

Benefit Definitions

DEDUCTIBLE

An amount you could owe during a coverage period (usually one year) for covered health care services before your plan begins to pay. An overall deductible applies to all or almost all covered items and services. A plan with an overall deductible may also have separate deductibles that apply to specific services or groups of services. A plan may also have only separate deductibles. (For example, if your deductible is \$1,000, your plan won't pay anything until you've met your \$1,000 deductible for covered health care services subject to the deductible.)

COINSURANCE

Your share of the costs of a covered health care service, calculated as a percentage (for example, 20%) of the allowed amount for the service. You generally pay coinsurance plus any deductibles you owe. (For example, if the health insurance or plan's allowed amount for an office visit is \$100 and you've met your deductible, your coinsurance payment of 20% would be \$20. The health insurance or plan pays the rest of the allowed amount.)

OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM

The most you could pay during a coverage period (usually one year) for your share of the costs of covered services. After you meet this limit, the plan will usually pay 100% of the allowed amount. This limit helps you plan for health care costs. This limit never includes your premium, balance-billed charges or health care your plan doesn't cover.

COPAYMENT

A fixed amount (for example, \$15) you pay for a covered health care service, usually when you receive the service (sometimes called "copay"). The amount can vary by the type of covered health care service.

NETWORK

The facilities, providers and suppliers your health insurer or plan has contracted with to provide health care services.

NETWORK PROVIDER

A provider who has a contract with your health insurer or plan who has agreed to provide services to members of a plan. You will pay less if you see a provider in the network. Also called "preferred provider" or "participating provider." There is no first dollar coverage with the exception of preventative services.

PROVIDER

An individual or facility that provides health care services. Some examples of a provider include a doctor, nurse, chiropractor, physician assistant, hospital, surgical center, skilled nursing facility, and rehabilitation center. The plan may require the provider to be licensed, certified, or accredited as required by state law.

OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER

A provider who doesn't have a contract with your plan to provide services. If your plan covers out-of-network services, you'll usually pay more to see an out-of-network provider than a preferred provider. Your policy will explain what those costs may be. May also be called "non-preferred" or "non-participating" instead of "out-of-network provider."

REFERRAL

A written order from your primary care provider for you to see a specialist or get certain health care services. In many health maintenance organizations (HMOs), you may need to get a referral before you can get health care services from anyone except your primary care provider. If you don't get a referral first, the plan may not pay for the services.

PREMIUM

You typically pay premiums through payroll deductions.