our share of the cost. We will send you a letter explaining the reasons why we are not sending the payment and your rights to appeal that decision.

Section 3.2 If we tell you that we will not pay for all or part of the medical care, you can make an appeal

If you think we have made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or the amount we are paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you are asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment. The appeals process is a formal process with detailed procedures and important deadlines. For details on how to make this appeal, go to Chapter 7 of this document.

CHAPTER 6:
Your rights and responsibilities

SECTION 1 Our plan must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities as a member of the plan

Section 1.1 We must provide information in a way that works for you and consistent with your cultural sensitivities (in languages other than English, in braille, in large print, or other alternate formats, etc.)

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

Our plan has free interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English speaking members. We can also give you information in braille, in large print, or other alternate formats at no cost if you need it. We are required to give you information about the plan's benefits in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call Customer Service.

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

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

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you, please call to file a grievance with Medicare Advantage Appeals & Grievances at 1-866-749-0355 or write P.O. Box 1827 MS B32AG, Medford, OR 97501 or medicareappeals@regence.com. You may also file a complaint with Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or directly with the Office for Civil Rights 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697.

You have the right to receive information about our member rights and responsibilities policy. You may also make recommendations regarding the plan's member rights and responsibilities. If you have suggestions or recommendations regarding the plan's member rights, you can contact Customer Service at the phone numbers printed on the back cover of this booklet.

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

You have the right to choose a primary care provider (PCP) in the plan's network to provide and arrange for your covered services. You also have the right to go to a women's health specialist (such as a gynecologist) without a referral.

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

If you think that you are not getting your medical care within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7 tells what you can do.

When we make decisions to approve or deny benefits for health services, it is called a "coverage decision". Our decisions are based on two things:

- If the care and /or service requested is right for your condition; and
- If your plan's benefits cover the care being requested

Our doctors and other health care staff are focused on appropriate care and keeping health coverage affordable for our members. They do not get money or other rewards when making decisions about your care. Our plan does not reward staff for making decisions that result in care that is different from or less than what is requested.

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

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

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

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records.
- Except for the circumstances noted below, if we intend to give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care, *we are required to get written permission from you or someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you first.*
- There are certain exceptions that do not require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.
    - We are required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care.
    - Because you are a member of our plan through Medicare, we are required to give Medicare your health information. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to Federal statutes and regulations; typically, this requires that information that uniquely identifies you not be shared.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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, at Regence, know you value your privacy. That is why we are committed to the confidentiality and security of your personal information. We maintain physical, administrative and technical safeguards to protect against unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of your personal information, including information we share internally either orally, electronically, or in writing.

We collect personal information, such as your name, contact information, and health information, from you, your health care providers, and other insurers that provide you coverage. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of this information and to explain our legal duties and privacy practices. We are also required by law to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured protected health information. We provide the protections and apply the practices described in this notice to all personal information that we maintain, including to personal information of former members who are no longer covered by us. We hope this notice will clarify our responsibilities to you and give you an understanding of your rights. We are required to abide by the notice that is currently in effect. This notice is in effect as of July 1, 2013.

Your Rights

You may exercise the following rights by calling our Customer Service department or writing our Privacy Official. See "Contacting Us" at the end of this notice.

Inspection and Copies. You have the right to request an inspection or copies of protected health information that we maintain about you in a "designated record set" except psychotherapy notes and information that we compiled in anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding. A "designated record set" is a group of records that is used to administer your health benefits, including enrollment information and claims. We may limit the information that you can inspect or copy if we have reason to believe that is necessary to protect you or another person from harm. If we limit your right to inspect or copy, you can ask for a review of that decision.

Amendment. If you believe that protected health information we maintain about you in a designated record set is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to request an amendment to correct or complete the information. You must submit your request in writing and explain the reason for the amendment. If the amendment is made, we will make reasonable efforts to inform others, including people you identify, that the information has been amended and we will use our best efforts to include the amendment with any future disclosure. We may decline to amend information under certain circumstances. This is likely to occur if we did not create the original record. If we decline to amend the information, you have the right to submit a statement of disagreement. You should know that we are allowed to attach a rebuttal statement in response to your statement of disagreement.

Notice. You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice upon request.

Accounting. You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures of protected health information. The list will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, or health care operations. It also will not include disclosures made pursuant to an authorization, made more than six years before the date of the request,

incidental disclosures, disclosures made for national security or intelligence, or disclosures made to a correctional facility. The list will include the date of any accountable disclosure, to whom that disclosure was made, a brief description of the information disclosed, and the purpose for that disclosure (provided this information is known to us). We will supply this list free of charge once a year at your request. If you request an accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge a reasonable fee.

Special Handling. You have the right to request restrictions on our use or disclosure of protected health information in addition to the restrictions imposed by law. We are not required to agree to your request and we may be unable to do so. If we do agree, we will comply with your request except in the case of emergency. You also have the right to request that we communicate with you in confidence with respect to communications you believe may endanger you. We will make every effort to accommodate your request if it is reasonable and you provide an alternate means to communicate. You should know that redirecting communication may not prevent others on your policy from discovering that you sought medical care. Accumulated deductibles and copayment information may reveal that you obtained services. In addition, historic claims reports may include services that were obtained during the time communications were redirected.

Complaints. You have the right to submit a complaint if you believe we have violated your privacy rights. To submit a complaint, write to: Regence Privacy Office, P.O. Box 1071, Mailstop E12P, Portland, OR 97207 or call our Customer Service department at the phone number provided at the end of this notice. You also have the right to submit a complaint to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Be assured that we will not retaliate against you for submitting a complaint.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures

To administer health benefits, we collect, use and disclose protected health information for a variety of purposes:

Treatment. We may disclose protected health information to a health care provider in order for the provider to treat you. We may also use or disclose protected health information to support a provider's activities to furnish preventive health, early detection, and case management programs.

Payment. We may use or disclose protected health information for payment purposes, including to adjudicate claims, issue Explanation of Benefits, or coordinate benefits with other entities responsible for paying your claims.

Health Care Operations. We may use or disclose protected health information to facilitate operations, including underwriting, Customer Service, and detection or prevention of fraud or abuse. We may not, however, use or disclose genetic information for underwriting purposes.

Business Associates. Occasionally, we contract with business associates to perform insurance related functions on our behalf. We may disclose protected health information to these business associates in order to allow them to perform these functions. They also may collect, use or disclose protected health information on our behalf. We contractually obligate our business associates and they are required by law to provide the same privacy protections that we provide.

Employers and Other Plan Sponsors. If you are enrolled in an employer-sponsored group health plan (or a group health plan sponsored by another entity), we may disclose protected health information to the group health plan or plan sponsor to facilitate administration of the plan. For example, we supply enrollment lists to employers so that premiums can be paid appropriately. When we provide your personal information to your employer or other plan sponsors we comply with the required safeguards to protect your information.

As Permitted or Required by Law. We use or disclose protected health information as permitted or required by law. For example, some laws permit or require us to disclose protected health information for workers' compensation programs or to certain government agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration.

Public Health Activities. We may disclose protected health information to: (a) public health agencies for the prevention and control of disease; (b) coroners or medical examiners as necessary for fulfillment of their duties; (c) agencies that engage in the procurement, banking, or transportation of organs or tissue to facilitate such donation and transplantation services; (d) researchers to conduct medical research or research intended to improve the health care system; and (e) third parties as necessary to avert a serious threat to the health or safety of a person.

Health Oversight. We may disclose protected health information to health oversight agencies. These agencies are authorized by law to conduct audits; perform inspections and investigations; license health care providers, insurers and facilities; to enforce regulatory requirements; and to investigate healthcare fraud. These agencies include: State Commissioner of Insurance, State Board of Medicine, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the FBI.

Legal Proceedings. We may disclose protected health information in the course of a judicial or administrative proceeding, and in response to a court order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement. We may disclose protected health information to law enforcement officials in response to an administrative subpoena, a warrant, or an administrative request intended to identify or locate a suspect, victim, or witness. We also may disclose protected health information for the purpose of reporting a crime on our premises.

Military and National Security. We may disclose protected health information to armed forces personnel for military activities and to authorized federal officials for national security and intelligence activities.

Correctional Institution. If you are an inmate, we may disclose protected health information to your correctional institution for treatment purposes or to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

You. We may disclose your protected health information to you at your request, to inform you about the status of your claims, or for other purposes. For example, we may use protected health information to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health related benefits or services that may be of interest to you. This may include enhancements to your health plan and health related products or services available only to health plan members that add value to, but are not a part of, your benefit plan.

Others Involved in Your Health Care. We may disclose protected health information to personal representatives such as appointed guardians, executors, conservators, and in many cases parents of minor children, as well as to attorneys in fact when a valid power of attorney exists. In addition, if you give us verbal permission or if your permission can be implied (for example, while you are unconscious during an emergency), we may disclose protected health information to family members or others who call on your behalf. This permission is valid only for a limited time. If you want to authorize on-going disclosures to family members or friends, you must submit written authorization.

Authorizations. You may give us written authorization to use protected health information or disclose protected health information about yourself to anyone for any purpose. An authorization remains valid for two years unless the authorization states otherwise or you revoke it. You may revoke an authorization at any time by submitting a written revocation (see "Contacting Us", below), but a revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by the authorization while it was in effect. An authorization is required for us to use or

disclose your protected health information for purposes other than those described in this notice. In particular, we need your written authorization to use or disclose psychotherapy notes, except in limited circumstances such as when the disclosure is required by law. We also must obtain your written authorization to sell information about you to a third party or when we receive financial compensation to use or disclose your protected health information to send you communications about products and services.

Future Changes

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and this notice at any time without advance notice. Before we make any material change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and post the new notice on our website. We will provide a copy of the new notice (or information about the changes to our privacy practices and how to obtain the new notice) in our next annual mailing to members who are then covered by one of our health plans. The new notice will apply to all protected health information in our possession, including any information created or received before the revised notice became effective.

Contacting Us

You may reach us during regular business hours by calling our Customer Service department at 1-855-522-8896.

For more information about this notice or to file a written privacy-related complaint, you may write to: Privacy Official, P.O. Box 1071, MS E12P, Portland, OR 97207-1071; E-mail: privacy_office@regence.com; Fax: 1-888-875-6893.

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

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

If you want any of the following kinds of information, please call Customer Service:

- **Information about our plan**. This includes, for example, information about the plan's financial condition.
- **Information about our network providers.** You have the right to get information about the qualifications of the providers in our network and how we pay the providers in our network.
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage.** Chapters 3 and 4 provide information regarding medical services.
    - We follow all Medicare guidelines regarding the use and adoption of new technology. New technology may include behavioral health procedures, medical procedures, and pharmaceuticals, for example. Adoption of new technology occurs within the timelines Medicare communicates in its coverage determination releases.
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it.** Chapter 7 provides information on asking for a written explanation on why a medical service is not covered or if your coverage is restricted. Chapter 7 also provides information on asking us to change a decision, also called an appeal.

Section 1.5 We must support your right to make decisions about your care

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

You have the right to get full information from your doctors and other health care providers. Your providers

must explain your medical condition and your treatment choices *in a way that you can understand*.

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

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

You have the right to give instructions about what is to be done if you are not able to make medical decisions for yourself

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

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

The legal documents that you can use to give your directions in advance 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 use an "advance directive" to give your instructions, here is what to do:

- **Get the form.** You can get an advance directive form from your lawyer, from a social worker, or from some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare. You can also contact Customer Service to ask for the forms.
- **Fill it out and sign it.** Regardless of where you get this form, keep in mind that it is a legal document. You should consider having a lawyer help you prepare it.
- **Give copies to appropriate people.** You should give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form who can make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members. Keep a copy at home.

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

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

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

What if your instructions are not followed?

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital did not follow the instructions in it, you may file a complaint with your state's Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), State Department of Health or seek help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Contact information can be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document.

Section 1.6 You have the right to make complaints and to ask us to reconsider decisions we have made

If you have any problems, concerns, or complaints and need to request coverage, or make an appeal, Chapter 7 of this document tells what you can do. Whatever you do – ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint – **we are required to treat you fairly**.

Section 1.7 What can you do if you believe you are being treated unfairly or your rights are not being respected?

If it is about discrimination, call the Office for Civil Rights

If you believe you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected due to your race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, sexual orientation, or national origin, you should call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697 or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

Is it about something else?

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

- You can **call Customer Service**.
- You can **call the SHIP**. For details, go to Chapter 2, Section 3 (contact information can also be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document).
- Or, **you can call Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Section 1.8 How to get more information about your rights

There are several places where you can get more information about your rights:

- You can **call Customer Service**.
- You can **call the SHIP**. For details, go to Chapter 2, Section 3 (contact information can also be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document).
- You can contact **Medicare**.
    - You can visit the Medicare website to read or download the publication "Medicare Rights &

Protections." (The publication is available at: www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11534-Medicare-Rights-and-Protections.pdf.);

- Or, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

SECTION 2 You have some responsibilities as a member of the plan

Things you need to do as a member of the plan are listed below. If you have any questions, please call Customer Service.

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

CHAPTER 7:

What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

SECTION 1 Introduction

Section 1.1 What to do if you have a problem or concern

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

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

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

The guide in Section 3 will help you identify the right process to use and what you should do.

Section 1.2 What about the legal terms?

There are legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this chapter. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people and can be hard to understand. To make things easier, this chapter:

- Uses simpler words in place of certain legal terms. For example, this chapter generally says, "making a complaint" rather than "filing a grievance," "coverage decision" rather than "organization determination," and "independent review organization" instead of "Independent Review Entity."
- It also uses abbreviations as little as possible.

However, it can be helpful – and sometimes quite important – for you to know the correct legal terms. Knowing which terms to use will help you communicate more accurately to get the right help or information for your situation. To help you know which terms to use, we include legal terms when we give the details for handling specific types of situations.

SECTION 2 Where to get more information and personalized assistance

We are always available to help you. Even if you have a complaint about our treatment of you, we are obligated to honor your right to complain. Therefore, you should always reach out to customer service for help. But in some situations, you may also want help or guidance from someone who is not connected with us. **Below are two entities that can assist you.**

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

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

The services of SHIP counselors are free. You will find phone numbers and website URLs in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document.

Medicare

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

- You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- You can also visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov).

SECTION 3 To deal with your problem, which process should you use?

If you have a problem or concern, you only need to read the parts of this chapter that apply to your situation. The guide that follows will help.

Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?

(This includes problems about whether medical care or prescription drugs are covered or not, the way they are covered, and problems related to payment for medical care or prescription drugs.)

Yes.

Go on to the next section of this chapter, **Section 4, "A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals."**

No.

Skip ahead to **Section 9** at the end of this chapter: **"How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns."**

COVERAGE DECISIONS AND APPEALS

SECTION 4 A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals

Section 4.1 Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals: the big picture

Coverage decisions and appeals deal with problems related to your benefits and coverage for medical services, including payment. This is the process you use for issues such as whether something is covered or not and the way in which something is covered.

Asking for coverage decisions prior to receiving services

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical services. For example, your plan network doctor makes a (favorable) coverage decision for you whenever you receive medical care from him or her or if your network doctor refers you to a medical specialist. You or your doctor can also contact us and ask for a coverage decision if your doctor is unsure whether we will cover a particular medical service or refuses to provide medical care you think that you need. In other words, if you want to know if we will cover a medical service before you receive it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you. In limited circumstances a request for a coverage decision will be dismissed, which means we won't review the request. Examples of when a request will be dismissed include if the request is incomplete if someone makes the request on your behalf but isn't legally authorized to do so or if you ask

for your request to be withdrawn. If we dismiss a request for a coverage decision, we will send a notice explaining why the request was dismissed and how to ask for a review of the dismissal.

We are making a coverage decision for you whenever we decide what is covered for you and how much we pay. In some cases, we might decide a service is not covered or is no longer covered by Medicare for you. If you disagree with this coverage decision, you can make an appeal.

Making an appeal

If we make a coverage decision, whether before or after a service is received, and you are not satisfied, you can "appeal" the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made. Under certain circumstances, which we discuss later, you can request an expedited or "fast appeal" of a coverage decision. Your appeal is handled by different reviewers than those who made the original decision.

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

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

If we do not dismiss your case but say no to all or part of your Level 1 appeal, you can go on to a Level 2 appeal. The Level 2 appeal is conducted by an independent review organization that is not connected to us. (Appeals for medical services and Part B drugs will be automatically sent to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal – you do not need to do anything). If you are not satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal (Section 8 in this chapter explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes).

Section 4.2 How to get help when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal

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

- You **can call us at Customer Service**.
- You **can get free help** from your SHIP.
- **Your doctor can make a request for you.** If your doctor helps with an appeal past Level 2, they will need to be appointed as your representative. Please call Customer Service and ask for the "Appointment of Representative" form. (The form is also available on Medicare's website at www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf or on our website at regence.com/medicare.)
    - For medical care or Part B prescription drugs, your doctor can request a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your appeal is denied at Level 1, it will be automatically forwarded to Level 2.
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** If you want to, you can name another person to act for you as your "representative" to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal.
    - If you want a friend, relative, or other person to be your representative, call Customer Service and

ask for the "Appointment of Representative" form. (The form is also available on Medicare's website at www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf or on our website at regence.com/medicare.) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person who you would like to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form.

- While we can accept an appeal request without the form, we cannot begin or complete our review until we receive it. If we do not receive the form within 44 calendar days after receiving your appeal request (our deadline for making a decision on your appeal), your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we will send you a written notice explaining your right to ask the independent review organization to review our decision to dismiss your appeal.

- **You also have the right to hire a lawyer.** You may contact your own lawyer or get the name of a lawyer from your local bar association or other referral service. There are also groups that will give you free legal services if you qualify. However, **you are not required to hire a lawyer** to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision.

Section 4.3 Which section of this chapter gives the details for your situation?

There are three different situations that involve coverage decisions and appeals. Since each situation has different rules and deadlines, we give the details for each one in a separate section:

- **Section 5** of this chapter: "Your medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal".
- **Section 6** of this chapter: "How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think the doctor is discharging you too soon".
- **Section 7** of this chapter: "How to ask us to keep covering certain medical services if you think your coverage is ending too soon" (*Applies to only these services*: home health care, skilled nursing facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services).

If you're not sure which section you should be using, please call Customer Service. You can also get help or information from government organizations such as your SHIP.

SECTION 5 Your medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal of a coverage decision

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

This section is about your benefits for medical care and services. These benefits are described in Chapter 4 of this document: *Medical Benefits Chart (what is covered and what you pay*). To keep things simple, we generally refer to "medical care coverage" or "medical care" which includes medical items and services as well as Medicare Part B prescription drugs. In some cases, different rules apply to a request for a Part B prescription drug. In those cases, we will explain how the rules for Part B prescription drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells what you can do if you are in any of the five following situations:

1. You are not getting certain medical care you want, and you believe that this care is covered by our plan.

Ask for a coverage decision. Section 5.2.

2. Our plan will not approve the medical care your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe that this care is covered by the plan. **Ask for a coverage decision. Section 5.2.**
3. You have received medical care that you believe should be covered by the plan, but we have said we will not pay for this care. **Make an Appeal. Section 5.3.**
4. You have received and paid for medical care that you believe should be covered by the plan, and you want to ask our plan to reimburse you for this care. **Send us the bill. Section 5.5.**
5. You are being told that coverage for certain medical care you have been getting that we previously approved will be reduced or stopped, and you believe that reducing or stopping this care could harm your health. **Make an Appeal. Section 5.3.**

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

Section 5.2 Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision

Legal Terms
When a coverage decision involves your medical care, it is called an **"organization determination."** A "fast coverage decision" is called an **"expedited determination."**

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

A "standard coverage decision" is usually made within 14 days or 72 hours for Part B drugs. A "fast coverage decision" is generally made within 72 hours, for medical services, or 24 hours for Part B drugs. In order to get a fast coverage decision, you must meet two requirements:

- You may *only ask* for coverage for medical care *you have not yet received*.
- You can get a fast coverage decision *only* if using the standard deadlines could *cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to function.*
- **If your doctor tells us that your health requires a "fast coverage decision," we will automatically agree to give you a fast coverage decision.**
- **If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own, without your doctor's support, we will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision.** If we do not approve a fast coverage decision, we will send you a letter that:
    - Explains that we will use the standard deadlines.
    - Explains if your doctor asks for the fast coverage decision, we will automatically give you a fast coverage decision.
    - Explains that you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you requested.

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

- Start by calling, writing, or faxing our plan to make your request for us to authorize or provide coverage

for the medical care you want. You, your doctor, or your representative can do this. Chapter 2 has contact information.

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

For standard coverage decisions we use the standard deadlines

This means we will give you an answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request **for a medical item or service**. If your request is for a **Medicare Part B prescription drug**, we will give you an answer **within 72 hours** after we receive your request.

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

For Fast Coverage decisions we use an expedited timeframe

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

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

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

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

Section 5.3 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal

Legal Terms
An appeal to the plan about a medical care coverage decision is called a plan **"reconsideration."** A "fast appeal" is also called an **"expedited reconsideration."**

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

A "standard appeal" is usually made within 30 days. A "fast appeal" is generally made within 72 hours.

- If you are appealing a decision we made about coverage for care that you have not yet received, you

and/or your doctor will need to decide if you need a "fast appeal." If your doctor tells us that your health requires a "fast appeal," we will give you a fast appeal.

- The requirements for getting a "fast appeal" are the same as those for getting a "fast coverage decision" in Section 5.2 of this chapter.

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

- **If you are asking for a standard appeal, submit your standard appeal in writing.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **If you are asking for a fast appeal, make your appeal in writing or call us.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **You must make your appeal request within 60 calendar days** from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for requesting an appeal.
- **You can ask for a copy of the information regarding your medical decision. You and your doctor may add more information to support your appeal.**

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

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

Deadlines for a "fast appeal"

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours after we receive your appeal**. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
    - However, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, we **can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service**.** If we take extra days, we will tell you in writing. We can't take extra time if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug.
    - If we do not give you an answer within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we are required to automatically send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested,** we must authorize or provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested,** we will send you our decision in writing and automatically forward your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it receives your appeal.

Deadlines for a "standard appeal"

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer **within 30 calendar days** after we receive your

appeal. If your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug you have not yet received, we will give you our answer **within 7 calendar days** after we receive your appeal. We will give you our decision sooner if your health condition requires us to.

- However, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we will tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug.
- If you believe we should *not* take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint." When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (See Section 9 of this chapter for information on complaints.)
- If we do not give you an answer by the deadline (or by the end of the extended time period), we will send your request to a Level 2 appeal, where an independent review organization will review the appeal. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.

- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested,** we must authorize or provide the coverage within **30 calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service, or **within 7 calendar days** if your request is for a Medicare Part B prescription drug.
- **If our plan says no to part or all of your appeal**, we will automatically send your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal.

Section 5.4 Step-by-step: How a Level 2 appeal is done

Legal Term
The formal name for the "independent review organization" is the **"Independent Review Entity."** It is sometimes called the **"IRE."**

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

Step 1: The independent review organization reviews your appeal.

- We will send the information about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your "case file." **You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file**.
- You have a right to give the independent review organization additional information to support your appeal.
- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal.

If you had a "fast appeal" at Level 1, you will also have a "fast appeal" at Level 2

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

If you had a "standard appeal" at Level 1, you will also have a "standard appeal" at Level 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 5.5 What if you are asking us to pay you for our share of a bill you have received for medical care?

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

Asking for reimbursement is asking for a coverage decision from us

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

- **If we say yes to your request:** If the medical care is covered and you followed all the rules, we will send you the payment for our share of the cost within 60 calendar days after we receive your request. If you haven't paid for the services, we will send the payment directly to the provider.
- **If we say no to your request:** If the medical care is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we will not send payment. Instead, we will send you a letter that says we will not pay for the services and the reasons why.

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

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

- We must give you our answer within 60 calendar days after we receive your appeal. (If you are asking us to pay you back for medical care you have already received and paid for, you are not allowed to ask for a fast appeal.)
- If the independent review organization decides we should pay, we must send you or the provider the payment within 30 calendar days. If the answer to your appeal is yes at any stage of the appeals process after Level 2, we must send the payment you requested to you or to the provider within 60 calendar days.

SECTION 6 How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think the doctor is discharging you too soon

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

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

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

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

Within two days of being admitted to the hospital, you will be given a written notice called *An Important Message from Medicare about Your Rights.* Everyone with Medicare gets a copy of this notice. If you do not get the notice from someone at the hospital (for example, a caseworker or nurse), ask any hospital employee for it. If you need help, please call Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

1. **Read this notice carefully and ask questions if you don't understand it.** It tells you about:
   - Your right to receive Medicare-covered services during and after your hospital stay, as ordered by your doctor. This includes the right to know what these services are, who will pay for them, and where you can get them.
   - Your right to be involved in any decisions about your hospital stay.
   - Where to report any concerns you have about quality of your hospital care.
   - Your right to **request an immediate review** of the decision to discharge you if you think you are being discharged from the hospital too soon. This is a formal, legal way to ask for a delay in your discharge date so that we will cover your hospital care for a longer time.
2. **You will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you received it and understand your rights.**
   - You or someone who is acting on your behalf will be asked to sign the notice.
   - Signing the notice shows *only* that you have received the information about your rights. The notice does not give your discharge date. Signing the notice **does *not* mean** you are agreeing on a discharge date.
3. **Keep your copy** of the notice handy so you will have the information about making an appeal (or reporting a concern about quality of care) if you need it.
   - If you sign the notice more than two days before your discharge date, you will get another copy before you are scheduled to be discharged.
   - To look at a copy of this notice in advance, you can call Customer Service or 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also see the notice online at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/HospitalDischargeappealNotices.

Section 6.2 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

If you want to ask for your inpatient hospital services to be covered by us for a longer time, you will need to use the appeals process to make this request. Before you start, understand what you need to do and what the deadlines are:

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it**. If you have questions or need help at any time, please call Customer Service. Or call your SHIP, a government organization that provides personalized assistance.

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

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

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

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you received (*An Important Message from Medicare About Your Rights*) tells you how to reach this organization. Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in Chapter 2 (contact information can also be found in "Exhibit A" in the back of this document).

Act quickly:

- To make your appeal, you must contact the Quality Improvement Organization *before* you leave the hospital and **no later than midnight the day of your discharge.**
    - **If you meet this deadline**, you may stay in the hospital *after* your discharge date *without paying for it* while you wait to get the decision from the Quality Improvement Organization.
    - **If you do *not* meet this deadline**, and you decide to stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, *you may have to pay all of the costs* for hospital care you receive after your planned discharge date.
    - If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, and you still wish to appeal, you must make an appeal directly to our plan instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see Section 6.4.
- Once you request an immediate review of your hospital discharge the Quality Improvement Organization will contact us. By noon of the day after we are contacted, we will give you a **Detailed Notice of Discharge**. This notice gives your planned discharge date and explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it is right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.
- You can get a sample of the **Detailed Notice of Discharge** by calling Customer Service or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.) Or you can see a sample notice online at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/HospitalDischargeappealNotices.

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

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

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

What happens if the answer is yes?

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

What happens if the answer is no?

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

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

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

Section 6.3 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

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

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

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

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

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

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your request for a Level 2 appeal, the reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you their decision.

If the review organization says yes:

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

If the review organization says no:

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

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

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

Section 6.4 What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 appeal?

Legal Term
A "fast review" (or "fast appeal") is also called an **"expedited appeal."**

You can appeal to us instead

As explained above, you must act quickly to start your Level 1 appeal of your hospital discharge. If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, there is another way to make your appeal.

If you use this other way of making your appeal, *the first two levels of appeal are different.*

Step-by-Step: How to make a Level 1 *Alternate* appeal

Step 1: Contact us and ask for a "fast review."

- **Ask for a "fast review**." This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the "fast" deadlines rather than the "standard" deadlines. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Step 2: We do a "fast review" of your planned discharge date, checking to see if it was medically appropriate.

- During this review, we take a look at all of the information about your hospital stay. We check to see if your planned discharge date was medically appropriate. We see if the decision about when you should leave the hospital was fair and followed all the rules.

Step 3: We give you our decision within 72 hours after you ask for a "fast review".

- **If we say yes to your appeal,** it means we have agreed with you that you still need to be in the hospital after the discharge date. We will keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as they are medically necessary. It also means that we have agreed to reimburse you for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. (You must pay your share of the costs and there may be coverage limitations that apply.)
- **If we say no to your appeal,** we are saying that your planned discharge date was medically appropriate. Our coverage for your inpatient hospital services ends as of the day we said coverage would end.
    - If you stayed in the hospital *after* your planned discharge date, then **you may have to pay the full cost** of hospital care you received after the planned discharge date.

Step 4: If we say *no* to your fast appeal, your case will *automatically* be sent on to the next level of the appeals process.

Step-by-Step: Level 2 *Alternate* appeal Process

Legal Term
The formal name for the "independent review organization" is the **"Independent Review Entity."** It is sometimes called the **"IRE."**

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

Step 1: We will automatically forward your case to the independent review organization.

- We are required to send the information for your Level 2 appeal to the independent review organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying no to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. Section 9 of this chapter tells how to make a complaint.)

Step 2: The independent review organization does a "fast review" of your appeal. The reviewers give you an answer within 72 hours.

- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal of your hospital discharge.
- **If this organization says *yes* to your appeal,** then we must pay you back for our share of the costs of hospital care you received since the date of your planned discharge. We must also continue the plan's coverage of your inpatient hospital services for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover your services.
- **If this organization says *no* to your appeal,** it means they agree that your planned hospital discharge date was medically appropriate.
    - The written notice you get from the independent review organization will tell how to start a Level 3 appeal with the review process, which is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator.

Step 3: If the independent review organization turns down your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal). If reviewers say no to your Level 2 appeal, you decide whether to accept their decision or go on to Level 3 appeal.
- Section 8 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

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

Section 7.1 *This section is only about three services:* Home health care, skilled nursing facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services

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

When we decide it is time to stop covering any of the three types of care for you, we are required to tell you in advance. When your coverage for that care ends, *we will stop paying our share of the cost for your care.*

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

Section 7.2 We will tell you in advance when your coverage will be ending

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

1. **You receive a notice in writing** at least two days before our plan is going to stop covering your care. The notice tells you:
   - The date when we will stop covering the care for you.
   - How to request a "fast track appeal" to request us to keep covering your care for a longer period of time.
2. **You, or someone who is acting on your behalf, will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you received it.** Signing the notice shows *only* that you have received the information about when your coverage will stop. **Signing it does <u>not</u> mean you agree** with the plan's decision to stop care.

Section 7.3 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time

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

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it**. If you have questions or need help at any time, please call Customer Service. Or call your SHIP, a government organization that provides personalized assistance.

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

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

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

How can you contact this organization?

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

Act quickly:

- You must contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your appeal **by noon of the day before the effective date** on the Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage.

Your deadline for contacting this organization.

- If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, and you still wish to file an appeal, you must make an appeal directly to us instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see Section 7.5.

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

Legal Term
"**Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage."** Notice that provides details on reasons for ending coverage.

What happens during this review?

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization ("the reviewers") will ask you, or your representative, why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you may do so if you wish.
- The review organization will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that our plan has given to them.
- By the end of the day the reviewers tell us of your appeal, you will get the **Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage** from us that explains in detail our reasons for ending our coverage for your services.

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

What happens if the reviewers say yes?

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

What happens if the reviewers say no?

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

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

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

Section 7.4 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time

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

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

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

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

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

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

What happens if the review organization says yes?

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

What happens if the review organization says no?

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

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

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

your Level 2 appeal decision.

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

Section 7.5 What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 appeal?

You can appeal to us instead

As explained above, you must act quickly to start your Level 1 appeal (within a day or two, at the most). If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, there is another way to make your appeal. If you use this other way of making your appeal, *the first two levels of appeal are different.*

Step-by-Step: How to make a Level 1 *Alternate* appeal

Legal Term
A "fast review" (or "fast appeal") is also called an **"expedited appeal**."

Step 1: Contact us and ask for a "fast review."

- **Ask for a "fast review**." This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the "fast" deadlines rather than the "standard" deadlines. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Step 2: We do a "fast review" of the decision we made about when to end coverage for your services.

- During this review, we take another look at all of the information about your case. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we set the date for ending the plan's coverage for services you were receiving.

Step 3: We give you our decision within 72 hours after you ask for a "fast review".

- **If we say yes to your appeal,** it means we have agreed with you that you need services longer and will keep providing your covered services for as long as they are medically necessary. It also means that we have agreed to reimburse you for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. (You must pay your share of the costs and there may be coverage limitations that apply.)
- **If we say no to your appeal,** then your coverage will end on the date we told you and we will not pay any share of the costs after this date.
- If you continued to get home health care, or skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* the date when we said your coverage would end, then **you will have to pay the full cost** of this care.

Step 4: If we say *no* to your appeal, your case will *automatically* go on to the next level of the appeals process.

Legal Term
The formal name for the "independent review organization" is the **"Independent Review Entity."** It is sometimes called the **"IRE."**

Step-by-Step: Level 2 *Alternate* appeal Process

During the Level 2 appeal, an **independent review organization** reviews the decision we made to your "fast appeal." This organization decides whether the decision should be changed. **The independent review organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare**. This organization is not connected with our plan and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to handle the job of being the independent review organization. Medicare oversees its work.

Step 1: We automatically forward your case to the independent review organization.

- We are required to send the information for your Level 2 appeal to the independent review organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying no to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. Section 9 of this chapter tells how to make a complaint.)

Step 2: The independent review organization does a "fast review" of your appeal. The reviewers give you an answer within 72 hours.

- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal.
- **If this organization says *yes* to your appeal,** then we must pay you back for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. We must also continue to cover the care for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover services.
- **If this organization says *no* to your appeal,** it means they agree with the decision our plan made to your first appeal and will not change it.
- The notice you get from the independent review organization will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to go on to a Level 3 appeal.

Step 3: If the independent review organization says no to your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

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

SECTION 8 Taking your appeal to Level 3 and beyond

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

This section may be appropriate for you if you have made a Level 1 appeal and a Level 2 appeal, and both of your appeals have been turned down.

If the dollar value of the item or medical service you have appealed meets certain minimum levels, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar value is less than the minimum level, you cannot appeal

any further. The written response you receive to your Level 2 appeal will explain how to make a Level 3 appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last three levels of appeal work in much the same way. Here is who handles the review of your appeal at each of these levels.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAKING COMPLAINTS

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

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

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

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

Section 9.2 How to make a complaint

Legal Terms
• A **"Complaint"** is also called a **"grievance."** • **"Making a complaint"** is also called **"filing a grievance."** • "**Using the process for complaints"** is also called "**using the process for filing a grievance."** • A **"fast complaint"** is also called an **"expedited grievance."**

Section 9.3 Step-by-step: Making a complaint

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

- **Usually, calling Customer Service is the first step.** If there is anything else you need to do, Customer Service will let you know.
- **If you do not wish to call (or you called and were not satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us.** If you put your complaint in writing, we will respond to your complaint in writing.
- **We must notify you of our decision about your grievance within 30 calendar days after receiving your grievance or notify you prior to the 30-calendar day deadline that we are taking a 14-day extension.** We may take a 14-day extension upon your request or if we justify a need for additional information and documents, which would be in your best interest. We must promptly notify you in writing if the extension is going to be taken and explain the reason for the delay. You may also file an expedited grievance if we have denied your request to process a coverage decision, organization decision, or appeal under the expedited time frame. An expedited grievance may also be requested if you disagree with our decision to grant a 14-day extension. We must notify you of our decision about your expedited grievance within 24 hours after receiving your grievance.
- The **deadline** for making a complaint is **60 calendar days** from the time you had the problem you want to complain about.

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

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

Section 9.4 You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization

When your complaint is about *quality of care*, you also have two extra options:

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

Or

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

Section 9.5 You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

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

CHAPTER 8:
Ending your membership in the plan

SECTION 1 Introduction to ending your membership in our plan

Ending your membership in Regence Valiance 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. Sections 2 and 3 provide information on ending your membership voluntarily.
- There are also limited situations where we are required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

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

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

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

You can end your membership in our plan during the **Annual Enrollment Period** (also known as the "Annual Open Enrollment Period"). During this time, review your health and drug coverage and decide about coverage for the upcoming year.

- The **Annual Enrollment Period** is from **October 15 to December 7.**
- **Choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the upcoming year.** If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans:
  - Another Medicare health plan, with or without prescription drug coverage.
  - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

    OR
  - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
- **Your membership will end in our plan** when your new plan's coverage begins on January 1.

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

You have the opportunity to make *one* change to your health coverage during the **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**.

- **The annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** is from January 1 to March 31.
- **During the annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**, you can:
  - Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan with or without prescription drug coverage.
  - Disenroll from our plan and obtain coverage through Original Medicare. If you choose to switch to Original Medicare during this period, you can also join a separate Medicare prescription drug plan at that time.
- **Your membership will end** on the first day of the month after you enroll in a different Medicare

Advantage plan or we get your request to switch to Original Medicare. If you also choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, your membership in the drug plan will begin the first day of the month after the drug plan gets your enrollment request.

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

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

- **You may be eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period** if any of the following situations apply to you**.** These are just examples, for the full list you can contact the plan, call Medicare, or visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov):
  - Usually, when you have moved.
  - If you have Medicaid.
  - If we violate our contract with you.
  - If you get care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital.
  - If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

The enrollment time periods vary depending on your situation.

To find out if you are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you are eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. You can choose:

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

OR

- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after your request to change your plan is received.

Section 2.4 Where can you get more information about when you can end your membership?

If you have any questions about ending your membership, you can:

- **Call Customer Service**.
- Find the information in the ***Medicare & You 2023*** handbook.
- Contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

SECTION 3 How do you end your membership in our plan?

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

If you would like to switch from our plan to:	This is what you should do:
• Another Medicare health plan.	• Enroll in the new Medicare health plan. • You will automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan's coverage begins.
• Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.	• Enroll in the new Medicare prescription drug plan. • You will automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan's coverage begins.
• Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.	• **Send us a written request to disenroll**. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this. • You can also contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. • You will be disenrolled from our plan when your coverage in Original Medicare begins.

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

SECTION 4 Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your medical services through our plan

Until your membership ends, and your new Medicare coverage begins, you must continue to get your medical care through our plan.

- **Continue to use our network providers to receive medical care.**
- **If you are hospitalized on the day that your membership ends, your hospital stay will be covered by our plan until you are discharged** (even if you are discharged after your new health coverage begins).

SECTION 5 Regence Valiance must end your membership in the plan in certain situations

Section 5.1 When must we end your membership in the plan?

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

- If you no longer have Medicare Part A and Part B.
- If you move out of our service area.
- If you are away from our service area for more than six months.
    - If you move or take a long trip, call Customer Service to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan's area.

- If you become incarcerated (go to prison).
- If you are no longer a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States.
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you are enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide medical care for you and other members of our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get medical care. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
    - If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General.
- If you do not pay the plan premiums for three calendar months.
    - We must notify you in writing that you have three calendar months to pay the plan premium before we end your membership.

Where can you get more information?

If you have questions or would like more information on when we can end your membership call Customer Service.

Section 5.2 We cannot ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason

Our plan is not allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason.

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel that you are being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Section 5.3 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

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

CHAPTER 9:
Legal notices

SECTION 1 Notice about governing law

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

SECTION 2 Notice about non-discrimination

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

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

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, please call us at Customer Service. If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, Customer Service can help.

SECTION 3 Notice about Medicare Secondary Payer subrogation rights

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

SECTION 4 Events beyond our control

If there are events beyond Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon's control that affect its ability and/or its providers ability to perform or provide services to you, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon's failure to perform its duties shall be excused and Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon shall not be liable to the extent it takes commercially reasonable steps to address any service delays. Such events may include natural disasters, epidemic or pandemic, terrorism, riots, insurrection, war, or any other cause which is beyond the reasonable control of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. Upon the occurrence of such an event, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon will take commercially reasonable efforts to notify you of the steps it is taking to address service delivery interruptions or delays caused by the event. Such steps may include allowing you to obtain services from out of network providers.

SECTION 5 Liability of Member in the event of nonpayment

Unless otherwise required by law, you are responsible for any applicable coinsurance and copayments when covered services are provided by a plan provider.

You are responsible for any services for which there is a fee if the benefit is not included in the Schedule of Benefits. In the event Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, fails to pay a contracting or non-contracting provider for covered services, you are not liable to the provider for any sums owed by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon.

However, if you enter into a private contract with a non-contracting medical provider, neither Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon nor Medicare will pay for those services.

SECTION 6 Third Party Liability and Subrogation

If you are injured through the actions of a third party and are entitled to recovery from the third party or as a result of your injury for medical expenses, you are obligated to reimburse our plan for the reasonable value of the medical services received as a result of your injury.

If automobile medical, no-fault or liability insurance is available to you, then benefits under that plan must be used before there is coverage by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon will pay only after the other coverage has been exhausted.

Payment of funds may be made directly between insurance and other providers of benefits. If benefits are provided in the form of service rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered should be deemed both an allowable expense and a benefit paid.

In the case of injuries caused by an act or omission of a third party, and complications incident to that act, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon will arrange for the provision of covered services and other benefits. You must notify Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon when there is a possibility that a third party may be liable for the injuries. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon will have a first-party lien against any such accident-related settlement, even if the settlement does not specifically include payment for medical costs. Upon settlement, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon will be reimbursed at the prevailing rates for the cost of services and benefits provided as a result of the injury. In the event the third party does not satisfy Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon lien by direct payment, you agree to reimburse Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon any amounts it has paid in connection with treatment of the injury or any complications, but not to exceed the amount of the recovery.

If you incur health care expenses for treatment of the illness or injury after receiving a recovery, we will exclude benefits for otherwise covered expenses until the total amount of health care expenses incurred after the recovery exceeds the net recovery amount.

You must agree to cooperate in protecting the interests of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon under this provision and to execute and deliver to Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, or its nominee, any and all assignments or other documents that may be necessary or proper to fully and completely carry out and protect the rights of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon or its nominee.

SECTION 7 Relationship to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

You hereby expressly acknowledge your understanding that this Evidence of Coverage is a contract solely between you and Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is an independent corporation operating under a license from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (the "Association"), an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, permitting Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Marks in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is not contracting as an agent of the Association.

You further acknowledge and agree that you have not entered into this Plan based upon representations by any person other than Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and that no person, entity, or organization other than Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon shall be held accountable or liable to you for any of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon's obligations to you created under this Evidence of Coverage. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon other than those obligations created under other provisions of this Evidence of Coverage.

CHAPTER 10:
Definitions of important words

Allowed Amount – The amount that is considered the reasonable reimbursement amount that a provider will receive for their services. This amount is determined by either Medicare or the plan itself. If a provider is contracted as a network provider with the plan, they have agreed to accept the allowed amount as full reimbursement for all covered services. Out-of-network providers receive a set amount over the standard allowed amount (called the Limitsum, limiting charge, or Part B excess charge) for covered services and in most cases may not bill members for any charges over this amount.

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

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

Appeal – An appeal is something you do if you disagree with our decision to deny a request for coverage of health care services or payment for services you already received. You may also make an appeal if you disagree with our decision to stop services that you are receiving. For example, you may ask for an appeal if we don't pay for an item or service you think you should be able to receive. If you or your physician feel the standard timeframe for an appeal could seriously jeopardize your life, health, or your ability to regain maximum function, you may request a "fast appeal". Chapter 9 explains appeals, including the process and timelines.

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

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

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

Chronic-Care Special Needs Plan – C-SNPs are SNPs that restrict enrollment to special needs individuals with specific severe or disabling chronic conditions, defined in 42 CFR 422.2. A C-SNP must have specific attributes that go beyond the provision of basic Medicare Parts A and B services and care coordination that is required of all Medicare Advantage Coordinated Care Plans, in order to receive the special designation and marketing and enrollment accommodations provided to C-SNPs.

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

Complaint – The formal name for "making a complaint" is "filing a grievance." The complaint process is used *only* for certain types of problems. This includes problems related to quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you receive. It also includes complaints if your plan does not follow the time periods in the appeal process.

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

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

Cost Sharing – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when services are received. (This is in addition to the plan's monthly Dental OSB premium (if purchased).) Cost sharing 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" amount that a plan requires when a specific service is received; or (3) any "coinsurance" amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a service, that a plan requires when a specific service is received.

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

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

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

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

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

Diagnostic Procedures and Tests – The purpose of a diagnostic procedure or test is to confirm the presence (or absence) of disease in symptomatic individuals as a basis for treatment decisions or confirm a positive screening result.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans – In most HMOs, you can only go to doctors, other health care providers, or hospitals in the plan's network, except in an urgent or emergency situation. You may also need to get a referral from your primary care doctor for tests or to see other doctors or specialists.

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

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

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

Hospital-Owned Clinics – Some clinics where you see providers may be owned by a hospital. When you receive services at these clinics you may have higher out-of-pocket costs because hospital-owned clinics may bill you for both the provider you see, and for the use of the facility the provider is in.

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

Low Income Subsidy (LIS) – See "Extra Help."

Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount – The most that you pay out-of-pocket during the calendar year for in-network covered Part A and Part B services. Amounts you pay for your Dental OSB premiums (if purchased) and Medicare Part A and Part B premiums do not count toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Observation Care – Specific, clinically appropriate services, which include ongoing short-term treatment, assessment, and reassessment before a decision can be made whether patients will require further treatment as an inpatient or is able to be discharged from the hospital.

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

Optional Supplemental Benefits (OSB) – Non-Medicare-covered benefits that can be purchased for an additional premium and are not included in your package of benefits. You must voluntarily elect Optional Supplemental Benefits in order to get them.

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

Out-of-Network Provider or Out-of-Network Facility – A provider or facility that does not have a contract with our plan to coordinate or provide covered services to members of our plan. Out-of-network providers are providers that are not employed, owned, or operated by our plan.

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

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

Part C – see "Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan."

Part D – The voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Screening Tests – The primary purpose of screening tests is to detect early disease or risk factors for disease in large numbers of apparently healthy individuals.

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

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

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

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

Step Therapy – A utilization tool that requires you to first try another drug to treat your medical condition before we will cover the drug your physician may have initially prescribed.

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

Urgently Needed Services – Covered services that are not emergency services, provided when the network providers are temporarily unavailable or inaccessible or when the enrollee is out of the service area. For example, you need immediate care during the weekend. Services must be immediately needed and medically necessary.

Exhibit A - Oregon State Agency Contact Information

This section provides the contact information for the state agencies referenced in Chapter 2 and in other locations within this Evidence of Coverage. If you have trouble finding the information you are looking for, please contact Customer Service at the phone on the back cover of this document.

Agency	Contact Information
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)	**Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA)** Oregon Insurance Division P.O. Box 14480 Salem, OR 97309-0405 1-800-722-4134 SHIBA.Oregon@dhsoha.state.or.us https://shiba.oregon.gov/
Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)	**KEPRO** 5700 Lombardo Center Drive, Suite 100 Seven Hills, OH 44131 1-888-305-6759 TTY: 711 Fax: 1-844-878-7921 QIOCommunications@kepro.com https://www.keproqio.com/
State Medicaid Office	**Oregon Health Authority/Oregon Health Plan** 500 Summer St. NE E-20 Salem, OR 97301-1097 1-800-699-9075 TTY: 711 Fax: 1-503-378-5628 https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/OHP
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	**CAREAssist Program** 800 NE Oregon St., Ste 1105 Portland, OR 97232 1-800-805-2313 1-971-673-0144 Fax: 1-971-673-0177 care.assist@dhsoha.state.or.us https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/DiseasesConditions/HIVSTDViralHepatitis/HIVCareTreatment/CAREAssist/Pages/index.aspx

Exhibit A - Washington State Agency Contact Information

This section provides the contact information for the state agencies referenced in Chapter 2 and in other locations within this Evidence of Coverage. If you have trouble finding the information you are looking for, please contact Customer Service at the phone on the back cover of this document.

Agency	Contact Information
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)	**Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)** SHIBA Office of Insurance Commissioner P.O. Box 40255 Olympia, WA 98504-0255 1-800-562-6900 TDD: 360-586-0241 shibas@oic.wa.gov https://www.insurance.wa.gov/statewide-health-insurance-benefits-advisors-shiba
Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)	**KEPRO** 5700 Lombardo Center Drive, Suite 100 Seven Hills, OH 44131 1-888-305-6759 TTY: 711 Fax: 1-844-878-7921 QIOCommunications@kepro.com https://www.keproqio.com/
State Medicaid Office	**Washington State Health Care Authority** DSHS CSD - Customer Service Center P.O. Box 45531 Olympia, WA 98504 1-877-501-2233 TTY: 711 https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	**EIP - Early Intervention Program** EIP - Client Services P.O. Box 47841 Olympia, WA 98504-7841 1-877-376-9316 1-360-236-3426 Fax: 1-360-664-2216 ask.EIP@doh.wa.gov https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/hiv/hiv-care-client-services/early-intervention-program

Multi-Language Insert

Multi-language Interpreter Services

English: We have free interpreter services to answer any questions you may have about our health or drug plan. To get an interpreter, just call us at 1-800-541-8981. Someone who speaks English/Language can help you. This is a free service.

Spanish: Tenemos servicios de intérprete sin costo alguno para responder cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre nuestro plan de salud o medicamentos. Para hablar con un intérprete, por favor llame al 1-800-541-8981. Alguien que hable español le podrá ayudar. Este es un servicio gratuito.

Chinese Mandarin: 我们提供免费的翻译服务，帮助您解答关于健康或药物保险的任何疑 问。如果您需要此翻译服务，请致电 1-800-541-8981。我们的中文工作人员很乐意帮助您。 这是一项免费服务。

Chinese Cantonese: 您對我們的健康或藥物保險可能存有疑問，為此我們提供免費的翻譯 服務。如需翻譯服務，請致電 1-800-541-8981。我們講中文的人員將樂意為您提供幫助。這 是一項免費服務。

Tagalog: Mayroon kaming libreng serbisyo sa pagsasaling-wika upang masagot ang anumang mga katanungan ninyo hinggil sa aming planong pangkalusugan o panggamot. Upang makakuha ng tagasaling-wika, tawagan lamang kami sa 1-800-541-8981. Maaari kayong tulungan ng isang nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog. Ito ay libreng serbisyo.

French: Nous proposons des services gratuits d'interprétation pour répondre à toutes vos questions relatives à notre régime de santé ou d'assurance-médicaments. Pour accéder au service d'interprétation, il vous suffit de nous appeler au 1-800-541-8981. Un interlocuteur parlant Français pourra vous aider. Ce service est gratuit.

Vietnamese: Chúng tôi có dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí để trả lời các câu hỏi về chương sức khỏe và chương trình thuốc men. Nếu quí vị cần thông dịch viên xin gọi 1-800-541-8981 sẽ có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt giúp đỡ quí vị. Đây là dịch vụ miễn phí .

German: Unser kostenloser Dolmetscherservice beantwortet Ihren Fragen zu unserem Gesundheits- und Arzneimittelplan. Unsere Dolmetscher erreichen Sie unter 1-800-541-8981. Man wird Ihnen dort auf Deutsch weiterhelfen. Dieser Service ist kostenlos.

Korean: 당사는 의료 보험 또는 약품 보험에 관한 질문에 답해 드리고자 무료 통역 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다. 통역 서비스를 이용하려면 전화 1-800-541-8981 번으로 문의해 주십시오. 한국어를 하는 담당자가 도와 드릴 것입니다. 이 서비스는 무료로 운영됩니다.

Russian: Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно страхового или медикаментного плана, вы можете воспользоваться нашими бесплатными услугами переводчиков. Чтобы воспользоваться услугами переводчика, позвоните нам по телефону 1-800-541-8981. Вам окажет помощь сотрудник, который говорит по-русски. Данная услуга бесплатная.

Arabic: إننا نقدم خدمات المترجم الفوري المجانية للإجابة عن أي أسئلة تتعلق بالصحة أو جدول الأدوية لدينا. للحصول على متر جم فوري، ليس عليك سوى الاتصال بنا على 1-800-541-8981. سيقوم شخص ما يتحدث العربية بمساعدتك.هذه خدمة مجانية.

Hindi: हमारे स्वास्थ्य या दवा की योजना के बारे में आपके ककसी भी पर्श्न के जवाब देने के किए हमारे पास मुफ्त दुभाकिया सेवाएँ उपिब्ध हैं. एक दुभाकिया पर्ाप्त करने के किए, बस हमें 1-800-541-8981 पर फोन करें. कोई व्यकि्त जो कहन्दी बोिता है आपकी मदद कर सकता है. यह एक मुफ्त सेवा है.

Italian: È disponibile un servizio di interpretariato gratuito per rispondere a eventuali domande sul nostro piano sanitario e farmaceutico. Per un interprete, contattare il numero 1-800-541-8981. Un nostro incaricato che parla Italianovi fornirà l'assistenza necessaria. È un servizio gratuito.

Portuguese: Dispomos de serviços de interpretação gratuitos para responder a qualquer questão que tenha acerca do nosso plano de saúde ou de medicação. Para obter um intérprete, contacte-nos através do número 1-800-541-8981. Irá encontrar alguém que fale o idioma Português para o ajudar. Este serviço é gratuito.

French Creole: Nou genyen sèvis entèprèt gratis pou reponn tout kesyon ou ta genyen konsènan plan medikal oswa dwòg nou an. Pou jwenn yon entèprèt, jis rele nou nan 1-800-541-8981. Yon moun ki pale Kreyòl kapab ede w. Sa a se yon sèvis ki gratis.

Polish: Umożliwiamy bezpłatne skorzystanie z usług tłumacza ustnego, który pomoże w uzyskaniu odpowiedzi na temat planu zdrowotnego lub dawkowania leków. Aby skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza znającego język polski, należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-800-541-8981. Ta usługa jest bezpłatna.

Japanese: 当社の健康 健康保険と薬品 処方薬プランに関するご質問にお答えするため に、無料の通訳サービスがありますございます。通訳をご用命になるには、1-800-541-8981 にお電話ください。日本語を話す人 者 が支援いたします。これは無料のサー ビスです。

Regence Valiance Customer Service

Method	Customer Service – Contact Information
CALL	1-855-522-8896 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Live online chat assistance is also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. To access online chat, sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. From October 1 through March 31, our telephone hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Live online chat assistance is also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. To access online chat, sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us.
FAX	1-888-335-2985
WRITE	Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon P.O. Box 1827 MS B32G Medford, OR 97501 Live chat assistance and secure email is available through the member portal. Sign in at regence.com/medicare, select Support and click on Chat Now to connect with us. Live chat is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. Emails will receive a response within one business day.
WEBSITE	regence.com/medicare

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

SHIP is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. Contact information can be found in "Exhibit A" at the end of this document.