Choice POS II and Traditional Choice Medical Plans 2027

Booklet

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Third Party Administrative Services provided by
Aetna Life Insurance Company

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Schedule of benefits Issued with your booklet

Welcome

At Aetna®, your health goals lead the way, so we're joining you to put them first. We believe that whatever you decide to do for your health, you can do it with the right support. And no matter where you are on this personal journey, it's our job to enable you to feel the joy of achieving your best health.

Welcome to Aetna.

Introduction

This is your booklet. It describes your **covered services** – what they are and how to get them. It also describes how we manage the plan, according to our policies, and applicable laws and regulations. The schedule of benefits tells you how we share expenses for **covered services** and explains any limits. Together, these documents describe the benefits covered by the SERS self-funded health benefit. Each may have amendments attached to them. These change or add to the document. This booklet takes the place of any others sent to you before.

It's really important that you read the entire booklet and your schedule of benefits.

If your coverage under any part of this plan replaces coverage under another plan, your coverage for benefits provided under the other coverage may reduce benefits paid by this plan. See the *Coordination of benefits - Effect of prior plan coverage* section.

If you need help or more information, see the *Contact us* section below.

How we use words

When we use:

- "You" and "your", we mean you and any covered dependents (if your plan allows dependent coverage)
- "Us," "we," and "our", we mean Aetna Life Insurance Company (Aetna)
- Words that are in bold, these are defined in the *Glossary* section

Contact us

Your plan includes the Aetna concierge program. It provides immediate access to consultants trained in the specific details of your plan.

For questions about your plan, you can contact us by:

- Calling the toll-free number on your ID card
- Writing us at 151 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT, 06156
- Visiting https://www.aetna.com to access your member website

Your member website is available 24/7. With your member website, you can:

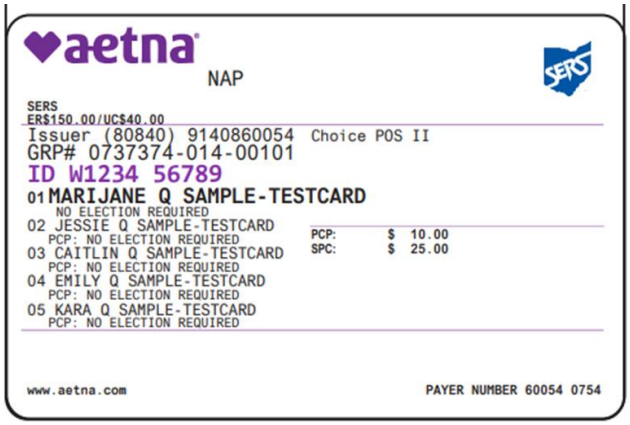
- See your coverage, benefits and costs
- Print an ID card and various forms
- Find a **provider**, research **providers**, care and treatment options
- View and manage claims
- Find information on health and wellness

Your ID card

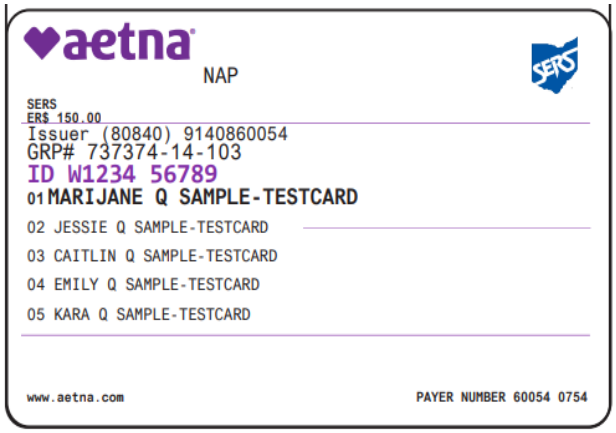
Show your ID card each time you get **covered services** from a **provider**. Only members on your plan can use your ID card. We will mail you your ID card. If you haven't received it before you need **covered services**, or if you lose it, you can print a temporary one using your member website.

Your ID card will be similar to those shown below, depending on the plan in which you are enrolled.

Choice POS II Medical Plan



Traditional Choice Medical Plan



Discount arrangements

We can offer you discounts on health care related goods or services. Sometimes, other companies provide these discounted goods and services. These companies are called "third-party service providers". These third-party service providers may pay us so that they can offer you their services.

Third-party service providers are independent contractors. The third-party service provider is responsible for the goods or services they deliver. We are not responsible; but we have the right to change or end the arrangements at any time.

These discount arrangements are not insurance. We don't pay the third-party service providers for the services they offer. You are responsible for paying for the discounted goods or services.

Coverage and exclusions

Providing covered services

Your plan provides **covered services**. These are:

- Described in this section
- Not listed as an exclusion in this section or the *General plan exclusions* section
- Not beyond any limits in the schedule of benefits
- **Medically necessary**. See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section and the *Glossary* for more information.
- Services that are not prohibited by law. See *Services not permitted by law* in the *General plan exclusions* section for more information.

This plan provides coverage for many kinds of **covered services**, such as a doctor's care and **hospital stays**, but some services aren't covered at all or are limited. For other services, the plan pays more of the expense. For example:

- **Physician** care generally is covered but **physician** care for cosmetic **surgery** is never covered. This is an exclusion.
- Home health care is generally covered but may only be covered up to a set number of visits per year. This is a limitation. You can find out about limitations for **covered services** in the schedule of benefits.
- Your **provider** may recommend services that are considered **experimental**, **investigational**, or unproven services. But an **experimental**, **investigational**, or unproven service is not covered and is also an exclusion, unless it is recognized as part of an approved clinical trial when you have cancer or a **terminal illness**. See *Clinical trials* in the list of services below.
- Preventive services. Usually the plan pays more, and you pay less. Preventive services are designed to help keep you healthy, supporting you in achieving your best health. To find out what these services are, see *Preventive care* in the list of services below. To find out how much you will pay for these services, see *Preventive care* in your schedule of benefits.

Some services require **precertification** from us. For more information see the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section. The precertification requirement does not apply to you if you are enrolled in Medicare.

The **covered services** and exclusions below appear alphabetically to make it easier to find what you're looking for. If a service isn't listed here as a **covered service** or is listed as not covered under a specific service, it still may be covered. If you have questions, ask your **provider** or contact us.

Important note:

- We develop and maintain clinical policy bulletins that describe the generally accepted standards of medical practice, credible scientific evidence, and prevailing clinical guidelines that support our decisions regarding specific services. We use these bulletins and other resources to help guide individualized coverage decisions under our plans and to determine whether an intervention is **medically necessary, experimental, investigational, or unproven**. They are subject to change. You can find these bulletins and other information at https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html. You can also contact us. See the *Contact us* section for how.
- We cover **medically necessary**, sex-specific **covered services** regardless of identified gender.

Acupuncture

Covered services include acupuncture services provided by a **physician** if the service is provided as a form of anesthesia in connection with a covered **surgical procedure**.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Acupuncture, other than for anesthesia
- Acupressure

Ambulance services

An ambulance is a vehicle staffed by medical personnel and is equipped to transport an ill or injured person by ground, air, or water.

Emergency

Covered services include emergency transportation when your condition is unstable and requires medical supervision and rapid transport. These emergency ambulance services are limited to transportation by a licensed ambulance:

- To the first facility to provide **emergency services**
- From one facility to another if the first can't provide the **emergency services** you need

Non-emergency

Covered services also include non-emergency transportation when an ambulance is the only safe way to transport you. These non-emergency ambulance services are limited to transportation by a licensed ambulance:

- To the nearest facility able to treat your condition
- From a facility to your home by ground ambulance

The following are not **covered services**:

- Ambulance services for non-emergency transportation, except as described in the section above
- Ambulance services for routine transportation to receive outpatient or inpatient services

Applied behavior analysis

Covered services include applied behavior analysis for a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Applied behavior analysis is a process of applying interventions that:

- Systematically change behavior
- Are responsible for observable improvements in behavior

Autism spectrum disorder

Autism spectrum disorder is defined in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association.

Covered services include services and supplies provided by a **physician** or **behavioral health provider** for:

- The diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy associated with the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder

Behavioral health

Mental health treatment

Covered services include the treatment of **mental health disorders** provided by a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, **residential treatment facility**, **physician,** or **behavioral health provider** including:

- Inpatient **room and board** at the **semi-private room rate** (your plan will cover the extra expense of a private room when appropriate because of your medical condition), and other services and supplies related to your condition that are provided during your **stay** in a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, or **residential treatment facility**
- Outpatient treatment received while not confined as an inpatient in a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, or **residential treatment facility**, including:
  - Office visits to a **physician** or **behavioral health provider** such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or licensed professional counselor (includes **telemedicine** consultation)
  - Individual, group, and family therapies for the treatment of **mental health disorders**
  - Other outpatient mental health treatment such as:
    - Partial hospitalization treatment provided in a facility or program for mental health treatment provided under the direction of a **physician**
    - Intensive outpatient program provided in a facility or program for mental health treatment provided under the direction of a **physician**
    - Skilled behavioral health services provided in the home, but only when all of the following criteria are met:
      - You are homebound
      - Your **physician** orders them
      - The services take the place of a **stay** in a **hospital** or a **residential treatment facility**, or you are unable to receive the same services outside your home
      - The skilled behavioral health care is appropriate for the active treatment of a condition, illness, or disease
    - Electro-convulsive therapy (ECT)
    - Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)
    - Psychological testing
    - Neuropsychological testing
    - Observation
    - Peer counseling support by a peer support specialist (including **telemedicine** consultation)

Substance related disorders treatment

Covered services include the treatment of **substance related disorders** provided by a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, **residential treatment facility**, **physician**, or **behavioral health provider** as follows:

- Inpatient **room and board**, at the **semi-private room rate** (your plan will cover the extra expense of a private room when appropriate because of your medical condition), and other services and supplies that are provided during your **stay** in a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, or **residential treatment facility**.
- Outpatient treatment received while not confined as an inpatient in a **hospital**, **psychiatric hospital**, or **residential treatment facility**, including:
  - Office visits to a **physician** or **behavioral health provider** such as a psychologist, social worker, or licensed professional counselor (includes **telemedicine** consultation)
  - Individual, group, and family therapies for the treatment of **substance related disorders**
  - Other outpatient **substance related disorders** treatment such as:
    - Partial hospitalization treatment provided in a facility or program for treatment of **substance related disorders** provided under the direction of a **physician**
    - Intensive outpatient program provided in a facility or program for treatment of **substance related disorders** provided under the direction of a **physician**

- Skilled behavioral health services provided in the home, but only when all of the following criteria are met:
  - You are homebound
  - Your **physician** orders them
  - The services take the place of a **stay** in a **hospital** or a **residential treatment facility**, or you are unable to receive the same services outside your home
  - The skilled behavioral health care is appropriate for the active treatment of a condition, illness, or disease
- Ambulatory or outpatient **detoxification** which includes outpatient services that monitor withdrawal from alcohol or other substances, including administration of medications
- Observation
- Peer counseling support by a peer support specialist (including **telemedicine** consultation)

Behavioral health important note:
A peer support specialist serves as a role model, mentor, coach, and advocate. A peer support specialist must be supervised by a **behavioral health provider**.

Clinical trials

Routine patient costs

Covered services include routine patient costs you have from a **provider** in connection with participation in an approved clinical trial as defined in the federal Public Health Service Act, Section 2709.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services and supplies related to data collection and record-keeping needed only for the clinical trial
- Services and supplies provided by the trial sponsor for free
- The experimental intervention itself (except Category B investigational devices and promising experimental or investigational interventions for **terminal illnesses** in certain clinical trials in accordance with our policies)

Experimental or investigational therapies

Covered services include drugs, devices, treatments, or procedures from a **provider** under an "approved clinical trial" only when you have cancer or a **terminal illness**. All of the following conditions must be met:

- Standard therapies have not been effective or are not appropriate
- We determine you may benefit from the treatment

An approved clinical trial is one that meets all of these requirements:

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the drug, device, treatment, or procedure to be investigated or has granted it investigational new drug (IND) or group c/treatment IND status, when this is required
- The clinical trial has been approved by an institutional review board that will oversee it
- The clinical trial is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) or similar federal organization and:
  - It conforms to standards of the NCI or other applicable federal organization
  - It takes place at an NCI-designated cancer center or at more than one institution
- You are treated in accordance with the procedures of that study

Diabetic services, equipment, and self-care programs

Covered services include:

- Services
  - Foot care to minimize the risk of infection
- Equipment
  - External insulin pumps and pump supplies
- Prescribed self-care programs with a health care **provider** certified in diabetes self-care training

Durable medical equipment (DME)

Covered services are DME and the accessories needed to operate it when:

- Made to withstand prolonged use
- Mainly used in the treatment of illness or injury
- Suited for use in the home
- Not normally used by people who do not have an illness or injury
- Not for altering air quality or temperature
- Not for exercise or training

Your plan only covers the same type of DME that Medicare covers. But, there are some DME items Medicare covers that your plan does not.

Covered services include the expense of renting or buying DME and accessories you need to operate the item from a DME supplier. If you purchase DME, that purchase is only covered if you need it for long-term use.

Covered services also include:

- One item of DME for the same or similar purpose
- Repairing DME due to normal wear and tear
- A new DME item you need because your physical condition has changed
- Buying a new DME item to replace one that was damaged due to normal wear, if it would be cheaper than repairing it or renting a similar item

The following are not **covered services**:

- Communication aid
- Elevator
- Maintenance and repairs that result from misuse or abuse
- Massage table
- Message device (personal voice recorder)
- Over bed table
- Portable whirlpool pump
- Sauna bath
- Telephone alert system
- Vision aid
- Whirlpool

Emergency services

When you experience an **emergency medical condition**, you should go to the nearest emergency room. You can also dial 911 or your local emergency response service for medical and ambulance help.

Covered services include only outpatient services to evaluate and stabilize an **emergency medical condition** in a **hospital** emergency room or an independent freestanding emergency department. For those plans that use a network of providers, you can get **emergency services** from network or **out-of-network providers**.

Your coverage for **emergency services** will continue until the following conditions are met:

- You are evaluated and your condition is stabilized and
- Your attending **physician** determines that you are medically able to travel or be transported, by non-medical or non-emergency transportation, to another **provider** if you need more care

If your **physician** decides you need to stay in the **hospital** (emergency admission) or receive follow-up care, these are not **emergency services**. Different benefits and requirements apply. See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity requirements* section (section may also include details on referral and precertification requirements) and the *Coverage and exclusions* section that fits your situation (for example, *Hospital care* or *Physician services*). You can also contact us or your **physician**.

Non-emergency services

If you go to an emergency room for what is not an **emergency medical condition**, the plan may not cover your expenses. See the schedule of benefits for more information.

Family planning services

Covered services include certain family planning services provided by your **physician** such as:

- Female voluntary sterilization procedures and related services and supplies. This also could include tubal ligation and sterilization implants.
- Voluntary sterilization for males

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services and supplies provided for an abortion except when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or if it places the woman's life in serious danger
- Reversal of voluntary sterilization procedures including related follow-up care

Gender affirming treatment

Covered services include gender affirming treatment. The services must follow a specific treatment plan ordered by your **provider** and include:

- Behavioral health counseling
- Hormone therapy
- **Surgery** such as:
  - Breast removal or augmentation
  - Removal of testicles, uterus, ovaries
  - Genital reconstruction

Habilitation therapy services

Habilitation therapy services are services needed to keep, learn or improve your skills and functioning for daily living (e.g., therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age). The services must follow a specific treatment plan, ordered by your **physician**. The services have to be performed by a:

- Licensed or certified physical, occupational or speech therapist
- **Hospital**, **skilled nursing facility** or hospice facility
- **Home health care agency**
- **Physician**

Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapies

Covered services include:

- Physical therapy if it is expected to develop any impaired function
- Occupational therapy if it is expected to develop any impaired function
- Speech therapy if it is expected to develop speech function that resulted from delayed development (Speech function is the ability to express thoughts, speak words and form sentences.)

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services provided in an educational or training setting or to teach sign language
- Vocational rehabilitation or employment counseling

Hearing aids

Hearing aid means:

- Any wearable, non-disposable instrument or device designed to aid or make up for impaired hearing
- Parts, attachments, or accessories

Covered services include prescribed hearing aids and the following hearing aid services:

- Audiometric hearing visit and evaluation for a hearing aid **prescription** performed by:
  - A **physician** certified as an otolaryngologist or otologist
  - An audiologist who:
    - Is legally qualified in audiology
    - Holds a certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology from the American Speech and Hearing Association in the absence of any licensing requirements
    - Performs the exam at the written direction of a legally qualified otolaryngologist or otologist
- Electronic hearing aids, installed in accordance with a **prescription** written during a covered hearing exam
- Replacement parts or repairs for a hearing aid
- Any other related services necessary to access, select, and adjust or fit a hearing aid

The following are not **covered services**:

- Replacement of a hearing aid that is lost, stolen or broken
- Batteries or cords
- A hearing aid that does not meet the specifications prescribed for correction of hearing loss

Hearing exams

Covered services include hearing exams for evaluation and treatment of illness, injury or hearing loss when performed by a hearing **specialist**.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Hearing exams given during a **stay** in a **hospital** or other facility, except those provided to newborns as part of the overall **hospital stay**

Home health care

Covered services include home health care provided by a **home health care agency** in the home, but only when all of the following criteria are met:

- You are homebound
- Your **physician** orders them
- The services take the place of a **stay** in a **hospital** or a **skilled nursing facility**, or you are unable to receive the same services outside your home
- The services are a part of a home health care plan
- The services are skilled nursing services, home health aide services or medical social services, or are short-term speech, physical or occupational therapy
- Home health aide services are provided under the supervision of a registered nurse
- Medical social services are provided by or supervised by a **physician** or social worker

Skilled nursing services are services provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse within the scope of their license.

If you are discharged from a **hospital** or **skilled nursing facility** after a **stay**, the intermittent requirement may be waived to allow coverage for continuous skilled nursing services. See the schedule of benefits for more information on the intermittent requirement.

Short-term physical, speech, and occupational therapy provided in the home are subject to the same conditions and limitations imposed on therapy provided outside the home. See *Rehabilitation services* and *Habilitation therapy services* in this section and the schedule of benefits.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Custodial care
- Services provided outside of the home (such as in conjunction with school, vacation, work, or recreational activities)
- Transportation

Hospice care

Covered services include inpatient and outpatient hospice care when given as part of a hospice care program. The types of hospice care services that are eligible for coverage include:

- **Room and board**
- Services and supplies furnished to you on an inpatient or outpatient basis
- Services by a hospice care agency or hospice care provided in a **hospital**
- Psychological and dietary counseling
- Pain management and symptom control
- Bereavement counseling
- Respite care

Hospice care services provided by the **providers** below will be covered, even if the **providers** are not an employee of the hospice care agency responsible for your care:

- A **physician** for consultation or case management
- A physical or occupational therapist
- A **home health care agency** for:
  - Physical and occupational therapy
  - Medical supplies
  - Outpatient **prescription** drugs
  - Psychological counseling
  - Dietary counseling

The following are not **covered services**:

- Funeral arrangements
- Pastoral counseling
- Financial or legal counseling including estate planning and the drafting of a will
- Homemaker services, caretaker services, or any other services not solely related to your care, which may include:
  - Sitter or companion services for you or other family members
  - Transportation
  - Maintenance of the house

Hospital care

Covered services include inpatient and outpatient **hospital** care. This includes:

- Semi-private **room and board** (your plan will cover the extra expense of a private room when appropriate because of your medical condition)
- Services and supplies provided by the outpatient department of a **hospital**, including the facility charge
- Services of **physicians** employed by the **hospital**
- Administration of blood and blood products

The following are not **covered services**:

- All services and supplies provided in:
  - Rest homes
  - Any place considered a person's main residence or providing mainly custodial or rest care
  - Health resorts
  - Spas
  - Schools or camps

Infertility services

Basic infertility

Covered services include seeing a **provider:**

- To diagnose and evaluate the underlying medical cause of infertility.
- To do **surgery** to treat the underlying medical cause of infertility. Examples are endometriosis **surgery** or, for men, varicocele **surgery**.

Infertility services exclusions:

The following are not **covered services**:

- All infertility services associated with or in support of an ovulation induction cycle while on injectable medication to stimulate the ovaries. This includes, but is not limited to, imaging, laboratory services, and professional services.
- Intrauterine (IUI)/intracervical insemination (ICI) services.

- Infertility medication.
- All charges associated with or in support of surrogacy arrangements for you or the surrogate. A surrogate is a female carrying her own genetically related child with the intention of the child being raised by someone else, including the biological father.
- Home ovulation prediction kits or home pregnancy tests.
- The purchase of donor embryos, donor eggs or donor sperm.
- Obtaining sperm from a person not covered under this plan.
- Infertility treatment when a successful pregnancy could have been obtained through less costly treatment.
- Infertility treatment when either partner has had voluntary sterilization **surgery**, with or without surgical reversal, regardless of post reversal results. This includes tubal ligation, hysterectomy and vasectomy only if obtained as a form of voluntary sterilization.
- Infertility treatment when infertility is due to a natural physiologic process such as age related ovarian insufficiency (e.g., perimenopause, menopause).

Jaw joint disorder treatment

Covered services include the diagnosis and surgical treatment of **jaw joint disorder** by a **provider**, including:

- The jaw joint itself, such as temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMJ) syndrome
- The relationship between the jaw joint and related muscle and nerves, such as myofascial pain dysfunction (MPD)

The following are not **covered services**:

- Non-surgical medical and dental services, and therapeutic services related to **jaw joint disorder**

Maternity and related newborn care

Covered services include pregnancy (prenatal) care, care after delivery and obstetrical services. After your child is born, **covered services** include:

- No less than 48 hours of inpatient care in a **hospital** after a vaginal delivery
- No less than 96 hours of inpatient care in a **hospital** after a cesarean delivery
- A shorter **stay**, if the attending **physician**, with the consent of the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier

If the mother is discharged earlier, the plan will pay for 1 home visits after delivery by a health care **provider**. **Covered services** also include services and supplies needed for circumcision by a **provider**.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Any services and supplies related to births that take place in the home or in any other place not licensed to perform deliveries

Obesity surgery and services

Obesity **surgery** is a type of procedure performed on people who are morbidly obese for the purpose of losing weight. Your **physician** will determine whether you qualify for obesity **surgery**.

Covered services include:

- An initial medical history and physical exam
- Diagnostic tests given or ordered during the first exam
- Outpatient **prescription** drugs included under the *Prescription drugs – outpatient* section
- An obesity **surgical procedure**

- A multi-stage procedure when planned and approved by the plan
- Adjustments after an approved lap band procedure, including approved adjustments in an office or outpatient setting

The following are not **covered services:**

- Weight management treatment
- Drugs intended to decrease or increase body weight, control weight or treat obesity except as described in the booklet.
- Preventive care services for obesity screening and weight management interventions, regardless of whether there are other related conditions. This includes:
  - Drugs, stimulants, preparations, foods or diet supplements, dietary regimens and supplements, food supplements, appetite suppressants and other medications
  - Hypnosis, or other forms of therapy
- Exercise programs, exercise equipment, membership to health or fitness clubs, recreational therapy or other forms of activity or activity enhancement

Oral and maxillofacial treatment (mouth, jaws and teeth)

Covered services include the following when provided by a **physician**, dentist and **hospital**:

- Cutting out:
  - Cysts, tumors, or other diseased tissues
- Cutting into gums and tissues of the mouth.
  - Only when not associated with the removal, replacement or repair of teeth

Outpatient surgery

Covered services include services provided and supplies used in connection with outpatient **surgery** performed in a **surgery** center or a **hospital's** outpatient department.

Important note:
Some **surgeries** can be done safely in a **physician's** office. For those **surgeries**, your plan will pay only for **physician**, **PCP** services and not for a separate fee for facilities.

The following are not **covered services**:

- A **stay** in a **hospital** (see *Hospital care* in this section)
- Services of another **physician** for the administration of a local anesthetic

Physician services

Covered services include services by your **physician** to treat an illness or injury. You can get services:

- At the **physician's** office
- In your home
- In a **hospital**
- From any other inpatient or outpatient facility
- By way of **telemedicine**

Important note:
For behavioral health services, all in-person, **covered services** with a **behavioral health provider** are also **covered services** if you use **telemedicine** instead.

Telemedicine may have a different cost share from other **physician** services. See your schedule of benefits.

Other services and supplies that your **physician** may provide:

- Allergy testing and allergy injections
- Radiological supplies, services, and tests
- Immunizations that are not covered as preventive care

Physician surgical services

Covered services include the services of:

- The surgeon who performs your **surgery**
- Your surgeon who you visit before and after the **surgery**
- Another surgeon who you go to for a second opinion before the **surgery**

The following are not **covered services**:

- A **stay** in a **hospital** (See *Hospital care* in this section)
- A separate facility charge for **surgery** performed in a **physician's** office
- Services of another **physician** for the administration of a local anesthetic

Preventive care

Preventive **covered services** are designed to help keep you healthy, supporting you in achieving your best health through early detection. If you need further services or testing such as diagnostic testing, you may pay more as these services aren't preventive. If a **covered service** isn't listed here under preventive care, it still may be covered under other **covered services** in this section. For more information, see your schedule of benefits.

The following agencies set forth the preventive care guidelines in this section:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- American Academy of Pediatrics/Bright Futures/Health Resources and Services Administration guidelines for children and adolescents

These recommendations and guidelines may be updated periodically. When updated, they will apply to this plan. The updates are effective on the first day of the year, one year after the updated recommendation or guideline is issued.

For frequencies and limits, contact your **physician** or us. This information is also available at https://www.healthcare.gov/.

Important note:
Gender-specific preventive care benefits include **covered services** described regardless of the sex you were assigned at birth, your gender identity, or your recorded gender.

Breast-feeding support and counseling services

Covered services include assistance and training in breast-feeding and counseling services during pregnancy or after delivery. Your plan will cover this counseling only when you get it from a certified breast-feeding support **provider**.

Breast pump, accessories and supplies

Covered services include renting or buying equipment you need to pump and store breast milk.

Coverage for the purchase of breast pump equipment is limited to one item of equipment, for the same or similar purpose, and the accessories and supplies needed to operate the item. You are responsible for the entire cost of any additional pieces of the same or similar equipment you purchase or rent for personal convenience or mobility.

Counseling services

Covered services include preventive screening and counseling by your **health professional** for:

- Alcohol or drug misuse
  - Preventive counseling and risk factor reduction intervention
  - Structured assessment
- Genetic risk for breast and ovarian cancer
- Obesity and healthy diet
  - Preventive counseling and risk factor reduction intervention
  - Nutritional counseling
  - Healthy diet counseling provided in connection with hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol) and other known risk factors for cardiovascular and diet-related chronic disease
- Sexually transmitted infection
- Tobacco cessation
  - Preventive counseling to help stop using tobacco products
  - Treatment visits
  - Class visits

Family planning services – female contraceptives

Covered services include family planning services as follows:

- Counseling services provided by a **physician** or other **provider** on contraceptive methods. These will be covered when you get them in either a group or individual setting.
- Contraceptive devices (including any related services or supplies) when they are prescribed, provided, administered, or removed by a **health professional**.
- Voluntary sterilization including charges billed separately by the **provider** for female voluntary sterilization procedures and related services and supplies. This also could include tubal ligation and sterilization implants.

The following are not preventive **covered services**:

- Services provided as a result of complications resulting from a voluntary sterilization procedure and related follow-up care
- Any contraceptive methods that are only “reviewed” by the FDA and not “approved” by the FDA
- Male contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures or devices

Immunizations

Covered services include preventive immunizations for infectious diseases.

The following are not preventive **covered services**:

- Immunizations that are not considered preventive care, such as those required due to your employment or travel

Prenatal care

Covered services include your routine pregnancy physical exams at the **physician**, **PCP**, OB, GYN or OB/GYN office. The exams include initial and subsequent visits for:

- Anemia screening
- Blood pressure
- Chlamydia infection screening
- Fetal heart rate check
- Fundal height
- Gestational diabetes screening
- Gonorrhea screening
- Hepatitis B screening
- Maternal weight
- Rh incompatibility screening

Routine cancer screenings

Covered services include the following routine cancer screenings:

- Colonoscopies including pre-procedure **specialist** consultation, removal of polyps during a screening procedure, and a pathology exam on any removed polyp
- Digital rectal exams (DRE)
- Double contrast barium enemas (DCBE)
- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT)
- Lung cancer screenings
- Breast cancer screenings including initial screening mammograms, and if necessary to complete the screening process, additional imaging (e.g., MRI, ultrasound, mammography) and pathology evaluation
- Prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests
- Sigmoidoscopies

Routine physical exams

A routine preventive exam is a medical exam given for a reason other than to diagnose or treat a suspected or identified illness or injury and also includes:

- Evidence-based items that have in effect a rating of A or B in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.
- Services as recommended in the American Academy of Pediatrics/Bright Futures/Health Resources and Services Administration guidelines for children and adolescents.
- Screenings and counseling services as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines recommended by the Health Resources and Services Administration. These services may include but are not limited to:
  - Screening and counseling services on topics such as:
    - Interpersonal and domestic violence
    - Sexually transmitted diseases
    - Human immune deficiency virus (HIV) infections
  - High risk human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing for women

Covered services include:

- Office visit to a **physician**
- Hearing screening
- Vision screening
- Radiological services, lab and other tests
- For covered newborns, an initial **hospital** checkup

Well woman preventive visits

A routine well woman preventive exam is a medical exam given for a reason other than to diagnose or treat a suspected or identified illness or injury and also includes:

- Office visit to a **physician**, **PCP**, OB, GYN or OB/GYN for services including Pap smears
- Preventive care breast cancer (BRCA) gene blood testing
- Screening for diabetes after pregnancy for women with a history of diabetes during pregnancy
- Screening for urinary incontinence

Private duty nursing - outpatient

Covered services include private duty nursing care provided by an R.N. or L.P.N. when:

- You are homebound
- Your **physician** orders services as part of a written treatment plan
- Services take the place of a **hospital** or **skilled nursing facility stay**
- Your condition is serious, unstable, and requires continuous skilled 1-on-1 nursing care
- Periodic skilled nursing visits are not adequate

The following are not **covered services**:

- Inpatient private duty nursing care
- Care provided outside the home
- Maintenance or custodial care
- Care for your convenience or the convenience of the family caregiver

Prosthetic device

A prosthetic device is a device that temporarily or permanently replaces all or part of an external body part lost or impaired as a result of illness, injury or congenital defects.

Covered services include the initial provision and subsequent replacement of a prosthetic device that your **physician** orders and administers, including cochlear implants when medically necessary.

Coverage includes:

- Instruction and other services (such as attachment or insertion) so you can properly use the device
- Repairing or replacing the original device you outgrow or that is no longer appropriate because your physical condition changed
- Replacements required by ordinary wear and tear or damage

If you receive a prosthetic device as part of another **covered service**, it will not be covered under this benefit.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Orthopedic shoes and therapeutic shoes, unless the orthopedic shoe is an integral part of a covered leg brace
- Trusses, corsets, and other support items
- Repair and replacement due to loss, misuse, abuse or theft

Reconstructive breast surgery and supplies

Covered services include all stages of reconstructive **surgery** by your **provider** and related supplies provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting only in the following circumstances:

- Your **surgery** reconstructs the breast where a necessary mastectomy was performed, such as an implant and areolar reconstruction. It also includes:
  - **Surgery** on a healthy breast to make it symmetrical with the reconstructed breast
  - Treatment of physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedema
  - Prostheses

Reconstructive surgery and supplies

Covered services include all stages of reconstructive **surgery** by your **provider** and related supplies provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting only in the following circumstances:

- Your **surgery** is to implant or attach a covered prosthetic device.
- Your **surgery** corrects a gross anatomical defect present at birth. The **surgery** will be covered if:
  - The defect results in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part, and
  - The purpose of the **surgery** is to improve function
- Your **surgery** is needed because treatment of your illness resulted in severe facial disfigurement or major functional impairment of a body part, and your **surgery** will improve function.

Accidental injury to natural teeth

Covered services also include the procedures or **surgery** to sound natural teeth, injured due to an accident and performed as soon as medically possible, when:

- The teeth were stable, functional and free from decay or disease at the time of the injury
- The surgery or procedure returns the injured teeth to how they functioned before the accident

These accident-related dental services are limited to:

- The first placement of a permanent crown or cap to repair a broken tooth
- The first placement of dentures or bridgework to replace lost teeth
- Orthodontic therapy to pre-position teeth

Short-term cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services

Cardiac rehabilitation

Covered services include cardiac rehabilitation services you receive at a **hospital**, **skilled nursing facility** or **physician's** office, but only if those services are part of a treatment plan determined by your risk level and ordered by your **physician**.

Pulmonary rehabilitation

Covered services include pulmonary rehabilitation services as part of your inpatient **hospital stay** if they are part of a treatment plan ordered by your **physician**. A course of outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation may also be covered if it is performed at a **hospital**, **skilled nursing facility**, or **physician's** office, is used to treat reversible pulmonary disease states, and is part of a treatment plan ordered by your **physician**.

Short-term rehabilitation services

Short-term rehabilitation services are services needed to restore or develop your skills and functioning for daily living. The services must follow a specific treatment plan, ordered by your **physician**. The services have to be performed by a:

- Licensed or certified physical, occupational, or speech therapist
- **Hospital**, **skilled nursing facility**, or hospice facility
- **Home health care agency**
- **Physician**

Covered services include:

- Spinal manipulation to correct a muscular or skeletal problem. Your **provider** must establish or approve a treatment plan that details the treatment and specifies frequency and duration.

Cognitive rehabilitation, physical, occupational, and speech therapy

Covered services include:

- Physical therapy, but only if it is expected to significantly improve or restore physical functions lost as a result of an acute illness, injury, or **surgical procedure**
- Occupational therapy, but only if it is expected to do one of the following:
  - Significantly improve, develop, or restore physical functions you lost as a result of an acute illness, injury, or **surgical procedure**
  - Help you relearn skills so you can significantly improve your ability to perform the activities of daily living on your own
- Speech therapy, but only if it is expected to do one of the following:
  - Significantly improve or restore lost speech function or correct a speech impairment resulting from an acute illness, injury, or **surgical procedure**
  - Improve delays in speech function development caused by a gross anatomical defect present at birth (Speech function is the ability to express thoughts, speak words and form sentences. Speech impairment is difficulty with expressing one's thoughts with spoken words.)
- Cognitive rehabilitation associated with physical rehabilitation, but only when:
  - Your cognitive deficits are caused by neurologic impairment due to trauma, stroke, or encephalopathy
  - The therapy is coordinated with us as part of a treatment plan intended to restore previous cognitive function

Short-term physical, speech and occupational therapy services provided in an outpatient setting are subject to the same conditions and limitations for outpatient short-term rehabilitation services. See the *Short-term rehabilitation services* section in the schedule of benefits.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services provided in an educational or training setting or to teach sign language
- Vocational rehabilitation or employment counseling

Skilled nursing facility

Covered services include inpatient **skilled nursing facility** care. This includes:

- **Room and board**, up to the **semi-private room rate**
- Services and supplies provided during a **stay** in a **skilled nursing facility**

Specialty prescription drugs

Covered services include **specialty prescription drugs** when they are:

- Purchased by your **provider**
- Injected or infused by your **provider** in an outpatient setting such as:
  - A freestanding outpatient facility
  - The outpatient department of a **hospital**
  - A **physician** in the office
  - A home care **provider** in your home

Telemedicine

Covered services include **telemedicine** consultations when provided by a **physician**, **specialist**, **behavioral health provider** or other **telemedicine provider** acting within the scope of their license.

Covered services for **telemedicine** consultations are available from a number of different kinds of **providers** under your plan. Log in to your member website at https://www.aetna.com/ to review our **telemedicine provider** listing and contact us to get more information about your options, including specific cost sharing amounts.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Telephone calls, except for certain **physician** consultations
- **Telemedicine** kiosks
- Electronic vital signs monitoring or exchanges (e.g., Tele-ICU, Tele-stroke)

Tests, images and labs - outpatient

Diagnostic complex imaging services

Covered services include:

- Computed tomography (CT) scans, including for preoperative testing
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) including magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS), magnetic resonance venography (MRV) and magnetic resonance angiogram (MRA)
- Nuclear medicine imaging including positron emission tomography (PET) scans
- Other imaging service where the billed charge exceeds $500

Complex imaging for preoperative testing is covered under this benefit.

Diagnostic lab work

Covered services include:

- Lab
- Pathology
- Other tests

These are covered only when you get them from a licensed radiology **provider** or lab.

Diagnostic x-ray and other radiological services

Covered services include x-rays, scans and other services (but not complex imaging) only when you get them from a licensed radiology **provider**. See *Diagnostic complex imaging services* above for more information.

Genetic testing

Genetic testing may be covered when medically necessary in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of an illness or injury, disease, or its symptoms in accordance with the requirements of Aetna's claim policy and clinical policy bulletins. You can find the bulletins and other information at https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html.

Therapies – chemotherapy, GCIT, infusion, radiation

Chemotherapy

Covered services for chemotherapy depend on where treatment is received. In most cases, chemotherapy is covered as outpatient care. However, your **hospital** benefit covers the initial dose of chemotherapy after a cancer diagnosis during a **hospital stay**.

Gene-based, cellular and other innovative therapies (GCIT)

Covered services include GCIT provided by a **physician**, **hospital** or other **provider**.

Key Terms

Here are some key terms we use in this section. These will help you better understand GCIT.

Gene

A gene is a unit of heredity which is transferred from a parent to child and is thought to determine some feature of the child.

Molecular

Molecular means relating to or consisting of molecules. A molecule is a group of atoms bonded together, making the smallest vital unit of a chemical compound that can take part in a chemical reaction.

Therapeutic

Therapeutic means a treatment, therapy, or drug meant to have a good effect on the body or mind, adding to a sense of well-being.

GCIT are defined as any services that are:

- Gene-based
- Cellular and innovative therapeutics

The services have a basis in genetic/molecular medicine and are not covered under the Institutes of Excellence™ (IOE) programs. We call these "GCIT services."

GCIT **covered services** include:

- Cellular immunotherapies.
- Genetically modified viral therapy.
- Other types of cells and tissues from and for use by the same person (autologous) and cells and tissues from one person for use by another person (allogenic) for treatment of certain conditions.
- All human gene-based therapy that seeks to change the usual function of a gene or alter the biologic properties of living cells for therapeutic use. Examples include therapies using:
  - Luxturna® (Voretigene neparvovec)
  - Zolgensma® (Onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi)
  - Spinraza® (Nusinersen)
- Products derived from gene editing technologies, including CRISPR-Cas9.
- Oligonucleotide-based therapies. Examples include:
  - Antisense. An example is Spinraza (Nusinersen).
  - siRNA.
  - mRNA.
  - microRNA therapies.

Facilities/providers for gene-based, cellular and other innovative therapies
We designate facilities to provide GCIT services or procedures. GCIT **physicians**, **hospitals** and other **providers** are GCIT-designated facilities/**providers** for Aetna and CVS Health.

Important note:
You must get GCIT **covered services** from a GCIT-designated facility/**provider**. If there are no GCIT-designated facilities/**providers** assigned in your network, it's important that you contact us so we can help you determine if there are other facilities that may meet your needs. If you don't get your GCIT services at the facility/**provider** we designate, they will not be **covered services**.

Infusion therapy
Infusion therapy is the intravenous (IV) administration of prescribed medications or solutions.

Covered services include infusion therapy you receive in an outpatient setting including but not limited to:
- A freestanding outpatient facility
- The outpatient department of a **hospital**
- A **physician's** office
- Your home from a home care **provider**

When Infusion therapy services and supplies are provided in your home, they will not count toward any applicable home health care maximums.

Radiation therapy
Covered services include the following radiology services provided by a health professional:
- **Accelerated particles**
- **Gamma ray**
- **Mesons**
- **Neutrons**
- **Radioactive isotopes**
- **Radiological services**
- **Radium**

Transplant services
Covered services include transplant services provided by a **physician** and **hospital**.

This includes the following transplant types:
- Solid organ
- Hematopoietic stem cell
- Bone marrow
- CAR-T and T Cell receptor therapy for FDA-approved treatments
- Thymus tissue for FDA-approved treatments

Network of transplant facilities
We designate facilities to provide specific services or procedures. They are listed as Institutes of Excellence™ (IOE) facilities in your **provider** directory.

Choice POS II Medical Plan:
You must get transplant services from the IOE facility we designate to perform the transplant you need. Transplant services received from an IOE facility are subject to the network **copayment**, **payment**

percentage, **deductible**, **maximum out-of-pocket** and limits, unless stated differently in this booklet and schedule of benefits.

Important note:
If there are no IOE facilities assigned to perform your transplant type in your network, it's important that you contact us so we can help you determine if there are other facilities that may meet your needs. If you don't get your transplant services at the facility we designate, they will not be **covered services**.

Many pre and post-transplant medical services, even routine ones, are related to and may affect the success of your transplant. If your transplant care is being coordinated by the National Medical Excellence® (NME) program, all medical services must be managed through NME so that you receive the highest level of benefits at the appropriate facility. This is true even if the **covered service** is not directly related to your transplant.

Traditional Choice Medical Plan:
The amount you will pay for covered transplant services depends on where you get the care. Your cost share will be lower when you get transplant services from the facility we designate to perform the transplant you need. Transplant services received from an IOE facility are subject to the network **copayment**, **payment percentage**, **deductible**, **maximum out-of-pocket** and limits, unless stated differently in this booklet and schedule of benefits. You may also get transplant services at a non-IOE facility, but your cost share will be higher. Transplant services received from a non-IOE facility are subject to the out-of-network **copayment**, **payment percentage**, **deductible**, **maximum out-of-pocket**, and limits, unless stated differently in this booklet and schedule of benefits.

Important note:
If there are no IOE facilities assigned to perform your transplant type in your network, it's important that you contact us so we can help you determine if there are other facilities that may meet your needs. If you don't get your transplant services at the facility we designate, your cost share will be higher.

Many pre and post-transplant medical services, even routine ones, are related to and may affect the success of your transplant. If your transplant care is being coordinated by the National Medical Excellence® (NME) program, all medical services must be managed through NME so that you receive the highest level of benefits at the appropriate facility. This is true even if the **covered service** is not directly related to your transplant.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services and supplies furnished to a donor when the recipient is not a covered person
- Harvesting and storage of organs, without intending to use them for immediate transplantation for your existing illness
- Harvesting and/or storage of bone marrow, hematopoietic stem cells, or other blood cells without intending to use them for transplantation within 12 months from harvesting, for an existing illness

Urgent care services

Covered services include services and supplies to treat an urgent condition at an urgent care center. An urgent condition is an illness or injury that requires prompt medical attention but is not a life-threatening **emergency medical condition**. An urgent care center is a facility licensed as a freestanding medical facility to treat urgent conditions.

If you need care for an urgent condition, you should first seek care through your **physician, PCP**. If your **physician** is not reasonably available, you may access urgent care from an urgent care center.

Vision care

Covered services include:

- Routine vision exam provided by an ophthalmologist or optometrist including refraction and glaucoma testing

The following are not **covered services**:

- Office visits to an ophthalmologist, optometrist or optician related to the fitting of **prescription** contact lenses
- Eyeglass frames, non-**prescription** lenses and non-**prescription** contact lenses that are for cosmetic purposes

Walk-in clinic

Covered services include, but are not limited to, health care services provided through a **walk-in clinic** for:

- Scheduled and unscheduled visits for illnesses and injuries that are not **emergency medical conditions**
- Preventive care immunizations administered within the scope of the clinic's license
- Individual screening and counseling services that will help you:
  - With obesity or healthy diet
  - To stop using tobacco products

General plan exclusions

The following are not **covered services** under your plan:

Abortion

Services and supplies provided for an abortion except when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or if it places the woman's life in serious danger

Acupuncture

- Acupuncture
- Acupressure

Blood and blood products

Blood, blood products, and related services which are supplied to your **provider** free of charge

Cosmetic services and plastic surgery

Any treatment, **surgery** (cosmetic or plastic), service or supply to alter, improve or enhance the shape or appearance of the body, including cosmetic drugs, medications, and preparations used for cosmetic purposes, except where described in the *Coverage and exclusions* section

Cost share waived

Any cost for a service when any **out-of-network provider** waives all or part of your **copayment**, **payment percentage**, **deductible**, or any other amount

Court-ordered services and supplies

This includes court-ordered services and supplies, or those required as a condition of parole, probation, release or because of any legal proceeding, unless they are a **covered service** under your plan

Custodial care

Services and supplies meant to help you with activities of daily living or other personal needs.
Examples of these are:

- Routine patient care such as changing dressings, periodic turning and positioning in bed
- Administering oral medications
- Care of stable tracheostomy (including intermittent suctioning)
- Care of a stable colostomy/ileostomy
- Care of stable gastrostomy/jejunostomy/nasogastric tube (intermittent or continuous) feedings
- Care of a bladder catheter, including emptying or changing containers and clamping tubing
- Watching or protecting you
- Respite care, adult or child day care, or convalescent care
- Institutional care, including **room and board** for rest cures, adult day care and convalescent care
- Help with walking, grooming, bathing, dressing, getting in or out of bed, going to the bathroom, eating, or preparing foods
- Any other services that a person without medical or paramedical training could be trained to perform
- For behavioral health (mental health treatment and **substance related disorder** treatment):
  - Services provided when you have reached the greatest level of function expected with the current level of care, for a specific diagnosis
  - Services given mainly to:
    - Maintain, not improve, a level of function
    - Provide a place free from conditions that could make your physical or mental state worse

Dental services

The following are not **covered services**:

- Services normally covered under a dental plan
- Dental implants except when part of an approved treatment plan for a **covered service** described in the *Coverage and exclusions - Reconstructive surgery and supplies* section

Educational services

Examples of these are:

- Any service or supply for education, training or retraining services or testing. This includes:
  - Special education
  - Remedial education
  - Wilderness treatment programs, whether or not the program is part of a **residential treatment facility** or otherwise licensed institution
  - Job training
  - Job hardening programs
- Any services that are schooling related or similar programs
- Therapeutic programs within a school, vocational, work, or recreational setting.

Examinations

Any health or dental examinations needed:

- Because a third party requires the exam. Examples include examinations to get or keep a job, and examinations required under a labor agreement or other contract.
- To buy coverage or to get or keep a license.
- To travel
- To go to a school, camp, sporting event, or to join in a sport or other recreational activity.

Experimental, investigational, or unproven

Experimental, investigational, or unproven drugs, devices, treatments or procedures unless otherwise covered under clinical trials

Foot care

Routine services and supplies for the following:

- Routine pedicure services, such as routine cutting of nails, when there is no illness or injury in the nails
- Supplies (including orthopedic shoes), ankle braces, guards, protectors, creams, ointments and other equipment, devices and supplies
- Treatment of calluses, bunions, toenails, hammertoes or fallen arches
- Treatment of weak feet, chronic foot pain or conditions caused by routine activities, such as walking, running, working, or wearing shoes

Foot orthotic devices

Foot orthotics or other devices to support the feet, such as arch supports and shoe inserts, unless required for the treatment of or to prevent complications of diabetes

Gene-based, cellular and other innovative therapies (GCIT)

The following are not **covered services** unless you receive prior written approval from us:

- GCIT services received at a facility or with a **provider** that is not a GCIT-designated facility/**provider**.
- All associated services when GCIT services are not covered. Examples include:
  - Infusion
  - Lab
  - Radiology
  - Anesthesia
  - Nursing services

See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section.

Growth/height care

- A treatment, device, drug, service or supply to increase or decrease height or alter the rate of growth
- **Surgical procedures**, devices and growth hormones to stimulate growth

Immunizations

Immunizations not considered preventive care such as those required for employment or travel

Maintenance care

Care made up of services and supplies that maintain, rather than improve, a level of physical or mental function, except for habilitation therapy services

Medical supplies – outpatient disposable

Any outpatient disposable supply or device. Examples of these include:

- Sheaths
- Bags
- Elastic garments
- Support hose
- Bandages
- Bedpans
- Home test kits not related to diabetic testing
- Splints
- Neck braces
- Compresses
- Other devices not intended for reuse by another patient

Missed appointments

Any cost resulting from a canceled or missed appointment

Nutritional support

Any food item, including:

- Infant formulas
- Nutritional supplements
- Vitamins
- **Prescription** vitamins
- Medical foods
- Other nutritional items

Other non-covered services

- Services you have no legal obligation to pay
- Services that would not otherwise be charged if you did not have the coverage under the plan

Other primary payer

Payment for a portion of the charges that Medicare or another party is responsible for as the primary payer

Personal care, comfort or convenience items

Any service or supply primarily for your convenience and personal comfort or that of a third party

Prescription or non-prescription drugs and medicines

- Compounded **prescriptions** containing bulk chemicals not approved by the FDA including compounded bioidentical hormones, unless we have approved a medical exception
- Drugs or medications recently approved by the FDA but not reviewed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, unless we have approved a medical exception
- **Prescription** or non-**prescription** drugs and medicines except as stated in the *Coverage and exclusions* section
- **Specialty prescription drugs** except as stated in the *Coverage and exclusions* section

Routine exams and preventive services and supplies

Routine physical exams, routine eye exams, routine dental exams, routine hearing exams and other preventive services and supplies, except as specifically provided in the *Coverage and exclusions* section

Services not permitted by law

Some laws restrict the range of health care services a **provider** may perform under certain circumstances or in a particular state. When this happens, the services are not covered by the plan.

Services provided by a family member

Services provided by a spouse, civil union partner, domestic partner, parent, child, stepchild, brother, sister, in-law, or any household member

Services, supplies and drugs received outside of the United States

Non-emergency medical services, outpatient **prescription** drugs or supplies received outside of the United States. They are not covered even if they are covered in the United States under this booklet.

Sexual dysfunction and enhancement

Except where described in the *Coverage and exclusions* section, any treatment, **prescription** drug, or supply to treat sexual dysfunction, enhance sexual performance or increase sexual desire, including:

- **Surgery**, **prescription** drugs, implants, devices or preparations to correct or enhance erectile function, enhance sensitivity or alter the shape of a sex organ
- Sex therapy, sex counseling, marriage counseling, or other counseling or advisory services

Strength and performance

Services, devices and supplies such as drugs or preparations designed primarily to enhance your strength, physical condition, endurance or physical performance

Therapies and tests

- Full body CT scans
- Hair analysis
- Hypnosis and hypnotherapy
- Massage therapy, except when used for physical therapy treatment
- Sensory or hearing and sound integration therapy

Tobacco cessation

Any treatment, drug, service or supply to stop or reduce smoking or the use of other tobacco products or to treat or reduce nicotine addiction, dependence or cravings, including, medications, nicotine patches and gum unless recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). This also includes:

- Counseling, except as specifically provided in the *Coverage and exclusions* section
- Hypnosis and other therapies
- Medications, except as specifically provided in the *Coverage and exclusions* section
- Nicotine patches
- Gum

Treatment in a federal, state, or governmental entity

Any care in a **hospital** or other facility owned or operated by any federal, state or other governmental entity unless coverage is required by applicable laws

Voluntary sterilization

- Reversal of voluntary sterilization procedures, including related follow-up care

Wilderness treatment programs

Wilderness treatment programs, whether or not the program is part of a **residential treatment facility** or otherwise licensed institution

Work related illness or injuries

Coverage available to you under workers' compensation or a similar program under local, state or federal law for any illness or injury related to employment or self-employment

Important note:
A source of coverage or reimbursement is considered available to you even if you waived your right to payment from that source. You may also be covered under a workers' compensation law or similar law. If you submit proof that you are not covered for a particular illness or injury under such law, then that illness or injury will be considered "non-occupational" regardless of cause.

How your plan works

Choice POS II Medical Plan

Your in-network coverage helps you get and pay for a lot of, but not all, health care services. Your cost share is lower when you use a **network provider**.

Providers

Our **provider network** is there to give you the care you need. You can find **network providers** and see important information about them by logging in to your member website. There you'll find our online provider directory. You may also contact us to ask for a copy of the directory. We update the online directory regularly, but the listings can change. Before you get care, we suggest that you call us for current information or to make sure that your provider, their office location or their provider group is in the network. See the Contact us section for more information.

You may choose a **PCP** to oversee your care. Your **PCP** will provide routine care and send you to other **providers** when you need specialized care. You don't have to get care through your **PCP**. You may go directly to **network providers**. Your plan may pay a bigger share for **covered services** you get through your **PCP**, so choose a **PCP** as soon as you can.

For more information about the network and the role of your **PCP**, see the *Who provides the care* section.

How your medical plan works while you are covered out-of-network

With your out-of-network coverage:

- You can get care from **providers** who are not part of the Aetna network and from **network providers** without a **PCP referral**
- You may have to pay the full cost for your care, and then submit a claim to be reimbursed
- You are responsible to get any required **precertification**
- Your cost share will be higher

Who provides the care

Network providers

We have contracted with **providers** to provide **covered services** to you. These **providers** make up the network for your plan.

To get network benefits, you must use **network providers**. There are some exceptions:

- **Emergency services** – see the description of **emergency services** in the *Coverage and exclusions* section.
- Transplants – see the description of transplant services in the *Coverage and exclusions* section.

You may select a **network provider** from the online directory through your member website.

You will not have to submit claims for services received from **network providers**. Your **network provider** will take care of that for you. And we will pay the **network provider** directly for what the plan owes.

Your PCP
We encourage you to get **covered services** through a **PCP**. They will provide you with primary care.

How you choose your PCP
You can choose a **PCP** from the list of **PCP**s in our directory. Each covered family member is encouraged to select a **PCP** and to let us know of your selection. It's not required, but when we know who your PCP is, we can better support your care. You may each choose a different **PCP**. You should select a **PCP** for your covered dependent if they are a minor or cannot choose a **PCP** on their own.

What your PCP will do for you
Your **PCP** will coordinate your medical care or may provide treatment. They may send you to other **network providers**.

Changing your PCP
You may change your **PCP** at any time by contacting us.

Out-of-network providers
You can also get care from **out-of-network providers**. When you use an **out-of-network provider**, your cost share is higher. You are responsible for:

- Your out-of-network **deductible**
- Your out-of-network **coinsurance**
- Any charges over the **recognized charge**
- Submitting your own claims and getting **precertification**

Keeping a provider you go to now (continuity of care)
You may have to find a new **provider** when:

- You join the plan and the **provider** you have now is not in the network
- You are already an Aetna member and your **provider** stops being in our network

But, in some cases, you may be able to keep going to your current **provider** to complete a treatment or to have treatment that was already scheduled. This is called continuity of care.

If this situation applies to you, contact us for details. If you are undergoing treatment for an acute or chronic condition and the **provider** didn't leave the network based on fraud or lack of quality standards, you'll be able to receive transitional care from your **provider** for a period up to 90 days from when we notified you of their network status or the end of your treatment, whichever is sooner.

Important note:
If you are pregnant and have entered your second trimester, transitional care will be through the time required for postpartum care directly related to the delivery.

You will not be responsible for an amount that exceeds the cost share that would have applied had your **provider** remained in the network.

Traditional Choice Medical Plan

How your medical plan works

Providers

You can go directly to a doctor, **hospital** or other **provider** to get the care you need. You can find **providers** and see important information about them by logging in to your member website. There you'll find our online **provider** directory. See the *Contact us* section for more information.

With your coverage:

- You may have to pay the full cost for your care, and then submit a claim to be reimbursed
- You are responsible to get any required **precertification**

Medical necessity and precertification requirements

Medically necessary, medical necessity

Covered services under the plan must be **medically necessary**. The **medical necessity** requirements are in the *Glossary* section, where we define "**medically necessary, medical necessity**." That is where we also explain what our medical directors or a **physician** they assign consider when determining if a service is **medically necessary**.

Precertification

You need pre-approval from us for some **covered services**. Pre-approval is also called **precertification**.

> **Important note:**
> The **precertification** requirement does not apply to you if you are enrolled in Medicare.

In-network (Choice POS II Medical Plan)

Your network **physician** is responsible for obtaining any necessary **precertification** before you get the care. **Network providers** cannot bill you if they fail to ask us for **precertification**. But if your **physician** requests **precertification** and we deny it, and you still choose to get the care, you will have to pay for it yourself.

Out-of-network (Choice POS II Medical Plan and Traditional Choice Medical Plan)

When you go to an **out-of-network provider**, you are responsible to get any required **precertification** from us. If you don't **precertify**:

- Your benefits may be reduced, or the plan may not pay. See your schedule of benefits for details.
- You will be responsible for the unpaid bills.
- Your additional out-of-pocket expenses will not count toward your **deductible** or **maximum out-of-pocket limit**, if you have any.

Timeframes for **precertification** are listed below. For **emergency services**, **precertification** is not required, but you should notify us as shown.

To obtain **precertification**, contact us. You, your **physician** or the facility must call us within these timelines:

Type of care	Timeframe
Non-emergency admission	Call at least 14 days before the date you are scheduled to be admitted
Emergency admission	Call within 48 hours or as soon as reasonably possible after you have been admitted
Urgent admission	Call before you are scheduled to be admitted
Outpatient non-emergency medical services	Call at least 14 days before the care is provided, or the treatment or procedure is scheduled

An urgent admission is a **hospital** admission by a **physician** due to the onset of or change in an illness, the diagnosis of an illness, or injury.

We will tell you and your **physician** in writing of the **precertification** decision, where required by state law. An approval is valid for 180 days as long as you remain enrolled in the plan.

For an inpatient **stay** in a facility, we will tell you, your **physician** and the facility about your **precertified** length of **stay**. If your **physician** recommends that you stay longer, the extra days will need to be **precertified**. You, your **physician**, or the facility will need to call us as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than the final authorized day. We will tell you and your **physician** in writing of an approval or denial of the extra days.

If you or your **provider** request **precertification** and we don't approve coverage, we will tell you why and explain how you or your **provider** may request review of our decision. See the *Complaints, claim decisions and appeal procedures* section.

Types of services that require precertification

Precertification is required for inpatient **stays** and certain outpatient services and supplies.

Precertification is required for the following types of services and supplies:

Choice POS II Medical Plan

Inpatient –

- Gender affirming treatment
- Gene-based, cellular and other innovative therapies (GCIT)
- Obesity (bariatric) **surgery**
- **Stays** in a hospice facility
- **Stays** in a **hospital**
- **Stays** in a rehabilitation facility
- **Stays** in a **residential treatment facility** for treatment of **mental health disorders** and **substance related disorders**
- **Stays** in a **skilled nursing facility**

Outpatient –

- Applied behavior analysis
- ART services
- Complex imaging
- Cosmetic and reconstructive **surgery**
- Gender affirming treatment
- Gene-based, cellular and other innovative therapies (GCIT)
- Home health care
- Hospice care
- Injectables, (immunoglobulins, growth hormones, multiple sclerosis medications, osteoporosis medications, Botox, hepatitis C medications)
- Kidney dialysis
- Knee **surgery**
- Non-emergency transportation by airplane.
- Obesity (bariatric) **surgery**
- Outpatient back **surgery** not performed in a **physician's** office
- Partial hospitalization treatment – **mental health disorders** and **substance related disorders** treatment
- Sleep studies

- Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)
- Wrist **surgery**

Traditional Choice Medical Plan:
Inpatient -

- **Stays** in a hospital

Contact us to get a complete list of the services that require **precertification**. The list may change from time to time.

Sometimes you or your **provider** may want us to review a service that doesn't require **precertification** before you get care. This is called a predetermination, and it is different from **precertification**. Predetermination means that you or your **provider** requests the pre-service clinical review of a service that does not require **precertification**.

See *Medically necessary, medical necessity* in this section and the **medically necessary, medical necessity** definition in the *Glossary* section for more information on what we consider when making a **precertification** decision.

What the plan pays and what you pay

Who pays for your **covered services** – this plan, both of us, or just you? That depends.

The general rule

The schedule of benefits lists what you pay for each type of **covered service**. In general, this is how your benefit works:

- You pay the **deductible**, when it applies.
- Then the plan and you share the expense. Your share is called a **copayment** or payment percentage.
- Then the plan pays the entire expense after you reach your **maximum out-of-pocket limit**.

When we say "expense" in this general rule, we mean the **negotiated charge** for a **network provider (**Choice POS II Medical Plan), and **recognized charge** for an **out-of-network provider (**Traditional Choice Medical Plan and Choice POS II Medical Plan).

Negotiated charge

For health coverage:
This is the amount a **network provider** has agreed to accept or that we have agreed to pay them or a third party vendor (including any administrative fee in the amount paid).

We may enter into arrangements with **network providers** or others related to:

- The coordination of care for members
- Improving clinical outcomes and efficiencies

Some of these arrangements are called:

- Value-based contracting
- Risk sharing
- Accountable care arrangements

These arrangements will not change the **negotiated charge** under this plan.

Recognized charge

The amount of an **out-of-network provider's** charge that is eligible for coverage. **Recognized charge** will apply to most eligible health services in plans that do not have a network. You may be responsible for all amounts above what is eligible for coverage. However, there are some types of claims for which a provider may not bill you for amounts above what is eligible for coverage (see *Surprise Bill* for more information).

If your ID card displays the National Advantage Program (NAP) logo your cost may be lower when you get care from a NAP **provider** for whom we access NAP rates. Claims for services received from a NAP **provider** and paid at the NAP contracted rate are not subject to the federal surprise bill law. Through NAP, the **recognized charge** is determined as follows:

- If your service was received from a NAP **provider**, a pre-negotiated charge **may** be paid**.** NAP **providers** are **out-of-network providers** that have contracts with Aetna, directly or through third-party vendors, that include a pre-**negotiated charge** for services. NAP **providers** are not **network providers**. (At times Aetna may choose to terminate specific providers from NAP and will notify the provider of such a decision).
- If your service was not received from a NAP **provider,** a claim specific rate or discount may be negotiated by Aetna or a third-party vendor.

If your claim is not paid as outlined above, the **recognized charge** for specific services or supplies will be the **out-of-network plan rate**, calculated in accordance with the following:

Service or Supply:	**Out-of-Network Plan Rate**
Professional services and other services or supplies not mentioned below	An amount determined by Aetna, or its third-party vendors, based on data resources selected by Aetna, reflecting typical costs, competitive charges and/or payments for a service, adjusted for the geographic area in which the service was provided.
Services of **hospitals** and other facilities	Reasonable amount rate

Important note:
See *Special terms used* below, for a description of what the **recognized charge** is based on.
If the **provider** bills less than the amount calculated using a method above, the **recognized charge** is what the **provider** bills.

In the event you receive a balance bill from a **provider** for your out-of-network service, Patient Advocacy Services may be available to assist you in certain circumstances. If Patient Advocacy Services are available for your claim, additional information will be provided to you.

If NAP does not apply to you, the **recognized charge** for specific services or supplies will be the out-of-network plan rate set forth in the above chart.

Choice POS II Plan: The out-of-network plan rate does not apply to involuntary services. See *Surprise Bill* for more information.

Special terms used:

- Facility charge review (FCR) rate is an amount that we determine is enough to cover the facility **provider's** estimated costs for the service and leave the **provider** with a reasonable profit. This means for:
  - **Hospitals** and other facilities that report costs or cost to charge ratios to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the FCR rate is based on what the facilities report to CMS
  - Facilities that don't report costs or cost to charge ratios to CMS, the FCR rate is based on a statewide average of these facilities

  We may adjust the formula as needed to maintain the reasonableness of the **recognized charge**. For example, we may make an adjustment if we determine that in a state the charges of a specific type of facility are much higher than charges of facilities that report to CMS.
- Geographic area is normally based on the first three digits of the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. If we determine we need more data for a particular service or supply, we may base rates on a wider geographic area such as an entire state.

Our reimbursement policies

We have the right to apply our reimbursement policies to all out-of-network services including involuntary services. This may affect the **recognized charge**. When we do this, we consider:

- The length and difficulty of a service
- Whether additional expenses are needed, when multiple procedures are billed at the same time
- Whether an assistant surgeon is needed
- If follow up care is included
- Whether other conditions change or make a service unique
- Whether any of the services described by a claim line are part of or related to the primary service provided, when a charge includes more than one claim line
- The educational level, licensure or length of training of the **provider**

We base our reimbursement policies on our review of:

- CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and other external materials that say what billing and coding practices are and aren't appropriate
- Generally accepted standards of medical and dental practice
- The views of **physicians** and dentists practicing in relevant clinical areas

We use commercial software to administer some of these policies. Policies may differ for professional services and facility services.

Get the most from your benefits:
We have online tools to help you decide whether to get care and if so, where. Log in to your member website. The website contains additional information that can help you determine the cost of a service or supply.

Surprise bill

There may be times when you unknowingly receive services or don't consent to receive services from an **out-of-network provider**, even when you try to stay in the network for your **covered services**. You may get a bill at the out-of-network rate that you didn't expect. This is called a surprise bill.

An **out-of-network provider** can't balance bill or attempt to collect costs from you that exceed your in-network cost-sharing requirement, such as **deductibles**, **copayments** and **payment percentage** for the following services:

- **Emergency services** provided by an **out-of-network provider** and ancillary services initiated from your **emergency services**

- Non-emergency services provided by an **out-of-network provider** at an in-network facility, except when the **out-of-network provider** has given you the following:
  - The out-of-network notice for your signature
  - The estimated charges for the items and services
  - Notice that the **provider** is an **out-of-network provider**
- Out-of-network air ambulance services

The **out-of-network provider** must get your consent to be treated and balance billed by them.

Ancillary services mean any professional services including:
- Items and services related to emergency medicine
- Anesthesiology
- Hospitalist services
- Laboratory services
- Neonatology
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Services provided by an **out-of-network provider** because there was no **network provider** available to perform the service

A facility in this instance means an institution providing health care related services, or a health care setting. This includes the following:
- **Hospitals** and other licensed inpatient centers
- Ambulatory surgical or treatment centers
- **Skilled nursing facilities**
- **Residential treatment facilities**
- Diagnostic, laboratory, and imaging centers
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Other therapeutic health settings

A surprise bill claim is paid based on the median contracted rate for all plans offered by us in the same insurance market for the same or similar item or service that is all of the following:

- Provided by a **provider** in the same or similar specialty or facility of the same or similar facility type
- Provided in the geographic region in which the item or service is furnished

The median contracted rate is subject to additional adjustments as specified in federal regulations.

Any cost share paid with respect to the items and services will apply toward your in-network **deductible** and **maximum out-of-pocket limit** if you have one.

It is not a surprise bill when you knowingly choose to go out-of-network and have signed a consent notice for these services. In this case, you are responsible for all charges.

You may request external review if you want to know if the federal surprise bill law applies to your situation.

If you receive a surprise bill or have any questions about what a surprise bill is, contact us.

Paying for covered services – the general requirements

There are several general requirements for the plan to pay any part of a service. They are:

- The expense is for a **covered service**
- For in-network coverage:
  - You get your care from a **network provider**
  - You or your **provider precertifies** the service when required

- For out-of-network coverage:
  - You get your care from an **out-of-network provider**
  - You or your **provider precertifies** the service when required

Generally, your plan and you share the cost for **covered services** when you meet the general requirements. But sometimes your plan will pay the entire expense, and sometimes you will. For details, see your schedule of benefits and the information below.

You pay the entire expense when:

- You get services or supplies that are not **medically necessary**.
- Your plan requires **precertification**, your **physician** requests it, we deny it and you get the services without **precertification**.
- You get care and the **provider** waives all or part of your cost share.

In all these cases, the **provider** may require you to pay the entire charge. Any amount you pay will not count towards your **deductible** or any applicable **maximum out-of-pocket limit**.

Where your schedule of benefits fits in

The schedule of benefits shows any out-of-pocket costs you are responsible for when you receive **covered services** and any benefit limitations that apply to your plan. It also shows any **maximum out-of-pocket limits** that apply.

Limitations include things like maximum age, visits, days, hours, and admissions. Out-of-pocket costs include things like **deductibles**, **copayments** and **payment percentage**.

Keep in mind that you are responsible for paying your part of the cost sharing. You are also responsible for costs not covered under this plan.

Coordination of benefits

Some people have health coverage under more than one health plan. If you do, we will work with your other plan to decide how much each plan pays. This is called coordination of benefits (COB).

Key Terms

Here are some key terms we use in this section. These will help you understand this COB section.

In this section when we talk about “plan” through which you may have other coverage for health care expenses we mean:

- Group or non-group, blanket, or franchise health insurance policies issued by insurers, HMOs, or health care service contractors
- Labor-management trustee plans, labor organization plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans
- An automobile insurance policy

- Medicare or other government benefits
- Any contract that you can obtain or maintain only because of membership in or connection with a particular organization or group

How COB works

- When this is your primary plan, we pay your medical claims first as if there is no other coverage.
- When this is your secondary plan, we pay benefits after the primary plan and reduce our payment to the lesser of:
  - What the plan would have paid if it had been primary.
  - What the plan would have paid less the primary plans payment.

Determining who pays

The basic rules are listed below. Reading from top to bottom the first rule that applies will determine which plan is primary and which is secondary. Contact us if you have questions or want more information.

A plan that does not contain a COB provision is always the primary plan.

COB rule	Primary plan	Secondary plan
Non-dependent or dependent	Plan covering you as an employee, retired employee or subscriber (not as a dependent)	Plan covering you as a dependent
Child – parents married or living together	Plan of parent whose birthday (month and day) is earlier in the year (Birthday rule)	Plan of parent whose birthday is later in the year
Child – parents separated, divorced, or not living together	• Plan of parent responsible for health coverage in court order • Birthday rule applies if both parents are responsible or have joint custody in court order • Custodial parent's plan if there is no court order	• Plan of other parent • Birthday rule applies (later in the year) • Non-custodial parent's plan
Child – covered by individuals who are not parents (i.e. stepparent or grandparent)	Same rule as parent	Same rule as parent
Active or inactive employee	Plan covering you as an active employee (or dependent of an active employee)	Plan covering you as a laid off or retired employee (or dependent of a former employee)
Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) or state continuation	Plan covering you as an employee or retiree (or dependent of an employee or retiree)	COBRA or state continuation coverage
Longer or shorter length of coverage	Plan that has covered you longer	Plan that has covered you for a shorter period of time
Other rules do not apply	Plans share expenses equally	Plans share expenses equally

How COB works with Medicare

If your other coverage is under Medicare, federal laws explain whether Medicare will pay first or second. COB with Medicare will always follow federal requirements. Contact us if you have any questions about this.

When you are eligible for Medicare, we coordinate the benefits we pay with the benefits that Medicare pays. If you are eligible but not covered, and Medicare would be your primary payer, we may still pay as if you are covered by Medicare and coordinate with the benefits Medicare would have paid. Sometimes, this plan pays benefits before Medicare pays. Sometimes, this plan pays benefits after Medicare or after an amount that Medicare would have paid if you had been covered.

You are eligible for Medicare if you are covered under it. You are also eligible for Medicare, even if you are not covered, if you refused it, dropped it, or didn't make a request for it.

When Aetna receives a claim that would be covered by Medicare Part B, we will estimate what Medicare Part B would pay for your medical services if you were enrolled in Part B. Then we will calculate your benefits taking into consideration the estimated Medicare payments, and you will be responsible for the amount that we estimate Medicare would have paid, in addition to any coinsurance deductibles and/or copayments that are part of your Aetna plan.

This means that if you do not have Medicare Part B coverage, and Medicare would be your primary payer had you enrolled, you may pay more of your health care expenses out of your own pocket.

Your medical provider has the right to collect additional funds from you up to the amount billed for the service.

Effect of prior plan coverage

If you are in a continuation period from a prior plan at the time you join this plan you may not receive the full benefit paid under this plan. Your current and prior plan must be offered through the same employer.

Other health coverage updates – contact information

You should contact us if you have any changes to your other coverage. We want to be sure our records are accurate so your claims are processed correctly.

Our rights

We have the right to:

- Release or obtain any information we need for COB purposes, including information we need to recover any payments from your other health plans
- Reimburse another health plan that paid a benefit we should have paid
- Recover any excess payment from a person or another health plan, if we paid more than we should have paid

Benefit payments and claims

A claim is a request for payment that you or your health care **provider** submits to us when you want or get **covered services**. There are different types of claims. You or your **provider** may contact us at various times, to make a claim, to request approval, or payment, for your benefits. This can be before you receive your benefit, while you are receiving benefits and after you have received the benefit.

It is important that you carefully read the previous sections within *How your plan works*. When a claim comes in, we review it, make a decision and tell you how you and we will split the expense. The amount of time we have to tell you about our decision on a claim depends on the type of claim.

Claim type and timeframes

Urgent care claim

An urgent claim is one for which the doctor treating you decides a delay in getting medical care could put your life or health at risk. Or a delay might put your ability to regain maximum function at risk. It could also be a situation in which you need care to avoid severe pain. We will make a decision within 72 hours.

If you are pregnant, an urgent claim also includes a situation that can cause serious risk to the health of your unborn baby.

Pre-service claim

A pre-service claim is a claim that involves services you have not yet received and which we will pay for only if we **precertify** them. We will make a decision within 15 days.

Post-service claim

A post-service claim is a claim that involves health care services you have already received. We will make a decision within 30 days.

Concurrent care claim extension

A concurrent care claim extension occurs when you need us to approve more services than we already have approved. Examples are extending a **hospital stay** or adding a number of visits to a **provider**. You must let us know you need this extension 24 hours before the original approval ends. We will have a decision within 24 hours for an urgent request. You may receive the decision for a non-urgent request within 15 days.

Concurrent care claim reduction or termination

A concurrent care claim reduction or termination occurs when we decide to reduce or stop payment for an already approved course of treatment. We will notify you of such a determination. You will have enough time to file an appeal. Your coverage for the service or supply will continue until you receive a final appeal decision from us or an external review organization if the situation is eligible for external review.

During this continuation period, you are still responsible for your share of the costs, such as **copayments**, **payment percentage** and **deductibles** that apply to the service or supply. If we uphold our decision at the final internal appeal, you will be responsible for all of the expenses for the service or supply received during the continuation period.

Filing a claim

When you see a **network provider**, that office will usually send us a detailed bill for your services. If you see an **out-of-network provider**, you may receive the bill (proof of loss) directly. This bill forms the basis of your post-service claim. If you receive the bill directly, you or your **provider** must send us the bill within 12 months of the date you received services, unless you are legally unable to notify us. You must send it to us with a claim form that you can either get online or contact us to provide. You should always keep your own record of the date, **providers** and cost of your services.

The benefit payment determination is made based on many things, such as your **deductible** or **payment percentage**, the necessity of the service you received, when or where you receive the services, or even what other insurance you may have. We may need to ask you or your **provider** for some more information to make a final decision. You can always contact us directly to see how much you can expect to pay for any service.

We have processes to review claims before and after payment to ensure the services billed meet one or more of the following:

- Our reimbursement policies
- Are free from fraud, waste, and abuse

When we review, we will evaluate submitted claim information and determine the accuracy of the procedure and diagnosis codes for the services billed. Sometimes, this review will change how we pay for the services and what we allow on a claim. This doesn't mean that a service isn't a **covered service**. It may mean that the claim should be submitted differently, or the services billed on the claim don't satisfy one of the items above.

We will tell you and your **provider** of our decision if we find any of the items above are not met.

We will pay the claim within 30 days from when we receive all the information necessary. Sometimes we may pay only some of the claim. Sometimes we may deny payment entirely. We may even rescind your coverage entirely. Rescission means you lose coverage going forward and going backward. If we paid claims for your past coverage, we will want the money back.

We will give you our decision in writing. You may not agree with our decision. There are several ways to have us review the decisions. Please see the *Complaints, claim decisions and appeal procedures* section for that information.

Complaints, claim decisions and appeal procedures

The difference between a complaint and an appeal

Complaint

You may not be happy about a **provider** or an operational issue, and you may want to complain. You can contact us at any time. This is a complaint. Your complaint should include a description of the issue. You should include copies of any records or documents you think are important. We will review the information and let you know if we need more information to make a decision. We will give you a written response within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint and any additional information we requested.

Appeal

When we make a decision to deny services or reduce the amount of money we pay on your care or out-of-pocket expense, it is an adverse benefit determination. You can ask us to re-review that determination. This is an appeal. You can start an appeal process by contacting us.

Claim decisions and appeal procedures

Your **provider** may contact us at various times to make a claim, or to request approval for payment based on your benefits. This can be before you receive your benefit, while you are receiving benefits and after you have received the benefit. You may not agree with our decision. As we said in *Benefit payments and claims* in the *How your plan works* section, we pay many claims at the full rate, except for your share of the costs. But sometimes we pay only some of the claim. Sometimes we deny payment entirely.

For any adverse benefit determination, you will receive an explanation of benefits in writing. You can ask us to review an adverse benefit determination. This is the internal appeal process. If you still don't agree, you can also appeal that decision. There are times you may skip the internal appeal process. But in most situations, you must complete the internal appeal process before you can take any other actions, such as an external review.

Another person may submit a complaint or appeal for you, including a **provider**. That person is called an authorized representative. You need to tell us if you choose to have someone else do this for you (even if it is your **provider**). You should fill out an authorized representative form to tell us. You can get this form by contacting us. See *Contact us* for how. You can use an authorized representative at any time during the internal appeal process.

Appeal of an adverse benefit determination

Urgent care or pre-service claim appeal

If your claim is an urgent claim or a pre-service claim, you or your authorized representative may appeal without having to fill out an appeal form. We will give you an answer within 36 hours for an urgent appeal and within 15 calendar days for a pre-service appeal. A concurrent claim appeal will be addressed according to what type of service and claim (urgent, pre-service) it involves.

Any other claim appeal

You must file an appeal within 180 calendar days from the time you receive the notice of an adverse benefit determination.

You can appeal by contacting us. See *Contact us* for how. You can appeal in writing to the address on the notice of adverse benefit determination. A written appeal should include:

- Your name
- The employer's name
- A copy of the adverse benefit determination

- Your reasons for making the appeal
- Any other information you would like us to consider

We will assign your appeal to someone who was not involved in making a decision about the claim. You will receive a decision within 30 calendar days for a post-service claim.

If you are still not satisfied with the answer, you may make a second internal appeal. You must present your appeal within 60 calendar days from the date you receive the notice of the first appeal decision.

At your last available internal appeal, we will give you any new or additional information we may find and use to review your claim. There is no cost to you. We will give you the information before we give you our decision. This decision is called the final adverse benefit determination. You can respond to the information before we tell you what our final decision is.

Exhaustion of appeals process

In most situations you must complete the internal appeal process with us before you can take these other actions:

- Appeal through an external review process
- Pursue arbitration, litigation or other type of administrative proceeding

Sometimes you do not have to complete the internal appeal process before you may take other actions. These situations are:

- You have an urgent claim or- claim that involves ongoing treatment. You can have your claim reviewed internally and through the external review process at the same time.
- We did not follow all- the claim determination and appeal requirements of the state or the federal Department of Health and Human Services. But you will not be able to proceed directly to external review if:
    - The rule violation was minor and not likely to influence a decision or harm you
    - The violation was for a good cause or beyond our control
    - The violation was part of an ongoing, good faith exchange between you and us

External review

External review is a review done by people in an organization outside of Aetna. This is called an external review organization (ERO).

You have a right to external review only if all the following conditions are met:

- You have received an adverse benefit determination
- Our claim decision involved medical judgement
- We decided the service or supply is not **medically necessary**, not appropriate, or we decided the service or supply is **experimental, investigational, or unproven**

You may also request external review if you want to know if the federal surprise bill law applies to your situation.

If our claim decision is one for which you can seek external review, we will say that in the notice of adverse benefit determination or final adverse benefit determination we send you. That notice also will describe the external review process. It will include a copy of the request for external review form with the final adverse benefit determination.

You must submit the request for external review form:

- To Aetna
- Within 4 months of the date you received the decision from us
- With any other important information that supports your request

You must sign the External Review Request form. You will pay for any information that you send and want reviewed by the ERO. We will pay for information we send to the ERO plus the cost of the review.

Aetna will contact the ERO that will conduct the review of your claim.

The ERO will:

- Assign the appeal to one or more independent clinical reviewers that have proper expertise to do the review
- Consider appropriate credible information that you sent.
- Follow our contractual documents and your plan of benefits.
- Send notification of the decision within 45 calendar days of the date we receive your request form and all the necessary information

We will stand by the decision that the ERO makes, unless we can show conflict of interest, bias or fraud.

How long will it take to get an ERO decision?

We will give you the ERO decision not more than 45 calendar days after the ERO receives your request.

Sometimes you can get a faster external review decision. Your **provider** must call us or send us a request for external review form.

There are two scenarios when you may be able to get a faster external review:

For initial adverse determinations

Your **provider** tells us a delay in receiving health care services would:

- Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function
- Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental, investigational, or unproven** treatment)

For final adverse benefit determinations

Your **provider** tells us a delay in receiving health care services would:

- Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function
- Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental, investigational** treatment), or
- The final adverse benefit determination concerns an admission, availability of care, continued **stay** or health care service for which you received **emergency services**, but have not been discharged from a facility

If your situation qualifies for this faster review, you will receive a decision within 72 hours of us getting your request.

Utilization review

Prescription drugs covered under this plan are subject to misuse, waste or abuse utilization review by us, your **provider** or your network pharmacy. The outcome of the review may include:

- Limiting coverage of a drug to one prescribing **provider** or one network pharmacy
- Quantity, dosage or day supply limits
- Requiring a partial fill or denial of coverage

Recordkeeping

We will keep the records of all complaints and appeals for at least 10 years.

Fees and expenses

We do not pay any fees or expenses incurred by you in pursuing a complaint or appeal.

Eligibility, starting and stopping coverage

Eligibility

Who is eligible

SERS decides and tells us who is eligible for health coverage. If you have any questions, please contact SERS.

Stopping coverage

Your coverage can end for various reasons. Ending coverage doesn't always mean you lose coverage with us. There will be circumstances that will still allow you to continue coverage. See the *Special coverage options after your coverage ends* section.

When will your coverage end

Your coverage under this plan will end if:

- This plan is no longer available
- You ask to end coverage
- SERS asks to end coverage
- You are no longer eligible for coverage, including when you move out of the service area
- You stop paying required premiums, if any apply
- We end your coverage
- You start coverage under another medical plan offered by SERS

When dependent coverage ends

Dependent coverage will end if:

- A dependent is no longer eligible for coverage.
- You stop paying premiums, if any apply.

What happens to your dependents if you die?

Coverage for dependents may continue for some time after your death. Please contact SERS for more information.

Why would we end your coverage?

We may immediately end your coverage if you commit fraud or you intentionally misrepresented yourself when you applied for or obtained coverage. You can refer to the *General provisions – other things you should know* section for more information on rescissions.

On the date your coverage ends, we will refund to SERS any prepayment for periods after the date your coverage ended.

Special coverage options after your coverage ends

When coverage may continue under the plan

You and your dependents may have options to continue coverage after it ends under this plan. Your individual situation will determine what options you will have. Contact SERS to see what options apply to you.

General provisions – other things you should know

Administrative provisions

How you and we will interpret this booklet

We prepared this booklet according to federal and state laws that apply. You and we will interpret it according to these laws. Also, you are bound by our interpretation of this booklet when we administer your coverage.

How Aetna administers this plan

Aetna will administer the Plan in accordance with this booklet and apply policies and procedures which Aetna has developed to administer this plan.

Who's responsible to you

We are responsible to you for what our employees and other agents do.

We are not responsible for what is done by your **providers**. Even **network providers** are not our employees or agents.

Claim administrator

Aetna's authority as claim administrator

Aetna has been delegated the authority to make claim and appeal determinations under the Plan. In exercising this responsibility, Aetna has full discretionary authority to make factual determinations, to determine eligibility for benefits, to determine the amount of benefits for each claim received, and to construe terms of the Plan with respect to benefits. Aetna's decisions are final and binding upon you and any person making a claim on your behalf. SERS retains sole and complete authority to determine eligibility of persons to participate in the Plan.

Coverage and services

Your coverage can change

Your coverage is defined by the group contract. This document may have amendments too. Under certain circumstances, we, the Customer/Employer or the law may change your plan. When an emergency or epidemic is declared, we may modify or waive **precertification**, **prescription** quantity limits or your cost share if you are affected. Only we may waive a requirement of your plan. No other person, including the Customer/Employer or **provider**, can do this.

Physical examination and evaluations

At our expense, we have the right to have a **physician** of our choice examine you. This will be done at reasonable times while certification or a claim for benefits is pending or under review.

Records of expenses

You should keep complete records of your expenses. They may be needed for a claim. Important things to keep are:

- Names of **physicians** and others who furnish services
- Dates expenses are incurred
- Copies of all bills and receipts

Honest mistakes and intentional deception

Honest mistakes

You or the Customer/Employer may make an honest mistake when you share facts with us. When we learn of the mistake, we may make a fair change in contributions or in your coverage. If we do, we will tell you what the mistake was. We won't make a change if the mistake happened more than 2 years before we learned of it.

Intentional deception

If we learn that you defrauded us or you intentionally misrepresented material facts, we can take actions that can have serious consequences for your coverage. These serious consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Rescission of coverage
- Denial of benefits
- Recovery of amounts we already paid

We also may report fraud to criminal authorities. See the *Benefit payments and claims, Filing a claim* section for information about rescission.

You have special rights if we rescind your coverage:

- We will give you 30 days advance written notice of any rescission of coverage
- You have the right to an appeal
- You have the right to a third party review conducted by an independent ERO

Some other money issues

Legal action

You must complete the internal appeal process, if your plan has one, before you take any legal action against us for any expense or bill. See the *Complaints, claim decisions, and, appeal procedures* section.
You cannot take any action until 60 days after we receive written submission of a claim.

No legal action can be brought to recover payment under any benefit after 3 years from the deadline for filing claims.

Assignment of benefits

When you see a **network provider**, they will usually bill us directly. When you see an **out-of-network provider**, we may choose to pay you or to pay the **provider** directly. To the extent allowed by law, we will not accept an assignment to an **out-of-network provider**.

Financial sanctions exclusions

If coverage provided under this booklet violates or will violate any economic or trade sanctions, the coverage will be invalid immediately. For example, we cannot pay for **covered services** if it violates a financial sanction regulation. This includes sanctions related to a person or a country under sanction by the United States, unless it is allowed under a written license from the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC). You can find out more by visiting https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx

Recovery of overpayments

If a benefit payment is made by the Plan, to or on your behalf, which exceeds the benefit amount that you are entitled to receive, the Plan has the right to require the return of the overpayment. One of the ways Aetna recovers overpayments is by reducing future payments to the provider by the amount of the overpayment. These future payments may involve this Plan or other health plans that are administered by Aetna. Aetna would then credit the recovered amount to the plan that overpaid the provider. Payments to providers under this Plan may be subject to this same process when Aetna recovers overpayments for other plans administered by Aetna.

This right does not affect any other right of recovery the Plan may have with respect to overpayments.

SUBROGATION AND RIGHT OF RECOVERY

The provisions of this section apply to all current or former plan participants and also to the parents, guardian, or other representative of a dependent child who incurs claims and is or has been covered by the plan. The plan's right to recover (whether by subrogation or reimbursement) shall apply to the personal representative of your estate, your decedents, minors, and incompetent or disabled persons. "You" or "your" includes anyone on whose behalf the plan pays benefits. No adult Covered Person hereunder may assign any rights that it may have to recover medical expenses from any tortfeasor or other person or entity to any minor child or children of said adult covered person without the prior express written consent of the Plan.

The plan's right of subrogation or reimbursement, as set forth below, extend to all insurance coverage available to you due to an injury, illness or condition for which the plan has paid medical claims (including, but not limited to, liability coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, underinsured motorist coverage, personal umbrella coverage, medical payments coverage, workers compensation coverage, no fault automobile coverage or any first party insurance coverage).

Your health plan is always secondary to automobile no-fault coverage, personal injury protection coverage, or medical payments coverage.

No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.

Subrogation

The right of subrogation means the plan is entitled to pursue any claims that you may have in order to recover the benefits paid by the plan. Immediately upon paying or providing any benefit under the plan, the plan shall be subrogated to (stand in the place of) all of your rights of recovery with respect to any claim or potential claim against any party, due to an injury, illness or condition to the full extent of benefits provided or to be provided by the Plan. The Plan may assert a claim or file suit in your name and take appropriate action to assert its subrogation claim, with or without your consent. The plan is not required to pay you part of any recovery it may obtain, even if it files suit in your name.

Reimbursement

If you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or condition, you agree to reimburse the plan first from such payment for all amounts the plan has paid and will pay as a result of that injury, illness or condition, up to and including the full amount of your recovery.

Constructive Trust

By accepting benefits (whether the payment of such benefits is made to you or made on your behalf to any provider) you agree that if you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or condition, you will serve as a constructive trustee over those funds. Failure to hold such funds in trust will be deemed a breach of your fiduciary duty to the plan. No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.

Lien Rights

Further, the plan will automatically have a lien to the extent of benefits paid by the plan for the treatment of the illness, injury or condition upon any recovery whether by settlement, judgment or otherwise, related to treatment for any illness, injury or condition for which the plan paid benefits. The lien may be enforced against any party who possesses funds or proceeds representing the amount of benefits paid by the plan including, but not limited to, you, your representative or agent, and/or any other source that possessed or will possess funds representing the amount of benefits paid by the plan.

Assignment
In order to secure the plan's recovery rights, you agree to assign to the plan any benefits or claims or rights of recovery you have under any automobile policy or other coverage, to the full extent of the plan's subrogation and reimbursement claims. This assignment allows the plan to pursue any claim you may have, whether or not you choose to pursue the claim.

First-Priority Claim
By accepting benefits from the plan, you acknowledge that the plan's recovery rights are a first priority claim and are to be repaid to the plan before you receive any recovery for your damages. The plan shall be entitled to full reimbursement on a first-dollar basis from any payments, even if such payment to the plan will result in a recovery which is insufficient to make you whole or to compensate you in part or in whole for the damages sustained. The plan is not required to participate in or pay your court costs or attorney fees to any attorney you hire to pursue your damage claim.

Applicability to All Settlements and Judgments
The terms of this entire subrogation and right of recovery provision shall apply and the plan is entitled to full recovery regardless of whether any liability for payment is admitted and regardless of whether the settlement or judgment identifies the medical benefits the plan provided or purports to allocate any portion of such settlement or judgment to payment of expenses other than medical expenses. The plan is entitled to recover from *any and all* settlements or judgments, even those designated as pain and suffering, non-economic damages and/or general damages only. The plan's claim will not be reduced due to your own negligence.

Cooperation
You agree to cooperate fully with the plan's efforts to recover benefits paid. It is your duty to notify the plan within 30 days of the date when any notice is given to any party, including an insurance company or attorney, of your intention to pursue or investigate a claim to recover damages or obtain compensation due to your injury, illness or condition. You and your agents agree to provide the plan or its representatives notice of any recovery you or your agents obtain prior to receipt of such recovery funds or within 5 days if no notice was given prior to receipt. Further, you and your agents agree to provide notice prior to any disbursement of settlement or any other recovery funds obtained. You and your agents shall provide all information requested by the plan, the Claims Administrator or its representative including, but not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as the plan may reasonably request and all documents related to or filed in personal injury litigation. Failure to provide this information, failure to assist the plan in pursuit of its subrogation rights or failure to reimburse the plan from any settlement or recovery you receive may result in the denial of any future benefit payments or claim until the plan is reimbursed in full, termination of your health benefits or the institution of court proceedings against you.

You shall do nothing to prejudice the plan's subrogation or recovery interest or prejudice the plan's ability to enforce the terms of this plan provision. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from making any settlement or recovery that attempts to reduce or exclude the full cost of all benefits provided by the plan or disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery prior to fully satisfying the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest.

You acknowledge that the plan has the right to conduct an investigation regarding the injury, illness or condition to identify potential sources of recovery. The plan reserves the right to notify all parties and his/her agents of its lien. Agents include, but are not limited to, insurance companies and attorneys.

You acknowledge that the plan has notified you that it has the right pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), 42 U.S.C. Section 1301 *et seq*, to share your personal health information in exercising its subrogation and reimbursement rights.

Interpretation
In the event that any claim is made that any part of this subrogation and right of recovery provision is ambiguous or questions arise concerning the meaning or intent of any of its terms, the Claims Administrator for the plan shall have the sole authority and discretion to resolve all disputes regarding the interpretation of this provision.

Jurisdiction
By accepting benefits from the Plan, you agree that any court proceeding with respect to this provision may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction as the plan may elect. By accepting such benefits, you hereby submit to each such jurisdiction, waiving whatever rights may correspond by reason of your present or future domicile. By accepting such benefits, you also agree to pay all attorneys' fees the plan incurs in successful attempts to recover amounts the plan is entitled to under this section.

Your health information

We will protect your health information. We will only use or share it with others as needed for your care and treatment. We will also use and share it to help us process your claims and manage your plan.

You can get a free copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. Just contact us.

When you accept coverage under this plan, you agree to let your **providers** share information with us. We need information about your physical and mental condition and care.

Sutter Health and Affiliates Services

Sutter Health and Affiliates, the dominant health system in much of northern California, uses its bargaining power to insist on unique requirements to participate in the Aetna network. Aetna's contract with Sutter requires payment of claims that would otherwise be denied, such as those not medically necessary or experimental, investigational or unproven (but does not require payment for services the Plan expressly excludes from coverage, such as for cosmetic surgery). Aetna will charge the Plan for these claims in order to be able to continue providing Plan Participants with access to Sutter's services on an in-network basis.

Glossary

Behavioral health provider
A **health professional** who is licensed or certified to provide **covered services** for mental health and **substance related disorders** in the state where the person practices.

Brand-name prescription drug
An FDA-approved drug marketed with a specific name or trademark name by the company that manufactures it; often the same company that developed and patents it.

Copay, copayment
This is the dollar amount you pay for **covered services**. In most plans, you pay this after you meet your **deductible** limit. In **prescription** drug plans, it is the amount you pay for covered drugs.

Covered service
The benefits, subject to varying cost shares, covered under the plan. These are:

- Described in the *Providing covered services* section
- Not listed as an exclusion in the *Coverage and exclusions – Providing covered services* section or the *General plan exclusions* section
- Not beyond any limits in the schedule of benefits
- **Medically necessary**. See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* and the *Glossary* for more information
- Services that are not prohibited by law

Deductible
A **deductible** is the amount you pay out-of-pocket for **covered services** per year before we start to pay.

Detoxification
The process of getting alcohol or other drugs out of an addicted person's system and getting them physically stable.

Emergency medical condition
An acute, severe medical condition that:

- Needs immediate medical care
- Leads a person with average knowledge of health and medicine to believe that, without immediate medical care, it could result in:
  - Danger to life or health
  - Loss of a bodily function
  - Loss of function to a body part or organ
  - Danger to the health of an unborn baby

Emergency services
Treatment given in a **hospital's** emergency room or an independent freestanding emergency department. This includes evaluation of and treatment to stabilize the **emergency medical condition**. An independent freestanding emergency department means a health care facility that is geographically separate, distinct, and licensed separately from a **hospital** and provides **emergency services**.

Experimental, investigational, or unproven

A drug, device, procedure, supply, treatment, test, or technology is considered by us to be **experimental, investigational, or unproven** if any of the following apply:

- It hasn't been shown through well-conducted clinical trials or cohort studies published in peer-reviewed, evidence-based scientific literature to be safe and effective for treating or diagnosing the condition or illness for which it's meant.
  - A well-conducted clinical trial means a randomized, controlled trial where the experimental intervention is compared to a control group receiving care according to best practice and study participants are randomly assigned to the experimental or control group.
  - A well-conducted cohort study means a prospective cohort study from more than one institution where the experimental intervention is compared to a group of subjects receiving care according to best practice and where the comparison group is well matched to the experimental intervention group.
- There isn't FDA approval or clearance to market it for the proposed use.
- A national medical society, dental society, or regulatory agency has written that it's **experimental, investigational, or unproven**, or mainly for research purposes.
- It's the subject of a Phase I, Phase II, or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial. The FDA and Department of Health and Human Services define these.
- Written procedures or consent form used by a facility **provider** says it's **experimental, investigational, or unproven**.

Important note:
We develop and maintain clinical policy bulletins that describe the generally accepted standards of medical practice, credible scientific evidence, and prevailing clinical guidelines that support our decisions regarding specific services. We use these bulletins and other resources to help guide individualized coverage decisions under our plans and to determine whether an intervention is **medically necessary**, **experimental, investigational, or unproven**. They are subject to change. You can find these bulletins and other information at https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html. You can also contact us. See the *Contact us* section for how.

Generic prescription drug

An FDA-approved drug with the same intended use as the brand-name product, that is considered to be as effective as the brand-name product. It offers the same:

- Dosage
- Safety
- Strength
- Quality
- Performance

Health professional

A person who is authorized by law to provide health care services to the public; for example, **physicians**, nurses and physical therapists.

Home health care agency

An agency authorized by law to provide home health services, such as skilled nursing and other therapeutic services.

Hospital

An institution licensed as a **hospital** by applicable law and accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC). This is a place that offers medical care. Patients can stay overnight for care. Or they can be treated and leave the same day. All **hospitals** must meet set standards of care. They can offer general or acute care. They can also offer service in one area, like rehabilitation.

Jaw joint disorder

This is:

- A temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction or any similar disorder of the jaw joint
- A myofascial pain dysfunction (MPD) of the jaw
- Any similar disorder in the relationship between the jaw joint and the related muscles and nerves

Mail order pharmacy

A pharmacy where **prescription** drugs are legally dispensed by mail or other carrier.

Maximum out-of-pocket limit

The **maximum out-of-pocket limit** is the most a covered person will pay per year in **copayments**, **payment percentage** and **deductible**, if any, for **covered services**.

Medically necessary, medical necessity

Health care services or supplies that prevent, evaluate, diagnose or treat an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are all of the following, as determined by us within our discretion:

- In accordance with "generally accepted standards of medical practice"
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, place of service, duration, and considered effective for your illness, injury or disease
- Not primarily for your convenience, the convenience of your **physician**, or other health care **provider**
- Not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your illness, injury or disease

Generally accepted standards of medical practice mean:

- Standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community and
- Following the standards set forth in our clinical policies and applying clinical judgment

Important note:
We develop and maintain clinical policy bulletins that describe the generally accepted standards of medical practice, credible scientific evidence, and prevailing clinical guidelines that support our decisions regarding specific services. We use these bulletins and other resources to help guide individualized coverage decisions under our plans and to determine whether an intervention is **medically necessary, experimental, investigational, or unproven**. They are subject to change. You can find these bulletins and other information at https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html. You can also contact us. See the *Contact us* section for how.

Mental health disorder

A **mental health disorder** is in general, a set of symptoms or behavior associated with distress and interference with personal function. A complete definition of **mental health disorder** is in the most recent edition of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association*.

Negotiated charge
See *How your plan works – What the plan pays and what you pay*.

Network provider
A **provider** listed in the directory for your plan. A NAP **provider** listed in the NAP directory is not a **network provider**.

Out-of-network provider
A **provider** who is not a **network provider.**

Payment Percentage
The specific percentage the plan pays for a health care service listed in the schedule of benefits.

Physician
A **health professional** trained and licensed to practice and prescribe medicine under the laws of the state where they practice; specifically, doctors of medicine or osteopathy. Under some plans, a **physician** can also be a **primary care provider** (**PCP**).

Precertification, precertify
Pre-approval that you or your **provider** receives from us before you receive certain **covered services**.

Prescription
This is an instruction written by a **physician** that authorizes a patient to receive a service, supply, medicine or treatment.

Primary care provider (PCP)
A **provider** who:

- The directory lists as a **PCP**
- Is selected by you from the list of **PCPs** in the directory
- Supervises, coordinates and provides initial care and basic medical services to you
- Shows in our records as your **PCP**

A **PCP** can be any of the following **providers**:

- General practitioner
- Family **physician**
- Internist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Pediatrician
- OB, GYN, and OB/GYN
- Medical group (primary care office)

Provider
A **physician**, pharmacist, **health professional**, person, or facility, licensed or certified by law to provide health care services to you. If state law does not specifically provide for licensure or certification, they must meet all Medicare approval standards even if they don't participate in Medicare.

Psychiatric hospital
An institution licensed or certified as a **psychiatric hospital** by applicable laws to provide a program for the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of alcoholism, drug abuse or **mental health disorders** (including **substance related disorders)**.

Recognized charge
See *How your plan works – What the plan pays and what you pay*.

Residential treatment facility
A facility that provides **mental health disorder** services or **substance related disorder** services and meets the following requirements:

- Is licensed and operated in accordance with applicable state and federal law
- Provides treatment under the direction of an appropriately licensed **physician** for the level of care provided
- Maintains a written treatment plan prepared by a licensed **behavioral health provider** (RN or master's level) requiring full-time residence and participation
- Has a licensed **behavioral health provider**, (RN or master's level) on-site 24 hours per day 7 days per week, and is:
    - Credentialed by us, or
    - Certified by Medicare, or
    - Accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC); The Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF); The American Osteopathic Association's Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP); or The Council on Accreditation (COA)

Retail pharmacy
A community pharmacy that dispenses outpatient **prescription** drugs.

Room and board
A facility's charge for your overnight **stay** and other services and supplies expressed as a daily or weekly rate.

Semi-private room rate
An institution's **room and board** charge for most beds in rooms with 2 or more beds. If there are no such rooms, we will calculate the rate based on the rate most commonly charged by similar institutions in the same geographic area.

Skilled nursing facility
A facility that provides skilled nursing care and meets the following requirements:

- Is licensed and operated in accordance with applicable state and federal law
- Provides treatment under the direction of an appropriately licensed **physician** for the level of care provided
- Maintains a written treatment plan prepared by a licensed **provider** (RN or master's level) requiring full-time residence and participation
- Has a licensed **provider** (RN or master's level) on-site 24 hours per day 7 days per week, and is:
    - Credentialed by us, or
    - Certified by Medicare, or
    - Accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC) or The Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Skilled nursing facilities also include rehabilitation **hospitals**, and portions of a rehabilitation **hospital** and a **hospital** designated for skilled or rehabilitation services.

Skilled nursing facility does not include institutions that provide only:

- Minimal care
- Custodial care services
- Ambulatory care
- Part-time care services

It does not include institutions that primarily provide for the care and treatment of **mental health disorders** or **substance related disorders**.

Specialist

A **physician** who practices in any generally accepted medical or surgical sub-specialty.

Stay

A full-time inpatient confinement for which a **room and board** charge is made.

Substance related disorder

The use of drugs, as defined in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association, that directly affect the brain's reward system in an amount or frequency that causes problems with normal activities.

Surgery, surgical procedure

The diagnosis and treatment of injury, deformity and disease by manual and instrumental means, such as:

- Cutting
- Abrading
- Suturing
- Destruction
- Ablation
- Removal
- Lasering
- Introduction of a catheter (e.g., heart or bladder catheterization) or scope (e.g., colonoscopy or other types of endoscopy)
- Correction of fracture
- Reduction of dislocation
- Application of plaster casts
- Injection into a joint
- Injection of sclerosing solution
- Otherwise physically changing body tissues and organs

Telemedicine

A consultation between you and a **physician**, **specialist**, **behavioral health provider**, or **telemedicine provider** who is performing a clinical medical or behavioral health service by means of electronic communication.

Terminal illness

A medical prognosis that you are not likely to live more than 12 months.

Walk-in clinic

A health care facility that provides limited medical care on a scheduled and unscheduled basis. A **walk-in clinic** may be located in, near or within a:

- Drug store
- Pharmacy
- Retail store
- Supermarket

The following are not considered a **walk-in clinic**:

- Ambulatory surgical center
- Emergency room
- **Hospital**
- Outpatient department of a **hospital**
- **Physician's** office
- Urgent care facility

Statement of Rights under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a delivery by cesarean section. However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending provider (e.g., your physician, nurse midwife, or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Also, under federal law, plans and issuers may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96-hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, a plan or issuer may not, under federal law, require that you, your physician, or other health care provider obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, you may be required to obtain precertification for any days of confinement that exceed 48 hours (or 96 hours). For information on precertification, contact your plan administrator.

Notice Regarding Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

Under this health plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, coverage will be provided to a person who is receiving benefits in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction in connection with the mastectomy for:

(1) all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed;
(2) surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
(3) prostheses; and
(4) treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

This coverage will be provided in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, and will be provided in accordance with the plan design, limitations, copays, deductibles, and referral requirements, if any, as outlined in your plan documents.

If you have any questions about our coverage of mastectomies and reconstructive surgery, please contact the Member Services number on your ID card.

For more information, you can visit this U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, http://www.cms.gov/home/regsguidance.asp, and this U.S. Department of Labor website, https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/employers-and-advisers/plan-administration-and-compliance/health-plans.

IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE REFORM NOTICES

CHOICE OF PROVIDER

If your Aetna plan generally requires or allows the designation of a primary care provider, you have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. If the plan or health insurance coverage designates a primary care provider automatically, then until you make this designation, Aetna designates one for you. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact your Employer or, if you are a current member, your Aetna contact number on the back of your ID card.

If your Aetna plan allows for the designation of a primary care provider for a child, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

If your Aetna plan provides coverage for obstetric or gynecological care and requires the designation of a primary care provider then you do not need prior authorization from Aetna or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact your Employer or, if you are a current member, your Aetna contact number on the back of your ID card.