KAISER PERMANENTE®

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)

Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage When Medicare is Secondary Coverage (HMO)

Evidence of Coverage for the
Medicare Managed Health Care Plan

Effective January 1, 2016

Contracted by the CalPERS Board of Administration Under the
Public Employees' Medical & Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA)

CalPERS

This *Evidence of Coverage*, the *Group Agreement (Agreement)*, and any amendments constitute the contract between Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and CalPERS. The *Agreement* is on file and available for review in the office of the CalPERS Health Plan Administration Division, 400 Q St, Sacramento, CA 95811. The *Agreement* contains additional terms such as Premiums, when coverage can change, the effective date of coverage, and the effective date of termination. The *Agreement* must be consulted to determine the exact terms of coverage. You may purchase a copy of the *Agreement* from the CalPERS Health Plan Administration Division, P.O. Box 720724, Sacramento, CA 94229-0724, for a reasonable duplicating charge. It is in your best interest to familiarize yourself with this *Evidence of Coverage*.

THERE IS NO VESTED RIGHT TO RECEIVE ANY PARTICULAR BENEFIT SET FORTH IN THE PLAN. PLAN BENEFITS MAY BE MODIFIED. ANY MODIFIED BENEFIT (SUCH AS THE ELIMINATION OF A PARTICULAR BENEFIT OR AN INCREASE IN THE MEMBER'S COPAYMENT) APPLIES TO SERVICES OR SUPPLIES FURNISHED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE MODIFICATION.

This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our Member Service Contact Center number at **1-800-443-0815** for additional information. (TTY users should call **711**.) Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.

Se puede obtener esta información gratis en otros idiomas. Si desea información adicional, por favor llame al número de nuestra Centro de Contacto de Servicios a los Miembros al **1-800-443-0815**. (Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al **711**.) El horario es de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m., los siete días de la semana. Servicios a los Miembros también cuenta con servicios gratuitos de interpretación para las personas que no hablan inglés.

Table of Contents

BENEFIT CHANGES FOR CURRENT YEAR 1
BENEFIT SUMMARY 2
INTRODUCTION 4
- Term of this Evidence of Coverage 5
- About Kaiser Permanente 5

DEFINITIONS 7
PREMIUMS, ELIGIBILITY, AND ENROLLMENT 16
- Premiums 16
- Medicare Premiums 17
- Eligibility 18
- Enrollment 21

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICES 22
- Routine Care 22
- Urgent Care 23
- Our Advice Nurses 23
- Your Personal Plan Physician 23
- Getting a Referral 23
- Second Opinions 25
- Interactive Video Visits 25
- Contracts with Plan Providers 26
- Visiting Other Regions 26
- Your ID Card 27
- Getting Assistance 27
- Member Services 27

PLAN FACILITIES 28
- Provider Directory 28
- Pharmacy Directory 28

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND URGENT CARE 29
- Emergency Services 29
- Post-Stabilization Care 29
- Urgent Care 29
- Payment and Reimbursement 30

BENEFITS, COPAYMENTS, AND COINSURANCE 31
- Your Copayments and Coinsurance 32
- Preventive Care Services 34
- Outpatient Care 35
- Hospital Inpatient Care 37
- Ambulance Services 38
- Bariatric Surgery 38
- Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism 39
- Chemical Dependency Services 41
- Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia 42
- Dialysis Care 43
- Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use 43
- Health Education 45

Hearing Services ... 46
Home Health Care ... 46
Hospice Care ... 47
Infertility Services ... 48
Mental Health Services ... 49
Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies ... 50
Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures ... 51
Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements ... 52
Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices ... 59
Reconstructive Surgery ... 60
Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services ... 61
Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials ... 62
Skilled Nursing Facility Care ... 62
Transplant Services ... 63
Vision Services ... 64
EXCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, COORDINATION OF BENEFITS, AND REDUCTIONS ... 67
Exclusions ... 67
Limitations ... 70
Coordination of Benefits ... 70
Reductions ... 71
REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT ... 74
Requests for Payment of Covered Services or Part D drugs ... 74
How to Ask Us to Pay You Back or to Pay a Bill You Have Received ... 75
We Will Consider Your Request for Payment and Say Yes or No ... 76
Other Situations in Which You Should Save Your Receipts and Send Copies to Us ... 77
YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ... 78
We must honor your rights as a Member of our plan ... 78
You have some responsibilities as a Member of our plan ... 83
COVERAGE DECISIONS, APPEALS, AND COMPLAINTS ... 86
What to Do if You Have a Problem or Concern ... 86
You Can Get Help from Government Organizations That Are Not Connected with Us ... 86
To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use? ... 87
A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals ... 87
Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal ... 89
Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal ... 97
How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon ... 104
How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage Is Ending Too Soon ... 110
Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond ... 115
How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns ... 117
Appeal Procedure Following Disposition of Medicare's Grievance Process ... 120
Additional Review ... 121
Binding Arbitration ... 121
TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP ... 125
Termination Due to Loss of Eligibility ... 125
Termination of *Agreement* ... 126

Disenrolling from Senior Advantage 126
Termination of Contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 127
Termination for Cause 127
Termination of a Product or all Products 127
Payments after Termination 128
Review of Membership Termination 128
CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP 129
Continuation of Group Coverage 129
Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan 130
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS 131
Administration of Agreement 131
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND RESOURCES 133
Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage 133
Medicare 135
State Health Insurance Assistance Program 136
Quality Improvement Organization 137
Social Security 137
Medicaid 138
Railroad Retirement Board 138
Group Insurance or Other Health Insurance from an Employer 138
ASH PLANS COMBINED CHIROPRACTIC AND ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES 139
ASH Plans Customer Service Department: 139
Definitions 139
Participating Providers 141
Covered Services 142
Exclusions and Limitations 144
Customer Service 145
Grievances 145

BENEFIT CHANGES FOR CURRENT YEAR

The following is a summary of the most important coverage changes and clarifications that we have made to this Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage 2016 *Evidence of Coverage.* Please read this *Evidence of Coverage* for the complete text of these changes, as well as changes not listed in the summary below. In addition, please refer to the "Premiums" section for information about 2016 Premiums.

Please refer to the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section in this *Evidence of Coverage* for benefit descriptions and the amount Members must pay for covered benefits. Benefits are also subject to the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" and the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" sections in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Chiropractic and acupuncture Services

The Copayment for chiropractic and acupuncture Services described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, is updated to $15 from $10.

Medicare Part D outpatient prescription drug coverage

The Catastrophic Coverage Stage threshold for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is increasing from $4,700 to $4,850.

Mental Health Parity

We have revised the description of mental health and chemical dependency Services to reflect changes we have already made to comply with the parity requirements set forth in the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). We have also reorganized some other information in the description of mental health and chemical dependency Services for clarity.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

Plan Deductible	None
Lifetime Maximum	None

Service	You Pay
Professional Services (Plan Provider office visits)	
Most Primary Care Visits and most Non-Physician Specialist Visits	No charge
Most Physician Specialist Visits	No charge
Annual Wellness visit and the "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit	No charge
Routine physical exams	No charge
Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist and glaucoma screenings	No charge
Hearing exams	No charge
Urgent care consultations, evaluations, and treatment	No charge
Physical, occupational, and speech therapy	No charge
Outpatient Services	
Outpatient surgery and certain other outpatient procedures	No charge
Allergy injections (including allergy serum)	No charge
Most immunizations (including the vaccine)	No charge
Most X-rays, annual mammograms, and laboratory tests	No charge
Covered individual health education counseling	No charge
Covered health education programs	No charge
Hospitalization Services	
Room and board, surgery, anesthesia, X-rays, laboratory tests, and drugs	No charge
Emergency Health Coverage	
Emergency Department visits	No charge
Ambulance Services	
Ambulance Services	No charge
Prescription Drug Coverage	
Most covered outpatient items in accord with our drug formulary guidelines	No charge for up to a 100-day supply
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	
Covered durable medical equipment for home use	No charge
Mental Health Services	
Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization	No charge
Individual outpatient mental health evaluation and treatment	No charge
Group outpatient mental health treatment	No charge

Service	You Pay
Chemical Dependency Services	
Inpatient detoxification	No charge
Individual outpatient chemical dependency evaluation and treatment.....	No charge
Group outpatient chemical dependency treatment……	No charge
Home Health Services	
Home health care……	No charge
Chiropractic and Acupuncture Care	
Acupuncture Services typically provided for the treatment of nausea or as part of a comprehensive pain management program for the treatment of chronic pain	No charge
Manual manipulation of the spine in accord with Medicare guidelines	No charge
Additional ASH Plans Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services:	
Chiropractic and acupuncture office visits (up to a combined total of 20 visits per calendar year)	$15 per visit
X-rays and laboratory tests that are covered Chiropractic Services	No charge
Chiropractic appliances.....	Amounts in excess of the $50 Allowance
Other	
Hearing aid(s) every 36 months	Amount in excess of $2,500 Allowance per aid
Skilled Nursing Facility care.....	No charge
External prosthetic and orthotic devices	No charge
Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies……	No charge
Hospice care.....	No charge
Eyewear purchased at Plan Medical Offices or Plan Optical Sales Offices every 24 months	Amount in excess of $350 Allowance
Eyeglasses or contact lenses following cataract surgery, in accord with Medicare guidelines	No charge

This is a summary of the most frequently asked-about benefits. This chart does not explain benefits, Copayments and Coinsurance, exclusions, or limitations, nor does it list all benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance. For a complete explanation, please refer to the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" and "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" sections.

INTRODUCTION

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (Health Plan) has a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a Medicare Advantage Organization.

This contract provides Medicare Services (including Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage) through "Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) with Part D when Medicare is secondary coverage" (Senior Advantage), except for hospice care for Members with Medicare Part A, which is covered under Original Medicare.

Enrollment in this Senior Advantage plan means that you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. Kaiser Permanente is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal.

This *Evidence of Coverage* describes our Senior Advantage health care coverage (when Medicare is secondary coverage under federal law) provided under the *Group Agreement (Agreement)* between Health Plan (Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Northern California Region and Southern California Region) and your Group (CalPERS). For benefits provided under any other program offered by your Group (for example, workers compensation benefits), refer to your Group's materials.

Members who have Medicare as their secondary coverage are entitled to the same group benefits under the same terms as Members who are not eligible for Medicare, as described in your Group's non-Medicare plan document. However, if you meet the eligibility requirements for this Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan, you may also enroll in this Senior Advantage plan and receive benefits under the terms described in this *Evidence of Coverage*. You must continue to have primary coverage through your Group's non-Medicare plan in order to remain enrolled in this secondary Senior Advantage plan.

In this *Evidence of Coverage*, Health Plan is sometimes referred to as "we" or "us." Members are sometimes referred to as "you." Some capitalized terms have special meaning in this *Evidence of Coverage;* please see the "Definitions" section for terms you should know.

When you join Kaiser Permanente, you are enrolling in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), which we call your "Home Region." The Service Area of each Region is described in the "Definitions" section of this *Evidence of Coverage*. The coverage information in this *Evidence of Coverage* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region. When you visit the other California Region, you may receive care as described in "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF PROVIDERS YOU MAY GET HEALTH CARE. It is important to familiarize yourself with your coverage by reading this *Evidence of Coverage* and your Group's non-Medicare plan document completely, so that you can take full advantage of your Health Plan benefits. Also, if you have special health care needs, please carefully read the sections that apply to you.

As a Senior Advantage Member when Medicare is secondary, you must refer to both this *Evidence of Coverage* and your Group's non-Medicare plan document for the full description of your coverages, which are coordinated in accord with applicable law. Your non-Medicare plan document includes benefits not covered under this *Evidence of Coverage*, for example, state-mandated benefits and other terms that

apply to non-Medicare plans. If you do not have your other (non-Medicare) plan document, please ask your Group for it.

Term of this Evidence of Coverage

This *Evidence of Coverage* is for the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, unless amended. Benefits, deductible, formulary, pharmacy network, provider network, Copayments, and Coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year and at other times in accord with your Group's *Agreement* with us. Your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division) can tell you whether this *Evidence of Coverage* is still in effect and give you a current one if this *Evidence of Coverage* has been amended.

About Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente provides Services directly to our Members through an integrated medical care program. Health Plan, Plan Hospitals, and the Medical Group work together to provide our Members with quality care. Our medical care program gives you access to all of the covered Services you may need, such as routine care with your own personal Plan Physician, hospital care, laboratory and pharmacy Services, Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and other benefits described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. Plus, our health education programs offer you great ways to protect and improve your health.

We provide covered Services to Members using Plan Providers located in your Home Region Service Area, which is described in the "Definitions" section. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
- Certain care when you visit the service area of another Region as described under "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
- Chiropractic and acupuncture services as described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, and for Southern California Region Members, chiropractic services as described under "Outpatient Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Durable medical equipment as described under "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under "Ambulance Services" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
- Home health care as described under "Home Health Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Hospice care as described under "Hospice Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies as described under "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under "Dialysis Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prescription drugs from Non–Plan Pharmacies as described under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prosthetics and orthotics as described under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

Member Service Contact Center: 1-800-443-0815 (TTY 711) seven days a week, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under "Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

DEFINITIONS

Some terms have special meaning in this *Evidence of Coverage*. When we use a term with special meaning in only one section of this *Evidence of Coverage*, we define it in that section. The terms in this "Definitions" section have special meaning when capitalized and used in any section of this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Allowance: A specified credit amount that you can use toward the purchase price of an item. If the price of the item(s) you select exceeds the Allowance, you will pay the amount in excess of the Allowance.

Note: Any Allowances in your Group's non-Medicare plan are coordinated with Allowances in this *Evidence of Coverage* and cannot be combined.

ASH Plans: American Specialty Health Plans of California, Inc., a specialized health care service plan that contracts with licensed chiropractors in California.

Catastrophic Coverage Stage: The stage in the Part D Drug Benefit where you pay a low Copayment or Coinsurance for your Part D drugs after you or other qualified parties on your behalf have spent $4,850 in covered Part D drugs during the covered year. Note: This amount may change every January 1 in accord with Medicare requirements.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): The federal agency that administers the Medicare program.

Charges: "Charges" means the following:

- For Services provided by the Medical Group or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, the charges in Health Plan's schedule of Medical Group and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals charges for Services provided to Members
- For Services for which a provider (other than the Medical Group or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals) is compensated on a capitation basis, the charges in the schedule of charges that Kaiser Permanente negotiates with the capitated provider
- For items obtained at a pharmacy owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente, the amount the pharmacy would charge a Member for the item if a Member's benefit plan did not cover the item (this amount is an estimate of: the cost of acquiring, storing, and dispensing drugs, the direct and indirect costs of providing Kaiser Permanente pharmacy Services to Members, and the pharmacy program's contribution to the net revenue requirements of Health Plan)
- For all other Services, the payments that Kaiser Permanente makes for the Services or, if Kaiser Permanente subtracts a Copayment or Coinsurance from its payment, the amount Kaiser Permanente would have paid if it did not subtract a Copayment or Coinsurance

Coinsurance: A percentage of Charges that you must pay when you receive a covered Service as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF): A facility that mainly provides rehabilitation Services after an illness or injury, and provides a variety of Services, including physician's Services, physical therapy, social or psychological Services, and outpatient rehabilitation.

Copayment: The amount that a Member is required to pay for specific covered Services as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. Note: The dollar amount of the Copayment can be $0 (no charge).

Coverage Determination: An initial determination we make about whether a Part D drug prescribed for you is covered under Part D and the amount, if any, you are required to pay for the prescription. In general, if you bring your prescription for a Part D drug to a Plan Pharmacy and the pharmacy tells you the prescription isn't covered by us, that isn't a Coverage

Determination. You need to call or write us to ask for a formal decision about the coverage. Coverage Determinations are called "coverage decisions" in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Dependent: A Member who meets the eligibility requirements as a Dependent, a subscriber's spouse or domestic partner, as defined in California Government Code section 22770, or a child, as defined in Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 599.500 (for Dependent eligibility requirements, see "Eligibility" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section).

Emergency Medical Condition: A medical or mental health condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, with an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in any of the following:

- Serious jeopardy to the health of the individual or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part

Emergency Services: Covered Services that are (1) rendered by a provider qualified to furnish Emergency Services; and (2) needed to treat, evaluate, or Stabilize an Emergency Medical Condition such as:

- A medical screening exam that is within the capability of the emergency department of a hospital, including ancillary services (such as imaging and laboratory Services) routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate the Emergency Medical Condition
- Within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the hospital, Medically Necessary examination and treatment required to Stabilize the patient (once your condition is Stabilized, Services you receive are Post Stabilization Care and not Emergency Services)

Employer: Any person, firm, proprietary or non-profit corporation, partnership, public agency or association that has at least two employees and that is actively engaged in business or service, in which a bona fide employer-employee relationship exists, in which the majority of employees were employed within this state, and which was not formed primarily for purposes of buying health care coverage or insurance.

Evidence of Coverage (EOC): This *Evidence of Coverage* document, which describes the health care coverage of "Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) with Part D when Medicare is secondary coverage" under Health Plan's *Agreement* with your Group.

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

Family: A Subscriber and all of his or her Dependents.

Group: California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS).

Health Plan: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., a California nonprofit corporation. This *Evidence of Coverage* sometimes refers to Health Plan as "we" or "us."

Home Region: The Region where you enrolled (either the Northern California Region or the Southern California Region).

Initial Enrollment Period: When you are first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare Part B. For example, if you're eligible for Medicare when you turn 65, your Initial Enrollment Period is the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.

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

Medical Group: For Northern California Region Members, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., a for-profit professional corporation, and for Southern California Region Members, the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, a for-profit professional partnership.

Medically Necessary: A Service is Medically Necessary if it is medically appropriate and required to prevent, diagnose, or treat your condition or clinical symptoms in accord with generally accepted professional standards of practice that are consistent with a standard of care in the medical community.

Medicare: The federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease (generally those with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a kidney transplant). In this *Evidence of Coverage*, Members who are "eligible for" Medicare Part A or B are those who would qualify for Medicare Part A or B coverage if they applied for it. Members who "have" Medicare Part A or B are those who have been granted Medicare Part A or B coverage. Also, a person enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan has Medicare Part D by virtue of his or her enrollment in the Part D plan (this *Evidence of Coverage* is for a Part D plan).

Medicare Advantage Organization: A public or private entity organized and licensed by a state as a risk-bearing entity that has a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide Services covered by Medicare, except for hospice care covered by Original Medicare. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., is a Medicare Advantage Organization.

Medicare Advantage Plan: Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. When you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare services are covered through the plan, and are not paid for under Original Medicare. Medicare Advantage Plans may also offer Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). This *Evidence of Coverage* is for a Medicare Part D plan.

Medicare Health Plan: A Medicare Health Plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits to people with Medicare who enroll in the plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Cost plans, Demonstration/Pilot Programs, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy: Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill "gaps" in the Original Medicare plan coverage. Medigap policies only work with the Original Medicare plan. (A Medicare Advantage Plan is not a Medigap policy.)

Member: A person who is eligible and enrolled under this *Evidence of Coverage*, and for whom we have received applicable Premiums. This *Evidence of Coverage* sometimes refers to a Member as "you."

Non-Physician Specialist Visits: Consultations, evaluations, and treatment by non-physician specialists (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, optometrists, podiatrists, and audiologists).

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

Non–Plan Pharmacy: A pharmacy other than a Plan Pharmacy. These pharmacies are also called "out-of-network pharmacies."

Non–Plan Physician: A physician other than a Plan Physician.

Non–Plan Provider: A provider other than a Plan Provider.

Non–Plan Skilled Nursing Facility: A Skilled Nursing Facility other than a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility.

Organization Determination: An initial determination we make about whether we will cover or pay for Services that you believe you should receive. We also make an Organization Determination when we provide you with Services, or refer you to a Non–Plan Provider for Services. Organization Determinations are called "coverage decisions" in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Original Medicare ("Traditional Medicare" or "Fee-for-Service Medicare"): The Original Medicare plan is the way many people get their health care coverage. It is the national pay-per-visit program that lets you go to any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay a deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance), and is available everywhere in the United States and its territories.

Out-of-Area Urgent Care: Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your health resulting from an unforeseen illness or an unforeseen injury if all of the following are true:

- You are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to your Home Region Service Area

Physician Specialist Visits: Consultations, evaluations, and treatment by physician specialists, including personal Plan Physicians who are not Primary Care Physicians.

Plan Deductible: The amount you must pay in the calendar year for certain Services before we will cover those Services at the applicable Copayment or Coinsurance in that calendar year. Please refer to the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section to learn whether your coverage includes a Plan Deductible, the Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, and the Plan Deductible amount.

Plan Facility: Any facility listed on our website at **kp.org/facilities** for your Home Region Service Area, except that Plan Facilities are subject to change at any time without notice. For the current locations of Plan Facilities, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Plan Hospital: Any hospital listed on our website at **kp.org/facilities** for your Home Region Service Area, except that Plan Hospitals are subject to change at any time without notice. For the current locations of Plan Hospitals, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Plan Medical Office: Any medical office listed on our website at **kp.org/facilities** for your Home Region Service Area, except that Plan Medical Offices are subject to change at any time without notice. For the current locations of Plan Medical Offices, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Plan Optical Sales Office: An optical sales office owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente or another optical sales office that we designate. Please refer to the *Provider Directory* for a list of Plan Optical Sales Offices in your area, except that Plan Optical Sales Offices are subject to change at any time without notice. For the current locations of Plan Optical Sales Offices, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Plan Optometrist: An optometrist who is a Plan Provider.

Plan Pharmacy: A pharmacy owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente or another pharmacy that we designate. Please refer to the *Provider Directory* for a list of Plan Pharmacies in your area, except that Plan Pharmacies are subject to change at any time without notice. For the current locations of Plan Pharmacies, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Plan Physician: Any licensed physician who is a partner or employee of the Medical Group, or any licensed physician who contracts to provide Services to Members (but not including physicians who contract only to provide referral Services).

Plan Provider: A Plan Hospital, a Plan Physician, the Medical Group, a Plan Pharmacy, or any other health care provider that we designate as a Plan Provider.

Plan Skilled Nursing Facility: A Skilled Nursing Facility approved by Health Plan.

Post-Stabilization Care: Medically Necessary Services related to your Emergency Medical Condition that you receive in a hospital (including the Emergency Department) after your treating physician determines that this condition is Stabilized.

Premiums: The periodic amounts that your Group is responsible for paying for your membership under this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Preventive Care Services: Services that do one or more of the following:

- Protect against disease, such as in the use of immunizations
- Promote health, such as counseling on tobacco use
- Detect disease in its earliest stages before noticeable symptoms develop, such as screening for breast cancer

Primary Care Physicians: Generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, and family practice, and specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians. Please refer to our website at **kp.org** for a directory of Primary Care Physicians, except that the directory is subject to change without notice. For the current list of physicians that are available as Primary Care Physicians, please call the personal physician selection department at the phone number listed in the *Provider Directory*.

Primary Care Visits: Evaluations and treatment provided by Primary Care Physicians and primary care Plan Providers who are not physicians (such as nurse practitioners).

Region: A Kaiser Foundation Health Plan organization or allied plan that conducts a direct-service health care program. Regions may change on January 1 of each year and are currently the District of Columbia and parts of Northern California, Southern California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington. For the current list of Region locations, please visit our website at **kp.org** or call our Member Service Contact Center.

Service Area: The geographic area approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within which an eligible person may enroll in Senior Advantage. Note: Subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, we may reduce or expand your Home Region Service Area effective any January 1. ZIP codes are subject to change by the U.S. Postal Service.

Health Plan has two Regions in California. As a Member you are enrolled in one of the two Regions (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), called your Home Region. This *Evidence of Coverage* describes the coverage for both California Regions.

Northern California Region Service Area

The ZIP codes below for each county are in our Northern California Service Area:

- All ZIP codes in **Alameda** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94501–02, 94514, 94536–46, 94550–52, 94555, 94557, 94560, 94566, 94568, 94577–80, 94586–88, 94601–15, 94617–21, 94622–24, 94649, 94659–62, 94666, 94701–10, 94712, 94720, 95377, 95391

- The following ZIP codes in **Amador** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95640, 95669
- All ZIP codes in **Contra Costa** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94505–07, 94509, 94511, 94513–14, 94516–31, 94547–49, 94551, 94553, 94556, 94561, 94563–65, 94569–70, 94572, 94575, 94582–83, 94595–98, 94706–08, 94801–08, 94820, 94850
- The following ZIP codes in **El Dorado** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95613–14, 95619, 95623, 95633–35, 95651, 95664, 95667, 95672, 95682, 95762
- The following ZIP codes in **Fresno** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 93242, 93602, 93606–07, 93609, 93611–13, 93616, 93618–19, 93624–27, 93630–31, 93646, 93648–52, 93654, 93656–57, 93660, 93662, 93667–68, 93675, 93701–12, 93714–18, 93720–30, 93737, 93740–41, 93744–45, 93747, 93750, 93755, 93760–61, 93764–65, 93771–79, 93786, 93790–94, 93844, 93888
- The following ZIP codes in **Kings** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 93230, 93232, 93242, 93631, 93656
- The following ZIP codes in **Madera** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 93601–02, 93604, 93614, 93623, 93626, 93636–39, 93643–45, 93653, 93669, 93720
- All ZIP codes in **Marin** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94901, 94903–04, 94912–15, 94920, 94924–25, 94929–30, 94933, 94937–42, 94945–50, 94956–57, 94960, 94963–66, 94970–71, 94973–74, 94976–79
- The following ZIP codes in **Mariposa** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 93601, 93623, 93653
- The following ZIP codes in **Napa** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 94503, 94508, 94515, 94558–59, 94562, 94567, 94573–74, 94576, 94581, 94599, 95476
- The following ZIP codes in **Placer** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95602–04, 95626, 95648, 95650, 95658, 95661, 95663, 95668, 95677–78, 95681, 95703, 95722, 95736, 95746–47, 95765
- All ZIP codes in **Sacramento** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94203–09, 94211, 94229–30, 94232, 94234–37, 94239–40, 94244, 94247–50, 94252, 94254, 94256–59, 94261–63, 94267–69, 94271, 94273–74, 94277–80, 94282–91, 94293–98, 94571, 95608–11, 95615, 95621, 95624, 95626, 95628, 95630, 95632, 95638–41, 95652, 95655, 95660, 95662, 95670–71, 95673, 95678, 95680, 95683, 95690, 95693, 95741–42, 95757–59, 95763, 95811–38, 95840–43, 95851–53, 95860, 95864–67, 95894, 95899
- All ZIP codes in **San Francisco** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94102–05, 94107–12, 94114–27, 94129–34, 94137, 94139–47, 94151, 94158–61, 94163–64, 94172, 94177, 94188
- All ZIP codes in **San Joaquin** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94514, 95201–13, 95215, 95219–20, 95227, 95230–31, 95234, 95236–37, 95240–42, 95253, 95258, 95267, 95269, 95296–97, 95304, 95320, 95330, 95336–37, 95361, 95366, 95376–78, 95385, 95391, 95632, 95686, 95690
- All ZIP codes in **San Mateo** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94002, 94005, 94010–11, 94014–21, 94025–28, 94030, 94037–38, 94044, 94060–66, 94070, 94074, 94080, 94083, 94128, 94303, 94401–04, 94497
- The following ZIP codes in **Santa Clara** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 94022–24, 94035, 94039–43, 94085–89, 94301–06, 94309, 94550, 95002, 95008–09, 95011, 95013–15, 95020–21,

95026, 95030–33, 95035–38, 95042, 95044, 95046, 95050–56, 95070–71, 95076, 95101, 95103, 95106, 95108–13, 95115–36, 95138–41, 95148, 95150–61, 95164, 95170, 95172–73, 95190–94, 95196

- All ZIP codes in **Solano** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 94510, 94512, 94533–35, 94571, 94585, 94589–92, 95616, 95620, 95625, 95687–88, 95690, 95694, 95696
- The following ZIP codes in **Sonoma** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 94515, 94922–23, 94926–28, 94931, 94951–55, 94972, 94975, 94999, 95401–07, 95409, 95416, 95419, 95421, 95425, 95430–31, 95433, 95436, 95439, 95441–42, 95444, 95446, 95448, 95450, 95452, 95462, 95465, 95471–73, 95476, 95486–87, 95492
- All ZIP codes in **Stanislaus** County are inside our Northern California Service Area: 95230, 95304, 95307, 95313, 95316, 95319, 95322–23, 95326, 95328–29, 95350–58, 95360–61, 95363, 95367–68, 95380–82, 95385–87, 95397
- The following ZIP codes in **Sutter** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95626, 95645, 95659, 95668, 95674, 95676, 95692, 95836–37
- The following ZIP codes in **Tulare** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 93238, 93261, 93618, 93631, 93646, 93654, 93666, 93673
- The following ZIP codes in **Yolo** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95605, 95607, 95612, 95616–18, 95645, 95691, 95694–95, 95697–98, 95776, 95798–99
- The following ZIP codes in **Yuba** County are inside our Northern California Service Area**:** 95692, 95903, 95961

Southern California Region Service Area

The ZIP codes below for each county are in our Southern California Service Area:

- The following ZIP codes in **Kern** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 93203, 93205–06, 93215–16, 93220, 93222, 93224–26, 93238, 93240–41, 93243, 93250–52, 93263, 93268, 93276, 93280, 93285, 93287, 93301–09, 93311–14, 93380, 93383–90, 93501–02, 93504–05, 93518–19, 93531, 93536, 93560–61, 93581
- The following ZIP codes in **Los Angeles** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 90001–84, 90086–91, 90093–96, 90099, 90189, 90201–02, 90209–13, 90220–24, 90230–33, 90239–42, 90245, 90247–51, 90254–55, 90260–67, 90270, 90272, 90274–75, 90277–78, 90280, 90290–96, 90301–12, 90401–11, 90501–10, 90601–10, 90623, 90630–31, 90637–40, 90650–52, 90660–62, 90670–71, 90701–03, 90706–07, 90710–17, 90723, 90731–34, 90744–49, 90755, 90801–10, 90813–15, 90822, 90831–35, 90840, 90842, 90844, 90846–48, 90853, 90895, 90899, 91001, 91003, 91006–12, 91016–17, 91020–21, 91023–25, 91030–31, 91040–43, 91046, 91066, 91077, 91101–10, 91114–18, 91121, 91123–26, 91129, 91182, 91184–85, 91188–89, 91199, 91201–10, 91214, 91221–22, 91224–26, 91301–11, 91313, 91316, 91321–22, 91324–31, 91333–35, 91337, 91340–46, 91350–57, 91361–62, 91364–65, 91367, 91371–72, 91376, 91380–87, 91390, 91392–96, 91401–13, 91416, 91423, 91426, 91436, 91470, 91482, 91495–96, 91499, 91501–08, 91510, 91521–23, 91526, 91601–12, 91614–18, 91702, 91706, 91709, 91711, 91714–16, 91722–24, 91731–35, 91740–41, 91744–50, 91754–56, 91765–73, 91775–76, 91778, 91780, 91788–93, 91801–04, 91896, 91899, 93243, 93510, 93532, 93534–36, 93539, 93543–44, 93550–53, 93560, 93563, 93584, 93586, 93590–91, 93599
- All ZIP codes in **Orange** County are inside our Southern California Service Area: 90620–24, 90630–33, 90638, 90680, 90720–21,

90740, 90742–43, 92602–07, 92609–10, 92612, 92614–20, 92623–30, 92637, 92646–63, 92672–79, 92683–85, 92688, 92690–94, 92697–98, 92701–08, 92711–12, 92728, 92735, 92780–82, 92799, 92801–09, 92811–12, 92814–17, 92821–23, 92825, 92831–38, 92840–46, 92850, 92856–57, 92859, 92861–71, 92885–87, 92899

- The following ZIP codes in **Riverside** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 91752, 92201–03, 92210–11, 92220, 92223, 92230, 92234–36, 92240–41, 92247–48, 92253, 92255, 92258, 92260–64, 92270, 92276, 92282, 92320, 92324, 92373, 92399, 92501–09, 92513–19, 92521–22, 92530–32, 92543–46, 92548, 92551–57, 92562–64, 92567, 92570–72, 92581–87, 92589–93, 92595–96, 92599, 92860, 92877–83
- The following ZIP codes in **San Bernardino** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 91701, 91708–10, 91729–30, 91737, 91739, 91743, 91758–59, 91761–64, 91766, 91784–86, 91792, 92305, 92307–08, 92313–18, 92321–22, 92324–25, 92329, 92331, 92333–37, 92339–41, 92344–46, 92350, 92352, 92354, 92357–59, 92369, 92371–78, 92382, 92385–86, 92391–95, 92397, 92399, 92401–08, 92410–11, 92413, 92415, 92418, 92423, 92427, 92880
- The following ZIP codes in **San Diego** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 91901–03, 91908–17, 91921, 91931–33, 91935, 91941–46, 91950–51, 91962–63, 91976–80, 91987, 92007–11, 92013–14, 92018–27, 92029–30, 92033, 92037–40, 92046, 92049, 92051–52, 92054–58, 92064–65, 92067–69, 92071–72, 92074–75, 92078–79, 92081–85, 92091–93, 92096, 92101–24, 92126–32, 92134–40, 92142–43, 92145, 92147, 92149–50, 92152–55, 92158–61, 92163, 92165–79, 92182, 92186–87, 92190–93, 92195–99
- The following ZIP codes in **Ventura** County are inside our Southern California Service Area**:** 90265, 91304, 91307, 91311, 91319–20, 91358–62, 91377, 93001–07, 93009–12, 93015–16, 93020–22, 93030–36, 93040–44, 93060–66, 93094, 93099, 93252

For each ZIP code listed for a county, your Home Region Service Area includes only the part of that ZIP code that is in that county. When a ZIP code spans more than one county, the part of that ZIP code that is in another county is not inside your Home Region Service Area, unless that other county is listed above and that ZIP code is also listed for that other county. If you have a question about whether a ZIP code is in your Home Region Service Area, please call our Member Service Contact Center. Also, the ZIP codes listed above may include ZIP codes for Post Office boxes and commercial rental mailboxes. A Post Office box or rental mailbox cannot be used to determine whether you meet the residence eligibility requirements for Senior Advantage. Your permanent residence address must be used to determine your Senior Advantage eligibility.

Services: Health care services or items ("health care" includes both physical health care and mental health care) and behavioral health treatment covered under "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Skilled Nursing Facility: A facility that provides inpatient skilled nursing care, rehabilitation services, or other related health services and is licensed by the state of California. The facility's primary business must be the provision of 24-hour-a-day licensed skilled nursing care. The term "Skilled Nursing Facility" does not include convalescent nursing homes, rest facilities, or facilities for the aged, if those facilities furnish primarily custodial care, including training in routines of daily living. A "Skilled Nursing Facility" may also be a unit or section within another facility (for example, a hospital) as long as it continues to meet this definition.

Stabilize: To provide the medical treatment of the Emergency Medical Condition that is necessary to assure, within reasonable medical

probability, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the person from the facility. With respect to a pregnant woman who is having contractions, when there is inadequate time to safely transfer her to another hospital before delivery (or the transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or unborn child), "Stabilize" means to deliver (including the placenta).

Subscriber: A Member who is eligible for membership on his or her own behalf and not by virtue of Dependent status and who meets the eligibility requirements as a Subscriber (for Subscriber eligibility requirements, see "Eligibility" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section).

Urgent Care: Medically Necessary Services for a condition that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition.

PREMIUMS, ELIGIBILITY, AND ENROLLMENT

Premiums

Your Group is responsible for paying Premiums. If you are responsible for any contribution to the Premiums that your Group pays, your Group will tell you the amount, when Premiums are effective, and how to pay your Group (through payroll deduction, for example). In addition to any amount you must pay your Group, you must also continue to pay Medicare your monthly Medicare premium.

If you do not have Medicare Part A, you may be eligible to purchase Medicare Part A from Social Security. Please contact Social Security for more information. If you get Medicare Part A, this may reduce the amount you would be expected to pay to your Group, please check with your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division).

State employees and annuitants

The Premiums listed below will be reduced by the amount the state of California contributes toward the cost of your health benefit plan. These contribution amounts are subject to change as a result of collective bargaining agreements or legislative action. Any such change will be accomplished by the State Controller or affected retirement system without any action on your part. For current contribution information, contact your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division).

State employees and annuitants	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$661.76
Self and one Dependent	$1,323.52
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,720.58

Contracting agency employees and annuitants

The Premiums listed below will be reduced by the amount your contracting agency contributes toward the cost of your health benefit plan. This amount varies among contracting agencies. For assistance on calculating your net contribution, contact your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division). There are five geographic pricing areas. The Premiums that apply to you are based on your CalPERS address of record.

Bay Area pricing area. If you live or work in these counties: Alameda, Amador, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Nevada, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, the monthly Premiums are:

Bay Area	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$746.47
Self and one Dependent	$1,492.94
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,940.82

Sacramento pricing area. If you live or work in these counties: El Dorado, Placer or Sacramento, the monthly Premiums are:

Sacramento	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$695.11
Self and one Dependent	$1,390.22
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,807.29

Other Northern California counties pricing area. If you live or work in these counties: Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou,

Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, and Tuolumne, the monthly Premiums are:

Other Northern California counties	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$755.27
Self and one Dependent	$1,510.54
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,963.70

Los Angeles pricing area. If you live or work in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, or Ventura counties, the monthly Premiums are:

Los Angeles area	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$543.83
Self and one Dependent	$1,087.66
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,413.96

Other Southern California counties pricing area. If you live or work in these counties: Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Tulare, the monthly Premiums are:

Other Southern California counties	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$605.05
Self and one Dependent	$1,210.10
Self and two or more Dependents	$1,573.13

Out of State pricing area. If you live or work outside California, the monthly Premiums are:

Out of State	Monthly Premiums
Self only	$930.29
Self and one Dependent	$1,860.58
Self and two or more Dependents	$2,418.75

Medicare Premiums

Medicare Part D premium due to income

Some people pay a Part D premium directly to Medicare because of their yearly income. If your income is $85,000 or above for an individual (or married individuals filing separately) or $170,000 or above for married couples, you must pay an extra amount for your Medicare Part D coverage.

If you have to pay an extra amount, Social Security, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be and how to pay it. The extra amount will be withheld from your Social Security, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management benefit check, no matter how you usually pay your plan premium, unless your monthly benefit isn't enough to cover the extra amount owed. If your benefit check isn't enough to cover the extra amount, you will get a bill from Medicare. The extra amount must be paid separately and cannot be paid with your monthly plan premium.

If you disagree about paying an extra amount because of your income, you can ask Social Security to review the decision. To find out more about how to do this, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The extra amount is paid directly to the government (not your Medicare plan) for your Medicare Part D coverage. If you are required to pay the extra amount and you do not pay it, you will be disenrolled from Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage and lose Part D prescription drug coverage.

Medicare Part D late enrollment penalty

The late enrollment penalty is an amount that is added to your Part D premium. You may owe a late enrollment penalty if at any time after your Initial Enrollment Period is over, there is a period of 63 days or more in a row when you did not have Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage. "Creditable prescription drug coverage" is coverage that meets Medicare's minimum standards since it is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. The amount of the penalty depends on how long you waited to enroll in a creditable prescription drug coverage plan

any time after the end of your Initial Enrollment Period or how many full calendar months you went without creditable prescription drug coverage (this *Evidence of Coverage* is for a Part D plan). You will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Part D coverage.

If you disagree with your late enrollment penalty, you can ask us to review the decision about your late enrollment penalty. Call our Member Service Contact Center at the number on the front of this booklet to find out more about how to do this.

Note: If you receive "Extra Help" from Medicare to pay for your Part D prescription drugs, you will not pay a late enrollment penalty.

Medicare's "Extra Help" Program

Medicare provides "Extra Help" to pay prescription drug costs for people who have limited income and resources. Resources include your savings and stocks, but not your home or car. If you qualify, you get help paying for any Medicare drug plan's monthly premium and prescription Copayments. This "Extra Help" also counts toward your out-of-pocket costs.

People with limited income and resources may qualify for "Extra Help." Some people automatically qualify for "Extra Help" and don't need to apply. Medicare mails a letter to people who automatically qualify for "Extra Help."

You may be able to get "Extra Help" to pay for your prescription drug premiums and costs. To see if you qualify for getting "Extra Help," call:

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213, between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778 (applications); or
- Your state Medicaid office (applications). See the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section for contact information

If you qualify for "Extra Help," we will send you an *Evidence of Coverage Rider for those who Receive Extra Help Paying for their Prescription Drugs* (also known as the *Low Income Subsidy Rider* or the *LIS Rider*), that explains your costs as a Member of our plan. If the amount of your "Extra Help" changes during the year, we will also mail you an updated *Evidence of Coverage Rider for those who Receive Extra Help Paying for their Prescription Drugs*.

Eligibility

To enroll and to continue enrollment, you must meet all of the eligibility requirements described in this "Eligibility" section. The CalPERS Health Program enrollment and eligibility requirements are determined in accord with the Public Employees' Medical & Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA), the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. For an explanation of specific enrollment and eligibility criteria, please consult your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division).

Under the Public Employees' Medical & Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA), if you are Medicare-eligible and do not enroll in Medicare Parts A and B and in a CalPERS Medicare health plan, you and your enrolled Dependents will be excluded from coverage under the CalPERS program. If you are eligible and enrolled in Medicare Part B, but are not eligible for Medicare Part A without cost, you will not be required to enroll in a CalPERS Medicare health plan; however, you are still eligible to enroll in Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage.

Information pertaining to eligibility, enrollment, termination of coverage, and conversion rights can be obtained through the CalPERS website at **www.calpers.ca.gov**, or by calling CalPERS. Also, please refer to the CalPERS Health Program Guide for additional information about eligibility. Your coverage begins on the date established by CalPERS.

It is your responsibility to stay informed about your coverage. For an explanation of specific enrollment and eligibility criteria, please consult your Health Benefits Officer or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division at:

CalPERS
Member Account Management Division
P.O. Box 942714
Sacramento, CA 94229-2714

Or call:
888 CalPERS (or **888**-225-7377)
(916) 795-3240 (TDD)

Senior Advantage eligibility requirements when Medicare is secondary

- You must have Medicare Part B
- You must be simultaneously enrolled in your Group's non-Medicare plan as your primary coverage
- You must have Medicare as your secondary coverage in accord with federal law
- You may not be enrolled in another Medicare Health Plan or Medicare prescription drug plan
- You may enroll in Senior Advantage regardless of health status, except that you may not enroll if you have end-stage renal disease. This restriction does not apply to you if you are currently a Health Plan Northern California or Southern California Region member and you developed end-stage renal disease while a member

Note: If you are enrolled in a Medicare plan and lose Medicare eligibility, you may be able to enroll under your Group's non-Medicare plan if that is permitted by your Group (please ask your Group for details).

Service Area eligibility requirements

When you join Kaiser Permanente, you are enrolling in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), which we call your "Home Region." The Service Area of each Region is described in the "Definitions" section.

You must live in your Home Region Service Area, unless you have been continuously enrolled in Senior Advantage since December 31, 1998, and lived outside your Home Region Service Area during that entire time. In which case, you may continue your membership unless you move and are still outside your Home Region Service Area. The "Definitions" section describes our Service Area and how it may change.

Moving from your Home Region Service Area to our other California Region Service Area. You must complete a new Senior Advantage Election Form to continue Senior Advantage coverage if you move from your Home Region Service Area to the Service Area of our other California Region (the Service Area of both Regions are described in the "Definitions" section). To get a Senior Advantage Election Form, please call our Member Service Contact Center toll free at 1-800-443-0815 (TTY users call 711) every day 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Moving outside our Northern and Southern California Regions' Service Areas. If you permanently move outside our Northern and Southern California Regions' Service Areas, or you are temporarily absent from your Home Region Service Area for a period of more than six months in a row, you must notify us and you cannot continue your Senior Advantage membership under this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Send your notice to:

For Northern California Members:

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

For Southern California Members:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232407
San Diego, CA 92193

It is in your best interest to notify us as soon as possible because until your Senior Advantage coverage is officially terminated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, you will not be covered by us or Original Medicare for any care you receive from Non–Plan Providers, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
- Certain care when you visit the service area of another Region as described under "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
- Chiropractic and acupuncture services as described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, and for Southern California Region Members, chiropractic services as described under "Outpatient Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Durable medical equipment as described under "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under "Ambulance Services" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
- Home health care as described under "Home Health Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies as described under "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under "Dialysis Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prescription drugs from Non–Plan Pharmacies as described under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prosthetics and orthotics as described under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under "Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

If you are not eligible to continue enrollment because you move to the service area of another Region, please contact your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division) to learn about your Group health care options:

- **Regions outside California.** You may be able to enroll in the service area of another Region if there is an agreement between CalPERS and that Region, but the plan, including coverage, premiums, and eligibility requirements, might not be the same as under this *Evidence of Coverage*
- **Our Northern and Southern California Region's Service Areas.** The coverage information in this *Evidence of Coverage* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region. When you visit the other California Region, you may receive care as described in "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section

For more information about the service areas of the other Regions, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

The coverage information in this *Evidence of Coverage* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region. When you visit the other California Region, you may receive care as described in "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

Enrollment

Information pertaining to eligibility, enrollment, termination of coverage, and conversion rights can be obtained through the CalPERS website at **www.calpers.ca.gov**, or by calling CalPERS. Also, please refer to the CalPERS Health Program Guide for additional information about eligibility. Your coverage begins on the date established by CalPERS.

It is your responsibility to stay informed about your coverage. For an explanation of specific enrollment and eligibility criteria, please consult your Health Benefits Officer or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division at:

CalPERS
Member Account Management Division
P.O. Box 942714
Sacramento, CA 94229-2714

Or call:
888 CalPERS (or **888**-225-7377)
(916) 795-3240 (TDD)

If you are already a Health Plan Member who lives in the Senior Advantage Service Area, we will mail you information on how to join Senior Advantage and a Senior Advantage Election Form shortly before you reach age 65.

Effective date of Senior Advantage coverage

After we receive your completed Senior Advantage Election Form, we will submit your enrollment request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for confirmation and send you a notice indicating the proposed effective date of your Senior Advantage coverage under this *Evidence of Coverage*.

If the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirms your Senior Advantage enrollment and effective date, we will send you a notice that confirms your enrollment and effective date.
If the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services tells us that you do not have Medicare Part B coverage, we will notify you that you will be disenrolled from Senior Advantage.

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICES

As a Member, you are selecting our medical care program to provide your health care. You must receive all covered care from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except as described in the sections listed below for the following Services:

- Authorized referrals as described under "Getting a Referral" in this "How to Obtain Services" section
- Certain care when you visit the service area of another Region as described under "Visiting Other Regions" in this "How to Obtain Services" section
- Chiropractic and acupuncture services as described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, and for Southern California Region Members, chiropractic services as described under "Outpatient Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Durable medical equipment as described under "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency ambulance Services as described under "Ambulance Services" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
- Home health care as described under "Home Health Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Hospice care as described under "Hospice Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies as described under "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Out-of-area dialysis care as described under "Dialysis Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prescription drugs from Non–Plan Pharmacies as described under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Prosthetics and Orthotics as described under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under "Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

As a Member, you are enrolled in one of two Health Plan Regions in California (either our Northern California Region or Southern California Region), called your Home Region. The coverage information in this *Evidence of Coverage* applies when you obtain care in your Home Region.

Our medical care program gives you access to all of the covered Services you may need, such as routine care with your own personal Plan Physician, hospital care, laboratory and pharmacy Services, Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and other benefits described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Routine Care

If you need to make a routine care appointment, please refer to the *Provider Directory* for appointment telephone numbers, or go to our website at **kp.org** to request an appointment online.

Urgent Care

An Urgent Care need is one that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition. If you think you may need Urgent Care, call the appropriate appointment or advice telephone number at a Plan Facility. Please refer to the *Provider Directory* for appointment and advice telephone numbers.

For information about Out-of-Area Urgent Care, please refer to "Urgent Care" in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section.

Our Advice Nurses

We know that sometimes it's difficult to know what type of care you need. That's why we have telephone advice nurses available to assist you. Our advice nurses are registered nurses specially trained to help assess medical symptoms and provide advice over the phone, when medically appropriate. Whether you are calling for advice or to make an appointment, you can speak to an advice nurse. They can often answer questions about a minor concern, tell you what to do if a Plan Medical Office is closed, or advise you about what to do next, including making a same-day Urgent Care appointment for you if it's medically appropriate. To reach an advice nurse, please refer to the *Provider Directory* for the telephone numbers.

Your Personal Plan Physician

Personal Plan Physicians provide primary care and play an important role in coordinating care, including hospital stays and referrals to specialists.

We encourage you to choose a personal Plan Physician. You may choose any available personal Plan Physician. Parents may choose a pediatrician as the personal Plan Physician for their child. Most personal Plan Physicians are Primary Care Physicians (generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, or family practice, or specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians).

Some specialists who are not designated as Primary Care Physicians but who also provide primary care may be available as personal Plan Physicians. For example, some specialists in internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology who are not designated as Primary Care Physicians may be available as personal Plan Physicians. However, if you choose a specialist who is not designated as a Primary Care Physician as your personal Plan Physician, the Copayment or Coinsurance for a Physician Specialist Visit will apply to all visits with the specialist except for Preventive Care Services listed under "Outpatient Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

To learn how to select or change to a different personal Plan Physician, please refer to the *Provider Directory* or call our Member Service Contact Center. You can find a directory of our Plan Physicians on our website at **kp.org**. For the current list of physicians that are available as Primary Care Physicians, please call the personal physician selection department at the phone number listed in the *Provider Directory*. You can change your personal Plan Physician at any time for any reason.

Getting a Referral

Referrals to Plan Providers

A Plan Physician must refer you before you can receive care from specialists, such as specialists in surgery, orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, urology, dermatology, and physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Also, a Plan Physician must refer you before you can get care from Qualified Autism Service Providers covered under "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. However, you do not need a referral or prior authorization to receive most care from any of the following Plan Providers:

- Your personal Plan Physician
- Generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, and family practice
- Specialists in optometry, psychiatry, chemical dependency, and obstetrics/gynecology

Although a referral or prior authorization is not required to receive most care from these providers, a referral may be required in the following situations:

- The provider may have to get prior authorization for certain Services in accord with "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" in this "Getting a Referral" section
- The provider may have to refer you to a specialist who has a clinical background related to your illness or condition

Standing referrals

If a Plan Physician refers you to a specialist, the referral will be for a specific treatment plan. Your treatment plan may include a standing referral if ongoing care from the specialist is prescribed. For example, if you have a life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling condition, you can get a standing referral to a specialist if ongoing care from the specialist is required.

Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals

The following are examples of Services that require prior authorization by the Medical Group for the Services to be covered ("prior authorization" means that the Medical Group must approve the Services in advance):

- Durable medical equipment
- Ostomy and urological supplies
- Services not available from Plan Providers
- Transplants

For the complete list of Services that require prior authorization, and the criteria that are used to make authorization decisions, please visit our website at **kp.org** or call our Member Service Contact Center. Please refer to "Post-Stabilization Care" under "Emergency Services" in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section for authorization requirements that apply to Post-Stabilization Care from Non–Plan Providers.

Decisions regarding requests for authorization will be made only by licensed physicians or other appropriately licensed medical professionals.

Medical Group's decision time frames. The applicable Medical Group designee will make the authorization decision within the time frame appropriate for your condition, but no later than five business days after receiving all of the information (including additional examination and test results) reasonably necessary to make the decision, except that decisions about urgent Services will be made no later than 72 hours after receipt of the information reasonably necessary to make the decision. If the Medical Group needs more time to make the decision because it doesn't have information reasonably necessary to make the decision, or because it has requested consultation by a particular specialist, you and your treating physician will be informed about the additional information, testing, or specialist that is needed, and the date that the Medical Group expects to make a decision.

Your treating physician will be informed of the decision within 24 hours after the decision is made. If the Services are authorized, your physician will be informed of the scope of the authorized Services. If the Medical Group does not authorize all of the Services, Health Plan will send you a written decision and explanation within two business days after the decision is made. Any written criteria that the Medical Group uses to make the decision to authorize, modify, delay, or deny the request for

authorization will be made available to you upon request.

If the Medical Group does not authorize all of the Services requested and you want to appeal the decision, you can file a grievance as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

Copayments and Coinsurance. The Copayments and Coinsurance for these referral Services are the Copayments and Coinsurance required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

More information. This description is only a brief summary of the authorization procedure. The policies and procedures (including a description of the authorization procedure or information about the authorization procedure applicable to some Plan Providers other than Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and the Medical Group) are available upon request from our Member Service Contact Center. Please refer to "Post-Stabilization Care" under "Emergency Services" in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section for authorization requirements that apply to Post-Stabilization Care from Non–Plan Providers.

Second Opinions

If you want a second opinion, you can either ask your Plan Physician to help you arrange one, or you can make an appointment with another Plan Physician. If there isn't a Plan Physician who is an appropriately qualified medical professional for your condition, the appropriate Medical Group designee will authorize a consultation with a Non–Plan Physician for a second opinion. For purposes of this "Second Opinions" provision, an "appropriately qualified medical professional" is a physician who is acting within his or her scope of practice and who possesses a clinical background related to the illness or condition associated with the request for a second medical opinion.

Here are some examples of when a second opinion may be provided or authorized:

- Your Plan Physician has recommended a procedure and you are unsure about whether the procedure is reasonable or necessary
- You question a diagnosis or plan of care for a condition that threatens substantial impairment or loss of life, limb, or bodily functions
- The clinical indications are not clear or are complex and confusing
- A diagnosis is in doubt due to conflicting test results
- The Plan Physician is unable to diagnose the condition
- The treatment plan in progress is not improving your medical condition within an appropriate period of time, given the diagnosis and plan of care
- You have concerns about the diagnosis or plan of care

You have a right to a second opinion. If you believe you have been waiting too long for your second opinion appointment, you can file a grievance as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Complaints, and Appeals" section.

Copayments and Coinsurance. The Copayments and Coinsurance for these referral Services are the Copayments and Coinsurance required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Interactive Video Visits

Interactive video visits between you and your provider are intended to make it more convenient for you to receive covered Services, when a Plan Provider determines it is medically appropriate for your medical condition. You may receive covered Services via interactive video visits, when available and if the Services would have been covered under the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section (subject to the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of

Benefits, and Reductions" section) if provided in person. You are not required to use interactive video visits.

Contracts with Plan Providers

How Plan Providers are paid

Health Plan and Plan Providers are independent contractors. Plan Providers are paid in a number of ways, such as salary, capitation, per diem rates, case rates, fee for service, and incentive payments. To learn more about how Plan Physicians are paid to provide or arrange medical and hospital care for Members, please visit our website at **kp.org** or call our Member Service Contact Center.

Financial liability

Our contracts with Plan Providers provide that you are not liable for any amounts we owe. However, you may have to pay the full price of noncovered Services you obtain from Plan Providers or Non–Plan Providers.

Termination of a Plan Provider's contract and completion of Services

If our contract with any Plan Provider terminates while you are under the care of that provider, we will retain financial responsibility for covered care you receive from that provider until we make arrangements for the Services to be provided by another Plan Provider and notify you of the arrangements.

Completion of Services. If you are undergoing treatment for specific conditions from a Plan Physician (or certain other providers) when the contract with him or her ends (for reasons other than medical disciplinary cause, criminal activity, or the provider's voluntary termination), you may be eligible to continue receiving covered care from the terminated provider for your condition.

The conditions that are subject to this continuation of care provision are:

- Certain conditions that are either acute, or serious and chronic. We may cover these Services for up to 90 days, or longer if necessary for a safe transfer of care to a Plan Physician or other contracting provider as determined by the Medical Group
- A high-risk pregnancy or a pregnancy in its second or third trimester. We may cover these Services through postpartum care related to the delivery, or longer if Medically Necessary for a safe transfer of care to a Plan Physician as determined by the Medical Group

The Services must be otherwise covered under this *Evidence of Coverage*. Also, the terminated provider must agree in writing to our contractual terms and conditions and comply with them for Services to be covered by us. The Copayments and Coinsurance for the Services of a terminated provider are the Copayments and Coinsurance required for Services provided by a Plan Provider as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

More information. For more information about this provision, or to request the Services, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Visiting Other Regions

If you visit the service area of another Region temporarily (not more than 90 days), you can receive certain care from designated providers in that service area. The care you can get in other Kaiser Permanente Regions and your out-of-pocket costs may differ from the covered Services, Copayments, and Coinsurance described in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

The 90-day limit does not apply to Members who attend an accredited college or accredited vocational school. The service areas and facilities where you may obtain care outside your Home Region Service Area may change at any time without notice.

Please call our Member Service Contact Center for more information about visiting member care, including facility locations in the service area of another Region, and to request a copy of the *On the GO* brochure.

Your ID Card

Each Member's Kaiser Permanente ID card has a medical record number on it, which you will need when you call for advice, make an appointment, or go to a provider for covered care. When you get care, please bring your Kaiser Permanente ID card and a photo ID. Your medical record number is used to identify your medical records and membership information. Your medical record number should never change. Please call our Member Service Contact Center if we ever inadvertently issue you more than one medical record number or if you need to replace your Kaiser Permanente ID card.

Your ID card is for identification only. To receive covered Services, you must be a current Member. Anyone who is not a Member will be billed as a non-Member for any Services he or she receives. If you let someone else use your ID card, we will submit the matter to CalPERS for appropriate action as described under "Termination for Cause" in the "Termination of Membership" section.

Your Medicare card

As a Member, you will not need your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get covered Services, but do keep it in a safe place in case you need it later.

Getting Assistance

We want you to be satisfied with the health care you receive from Kaiser Permanente. If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with your personal Plan Physician or with other Plan Providers who are treating you. They are committed to your satisfaction and want to help you with your questions.

Member Services

Many Plan Facilities have an office staffed with representatives who can provide assistance if you need help obtaining Services. At different locations, these offices may be called Member Services, Patient Assistance, or Customer Service. In addition, our Member Service Contact Center representatives are available to assist you seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. toll free at 1-800-443-0815 or 711 (TTY for the deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired). For your convenience, you can also contact us through our website at **kp.org**.

Member Services representatives at our Plan Facilities and Member Service Contact Center can answer any questions you have about your benefits, available Services, and the facilities where you can receive care. For example, they can explain your Health Plan benefits, how to make your first medical appointment, what to do if you move, what to do if you need care while you are traveling, and how to replace your ID card. These representatives can also help you if you need to file a claim as described in the "Requests for Payment" section.

PLAN FACILITIES

Plan Medical Offices and Plan Hospitals for your area are listed in the *Provider Directory* and on our website at **kp.org**. The *Provider Directory* describes the types of covered Services that are available from each Plan Facility in your area, because some facilities provide only specific types of covered Services. Also, it explains how to use our Services and make appointments, lists hours of operation, and includes a detailed telephone directory for appointments and advice. If you have any questions about the current locations of Plan Medical Offices and/or Plan Hospitals, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

At most of our Plan Facilities, you can usually receive all of the covered Services you need, including specialty care, pharmacy, and lab work. You are not restricted to a particular Plan Facility, and we encourage you to use the facility that will be most convenient for you:

- All Plan Hospitals provide inpatient Services and are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Emergency Services are available from Plan Hospital Emergency Departments as described in the *Provider Directory* (please refer to the *Provider Directory* for Emergency Department locations in your area)
- Same–day Urgent Care appointments are available at many locations (please refer to the *Provider Directory* for Urgent Care locations in your area)
- Many Plan Medical Offices have evening and weekend appointments
- Many Plan Facilities have a Member Services Department (refer to the *Provider Directory* for locations in your area)
- Plan Pharmacies are located at most Plan Medical Offices (refer to *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory* for pharmacy locations)

Provider Directory

The *Provider Directory* lists our Plan Providers. It is subject to change and periodically updated. If you don't have our *Provider Directory*, you can get a copy by calling our Member Service Contact Center or by visiting our website at **kp.org**.

Pharmacy Directory

The *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory* lists the locations of Plan Pharmacies, which are also called "network pharmacies." The pharmacy directory provides additional information about obtaining prescription drugs. It is subject to change and periodically updated. If you don't have the *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory*, you can get a copy by calling our Member Service Contact Center or by visiting our website at **kp.org/seniormedrx**.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND URGENT CARE

Emergency Services

If you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 (where available) or go to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. You do not need prior authorization for Emergency Services. When you have an Emergency Medical Condition, we cover Emergency Services you receive from Plan Providers or Non–Plan Providers anywhere in the world if the Services would have been covered under the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance " section (subject to the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section) if you had received them from Plan Providers.

Emergency Services are available from Plan Hospital Emergency Departments 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Post-Stabilization Care

Post-Stabilization Care is Medically Necessary Services related to your Emergency Medical Condition that you receive in a hospital (including the Emergency Department) after your treating physician determines that this condition is Stabilized.

To request prior authorization, the Non–Plan Provider must call the notification telephone number on your Kaiser Permanente ID card *before* you receive the care. We will discuss your condition with the Non–Plan Provider. If we determine that you require Post-Stabilization Care and that this care would be covered if you received it from a Plan Provider, we will authorize your care from the Non–Plan Provider or arrange to have a Plan Provider (or other designated provider) provide the care with the treating physician's concurrence. If we decide to have a Plan Hospital, Plan Skilled Nursing Facility, or designated Non–Plan Provider provide your care, we may authorize special transportation services that are medically required to get you to the provider. This may include transportation that is otherwise not covered.

Be sure to ask the Non–Plan Provider to tell you what care (including any transportation) we have authorized because we will not cover unauthorized Post-Stabilization Care or related transportation provided by Non–Plan Providers. If you receive care from a Non–Plan Provider that we have not authorized, you may have to pay the full cost of that care if you are notified by the Non–Plan Provider or us about your potential liability.

Copayments and Coinsurance

Your Copayments and Coinsurance for covered Emergency Services and Post-Stabilization Care is the Copayments and Coinsurance that you would pay if a Plan Provider had provided the Services and the Services were not Emergency Services or Post-Stabilization Care. For example:

- If you receive Emergency Services in the Emergency Department of a Non–Plan Hospital, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for an Emergency Department visit as described under "Outpatient Care"
- If we gave prior authorization for inpatient Post-Stabilization Care in a Non–Plan Hospital, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for hospital inpatient care as described under "Hospital Inpatient Care"

Urgent Care

Inside the Service Area

An Urgent Care need is one that requires prompt medical attention but is not an Emergency Medical Condition. If you think you may need Urgent Care, call the appropriate appointment or advice telephone number at a Plan Facility. Please refer to the *Provider Directory* for appointment and advice telephone numbers.

In the event of unusual circumstances that delay or render impractical the provision of Services under this *Evidence of Coverage* (such as a major disaster, epidemic, war, riot, and civil

insurrection), we cover Urgent Care inside your Home Region Service Area from a Non–Plan Provider.

Out-of-Area Urgent Care

If you need Urgent Care due to an unforeseen illness or unforeseen injury, we cover Medically Necessary Services to prevent serious deterioration of your health from a Non–Plan Provider if all of the following are true:

- You receive the Services from Non–Plan Providers while you are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area
- A reasonable person would have believed that your health would seriously deteriorate if you delayed treatment until you returned to your Home Region Service Area

You do not need prior authorization for Out-of-Area Urgent Care. We cover Out-of-Area Urgent Care you receive from Non–Plan Providers if the Services would have been covered under the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section (subject to the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section) if you had received them from Plan Providers.

We do not cover follow-up care from Non-Plan Providers after you no longer need Urgent Care. To obtain follow-up care from a Plan Provider, call the appointment or advice telephone number listed in the *Provider Directory*.

Your Copayments and Coinsurance

Your Copayments and Coinsurance for covered Urgent Care is the Copayments and Coinsurance required for Services provided by Plan Providers as described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. For example:

- If you receive an Urgent Care evaluation as part of covered Out-of-Area Urgent Care from a Non–Plan Provider, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment as described under "Outpatient Care"
- If the Out-of-Area Urgent Care you receive includes an X-ray, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for an X-ray as described under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures" in addition to the Copayment or Coinsurance for the Urgent Care evaluation

Note: If you receive Urgent Care in an Emergency Department, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for an Emergency Department visit as described under "Outpatient Care."

Payment and Reimbursement

If you receive Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Urgent Care from a Non–Plan Provider as described in this "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section, or emergency ambulance Services described under "Ambulance Services" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section, ask the Non–Plan Provider to submit a claim to us within 60 days or as soon as possible, but no later than 15 months after receiving the care (or up to 27 months according to Medicare rules, in some cases). If the provider refuses to bill us, send us the unpaid bill with a claim form. Also, if you receive Services from a Plan Provider that are prescribed by a Non–Plan Provider as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Urgent Care (for example, drugs), you may be required to pay for the Services and file a claim. To request payment or reimbursement, you must file a claim as described in the "Requests for Payment" section.

We will reduce any payment we make to you or the Non–Plan Provider by the applicable Copayments and Coinsurance.

Also, in accord with applicable law, we will reduce our payment by any amounts paid or payable (or that in the absence of this plan would have been payable) for the Services under any insurance policy, or any other contract or coverage, or any government program except Medicaid.

BENEFITS, COPAYMENTS, AND COINSURANCE

We cover the Services described in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section, subject to the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section, only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- You are a Member on the date that you receive the Services
- The Services are Medically Necessary
- The Services are one of the following:
  - Preventive Care Services
  - health care items and services for diagnosis, assessment, or treatment
  - health education covered under "Health Education" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - other health care items and services
- The Services are provided, prescribed, authorized, or directed by a Plan Physician except where specifically noted to the contrary in the sections listed below for the following Services:
  - certain care when you visit the service area of another Region as described under "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
  - drugs prescribed by dentists as described under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - chiropractic and acupuncture services as described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, and for Southern California Region Members, chiropractic services as described under "Outpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - emergency ambulance Services as described under "Ambulance Services" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
  - eyeglasses and contact lenses prescribed by Non–Plan Providers as described under "Vision Services" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - out-of-area dialysis care as described under "Dialysis Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under "Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- You receive the Services from Plan Providers inside your Home Region Service Area, except where specifically noted to the contrary in the sections listed below for the following Services:
  - authorized referrals as described under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
  - certain care when you visit the service area of another Region as described under "Visiting Other Regions" in the "How to Obtain Services" section
  - chiropractic and acupuncture services as described in the "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, and for Southern California Region Members, chiropractic services as described under "Outpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - durable medical equipment as described under "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
  - emergency ambulance Services as described under "Ambulance Services" in this

"Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

- Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
- home health care as described under "Home Health Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- hospice care as described under "Hospice Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies as described under "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- out-of-area dialysis care as described under "Dialysis Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- prescription drugs from Non–Plan Pharmacies as described under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- prosthetics and orthotics as described under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- routine Services associated with Medicare-approved clinical trials as described under "Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

- The Medical Group has given prior authorization for the Services if required under "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" in the "How to Obtain Services" section

The only Services we cover under this *Evidence of Coverage* are those that this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section says that we cover, subject to exclusions and limitations described in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section and to all provisions in the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section. The "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section describes exclusions, limitations, reductions, and coordination of benefits provisions that apply to all Services that would otherwise be covered. When an exclusion or limitation applies only to a particular benefit, it is listed in the description of that benefit in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. Also, please refer to:

- The "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section for information about how to obtain covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care
- The *Provider Directory* for the types of covered Services that are available from each Plan Facility in your area, because some facilities provide only specific types of covered Services

Your Copayments and Coinsurance

Your Copayments and Coinsurance are the amounts you are required to pay for covered Services. The Copayments or Coinsurance for covered Services is listed in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. If your coverage includes a Plan Deductible and you receive Services that are subject to the Plan Deductible, your Copayment or Coinsurance for those Services will be Charges if you have not met the Plan Deductible.

General rules, examples, and exceptions

Your Copayments or Coinsurance for covered Services will be the Copayments or Coinsurance in effect on the date you receive the Services, except as follows:

- If you are receiving covered inpatient hospital Services on the effective date of this *Evidence of Coverage*, you pay the Copayments or Coinsurance in effect on your admission date until you are discharged if the Services were covered under your prior Health Plan evidence

of coverage and there has been no break in coverage. However, if the Services were not covered under your prior Health Plan evidence of coverage, or if there has been a break in coverage, you pay the Copayments or Coinsurance in effect on the date you receive the Services

- For items ordered in advance, you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance in effect on the order date (although we will not cover the item unless you still have coverage for it on the date you receive it) and you may be required to pay the Copayment or Coinsurance when the item is ordered. For outpatient prescription drugs, the order date is the date that the pharmacy processes the order after receiving all of the information they need to fill the prescription

Payment toward your Copayment or Coinsurance (and when you may be billed). In most cases, your provider will ask you to make a payment toward your Copayment or Coinsurance at the time you receive Services. If you receive more than one type of Services (such as primary care treatment and laboratory tests), you may be required to pay separate Copayment or Coinsurance for each of those Services. Keep in mind that your payment toward your Copayment or Coinsurance may cover only a portion of your total Copayment or Coinsurance for the Services you receive, and you will be billed for any additional amounts that are due. The following are examples of when you may be asked to pay (or you may be billed for) Copayment or Coinsurance amounts in addition to the amount you pay at check-in:

- You receive non-preventive Services during a preventive visit. For example, you go in for a routine physical exam, and at check-in you pay your Copayment or Coinsurance for the preventive exam (your Copayment or Coinsurance may be "no charge"). However, during your preventive exam your provider finds a problem with your health and orders non-preventive Services to diagnose your problem (such as laboratory tests). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Copayment or Coinsurance for these additional non-preventive diagnostic Services
- You receive diagnostic Services during a treatment visit. For example, you go in for treatment of an existing health condition, and at check-in you pay your Copayment or Coinsurance for a treatment visit. However, during the visit your provider finds a new problem with your health and performs or orders diagnostic Services (such as laboratory tests). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Copayment or Coinsurance for these additional diagnostic Services
- You receive treatment Services during a diagnostic visit. For example, you go in for a diagnostic exam, and at check-in you pay your Copayment or Coinsurance for a diagnostic exam. However, during the diagnostic exam your provider confirms a problem with your health and performs treatment Services (such as an outpatient procedure). You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Copayment or Coinsurance for these additional treatment Services
- You receive Services from a second provider during your visit. For example, you go in for a diagnostic exam, and at check-in you pay your Copayment or Coinsurance for a diagnostic exam. However, during the diagnostic exam your provider requests a consultation with a specialist. You may be asked to pay (or you will be billed for) your Copayment or Coinsurance for the consultation with the specialist

In some cases, your provider will not ask you to make a payment at the time you receive Services, and you will be billed for your Copayment or Coinsurance. The following are examples of when you will be billed:

- A Plan Provider is not able to collect Copayment or Coinsurance at the time you receive Services (for example, some Laboratory Departments are not able to collect Copayment or Coinsurance)
- You ask to be billed for some or all of your Copayment or Coinsurance

- Medical Group authorizes a referral to a Non–Plan Provider and that provider does not collect your Copayment or Coinsurance at the time you receive Services
- You receive covered Emergency Services or Out-of-Area Urgent Care from a Non–Plan Provider and that provider does not collect your Copayment or Coinsurance at the time you receive Services

If you have questions about a bill, please call the phone number on the bill.

Primary Care Visits, Non-Physician Specialist Visits, and Physician Specialist Visits. The Copayment or Coinsurance for a Primary Care Visit applies to evaluations and treatment provided by generalists in internal medicine, pediatrics, or family practice, and by specialists in obstetrics/gynecology whom the Medical Group designates as Primary Care Physicians. Some physician specialists provide primary care in addition to specialty care but are not designated as Primary Care Physicians. If you receive Services from one of these specialists, the Copayment or Coinsurance for a Physician Specialist Visit will apply to all consultations, evaluations, and treatment provided by the specialist except for routine preventive care counseling and exams listed under "Preventive Care Services" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance " section. For example, if your personal Plan Physician is a specialist in internal medicine or obstetrics/gynecology who is not a Primary Care Physician, you will pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for a Physician Specialist Visit for all consultations, evaluations, and treatment by the specialist except preventive care counseling and exams listed under "Preventive Care Services" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance " section. The Non-Physician Specialist Visit Copayment or Coinsurance applies to consultations, evaluations, and treatment provided by non-physician specialists (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, optometrists, podiatrists, and audiologists).

Noncovered Services. If you receive Services that are not covered under this *Evidence of Coverage*, you may have to pay the full price of those Services. Payments you make for noncovered Services do not apply to any deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

Copayments and Coinsurance

The Copayment or Coinsurance you must pay for each covered Service, after you meet any applicable deductible, is described in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Preventive Care Services

We cover a variety of Preventive Care Services. This "Preventive Care Services" section lists Medicare-covered Preventive Care Services, but it does not otherwise explain coverage. For coverage of Preventive Care Services, please refer to the applicable benefit heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section, subject to the "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section.

The following Medicare-covered Preventive Care Services are covered in other parts of this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening if prescribed during the one-time "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit
- Annual Wellness visit
- Bone mass measurement
- Breast cancer screening (mammograms)
- Cardiovascular disease testing
- Cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease)
- Cervical and vaginal cancer screenings (pap tests and pelvic exam)
- Colorectal cancer screenings (fecal occult blood test, barium enema, flexible sigmoidoscopies, and colonoscopies)

- Depression screening
- Diabetes screening (pre-diabetes fasting plasma glucose and challenge tests for persons at risk of getting diabetes)
- Diabetes self-management training
- Hepatitis B, influenza, and pneumococcal vaccines
- HIV screening
- Medical nutrition therapy services for end-stage renal disease and diabetes
- Obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss
- Prostate cancer screening exams
- Screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse
- Sexually transmitted infection screening and high-intensity behavioral counseling to prevent sexually transmitted infections
- Smoking cessation (counseling to stop smoking)
- "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit

Outpatient Care

We cover the following outpatient care subject to the Copayment or Coinsurance indicated:

- Primary Care Visits for evaluations and treatment and Non-Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment, other than those described below in this "Outpatient Care" section: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment other than those described below in this "Outpatient Care" section: **no charge**
- Routine physical exams that are medically appropriate preventive care in accord with generally accepted professional standards of practice: **no charge**
- The following Preventive Care Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines:
  - Annual Wellness visit: **no charge**
  - "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit: **no charge**
  - immunizations (including the vaccine) covered by Medicare Part B such as Hepatitis B, influenza, and pneumococcal vaccines that are administered to you in a Plan Medical Office: **no charge**
  - colorectal cancer screenings, such as flexible sigmoidoscopies and colonoscopies: **no charge**
  - medical nutrition therapy services for end-stage renal disease and diabetes: **no charge**
  - cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease): **no charge**
  - obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss: **no charge**
  - sexually transmitted infection high-intensity behavioral counseling to prevent sexually transmitted infections: **no charge**
  - depression screening: **no charge**
  - screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse: **no charge**
- Family planning counseling, or consultations to obtain internally implanted time-release contraceptives or intrauterine devices (IUDs) prescribed in accord with our drug formulary guidelines: **no charge**
- After confirmation of pregnancy, the normal series of regularly scheduled preventive prenatal care exams and the first postpartum follow-up consultation and exam: **no charge**
- Allergy injections (including allergy serum): **no charge**
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**

- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Copayments or Coinsurance that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")
- Voluntary termination of pregnancy: **no charge**
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy in accord with Medicare guidelines: **no charge**
- Group and individual physical therapy prescribed by a Plan Provider to prevent falls: **no charge**
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation day-treatment program in accord with Medicare guidelines: **no charge**
- Urgent Care consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Emergency Department visits: **no charge**
- Interactive video visits for professional Services when care can be provided in this format as determined by a Plan Provider: **no charge**
- Scheduled telephone appointment visits for professional Services when care can be provided in this format as determined by a Plan Provider: **no charge**
- House calls by a Plan Physician (or a Plan Provider who is a registered nurse) inside your Home Region Service Area when care can best be provided in your home as determined by a Plan Physician: **no charge**
- Manual manipulation of the spine is covered to correct subluxation, in accord with Medicare guidelines, but only if the manipulation is performed for Southern California Region Members by an American Specialty Health Plans (ASH Plans) Participating Chiropractor (no referral required), or when prescribed or authorized by a Plan Physician and performed by a Plan or network osteopath or chiropractor for Northern California Region Members: **no charge**
- Acupuncture Services (typically provided only for the treatment of nausea or as part of a comprehensive pain management program for the treatment of chronic pain):
  - acupuncture Services provided by a Non-Physician Specialist: **no charge**
  - acupuncture Services provided by a Physician Specialist: **no charge**
- Blood, blood products, and their administration: **no charge**
- Administered drugs (drugs, injectables, radioactive materials used for therapeutic purposes, and allergy test and treatment materials) prescribed in accord with our drug formulary guidelines, if administration or observation by medical personnel is required and they are administered to you in a Plan Medical Office or during home visits:
  - tuberculosis tests: **no charge**
  - administered chemotherapy drugs: **no charge**
  - all other administered drugs: **no charge**

Note: Vaccines covered by Medicare Part D are not covered under this "Outpatient Care" section (instead, refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section).

Coverage for Services related to "Outpatient Care" described in other sections

The following types of outpatient Services are covered only as described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Bariatric Surgery

- Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism
- Chemical Dependency Services
- Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia
- Dialysis Care
- Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use
- Health Education
- Hearing Services
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Care
- Infertility Services
- Mental Health Services
- Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies
- Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures
- Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements
- Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials
- Transplant Services
- Vision Services

Hospital Inpatient Care

We cover the following inpatient Services at **no charge** in a Plan Hospital, when the Services are generally and customarily provided by acute care general hospitals inside your Home Region Service Area:

- Room and board, including a private room if Medically Necessary
- Specialized care and critical care units
- General and special nursing care
- Operating and recovery rooms
- Services of Plan Physicians, including consultation and treatment by specialists
- Anesthesia
- Drugs prescribed in accord with our drug formulary guidelines (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the hospital, please refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Radioactive materials used for therapeutic purposes
- Durable medical equipment and medical supplies
- Imaging, laboratory, and special procedures
- Blood, blood products, and their administration
- Obstetrical care and delivery (including cesarean section). Note: If you are discharged within 48 hours after delivery (or within 96 hours if delivery is by cesarean section), your Plan Physician may order a follow-up visit for you and your newborn to take place within 48 hours after discharge (for visits after you are released from the hospital, please refer to "Outpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy (including treatment in an organized, multidisciplinary rehabilitation program) in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism
- Respiratory therapy
- Medical social services and discharge planning

Coverage for Services related to "Hospital Inpatient Care" described in other sections

The following types of inpatient Services are covered only as described under the following headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Bariatric Surgery
- Chemical Dependency Services

- Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia
- Dialysis Care
- Hospice Care
- Infertility Services
- Mental Health Services
- Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services
- Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials
- Skilled Nursing Facility Care
- Transplant Services

Ambulance Services

Emergency

We cover at **no charge** Services of a licensed ambulance anywhere in the world without prior authorization (including transportation through the 911 emergency response system where available) in the following situations:

- A reasonable person would have believed that the medical condition was an Emergency Medical Condition which required ambulance Services
- Your treating physician determines that you must be transported to another facility because your Emergency Medical Condition is not Stabilized and the care you need is not available at the treating facility

If you receive emergency ambulance Services that are not ordered by a Plan Provider, you are not responsible for any amounts beyond your Copayment or Coinsurance for covered emergency ambulance Services. However, if the provider does not agree to bill us, you may have to pay for the Services and file a claim for reimbursement. For information on how to file a claim, please see the "Requests for Payment" section.

Nonemergency

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover nonemergency ambulance Services in accord with Medicare guidelines at **no charge** if a Plan Physician determines that your condition requires the use of Services that only a licensed ambulance can provide and that the use of other means of transportation would endanger your health. These Services are covered only when the vehicle transports you to or from covered Services in accord with Medicare guidelines.

Ambulance Services exclusion

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

Bariatric Surgery

We cover hospital inpatient care related to bariatric surgical procedures (including room and board, imaging, laboratory, special procedures, and Plan Physician Services) when performed to treat obesity by modification of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutrient intake and absorption, if all of the following requirements are met:

- You complete the Medical Group–approved pre-surgical educational preparatory program regarding lifestyle changes necessary for long term bariatric surgery success
- A Plan Physician who is a specialist in bariatric care determines that the surgery is Medically Necessary

For covered Services related to bariatric surgical procedures that you receive, you will pay the **Copayments and Coinsurance you would pay if the Services were not related to a bariatric surgical procedure**. For example, see "Hospital Inpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section for the Copayment or Coinsurance that applies for hospital inpatient care.

If you live 50 miles or more from the facility to which you are referred for a covered bariatric surgery, we will reimburse you for certain travel and lodging expenses if you receive prior written authorization from the Medical Group and send us adequate documentation including receipts. We will not, however, reimburse you for any travel or lodging expenses if you were offered a referral to a facility that is less than 50 miles from your home. We will reimburse authorized and documented travel and lodging expenses as follows:

- Transportation for you to and from the facility up to $130 per round trip for a maximum of three trips (one pre-surgical visit, the surgery, and one follow-up visit), including any trips for which we provided reimbursement under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group
- Transportation for one companion to and from the facility up to $130 per round trip for a maximum of two trips (the surgery and one follow-up visit), including any trips for which we provided reimbursement under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group
- One hotel room, double-occupancy, for you and one companion not to exceed $100 per day for the pre-surgical visit and the follow-up visit, up to two days per trip, including any hotel accommodations for which we provided reimbursement under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group
- Hotel accommodations for one companion not to exceed $100 per day for the duration of your surgery stay, up to four days, including any hotel accommodations for which we provided reimbursement under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group

Coverage for Services related to "Bariatric Surgery" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Care")

Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism

The following terms have special meaning when capitalized and used in this "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" section:

- "Qualified Autism Service Provider" means a provider who has the experience and competence to design, supervise, provide, or administer treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism and is either of the following:
  - a person, entity, or group that is certified by a national entity (such as the Behavior Analyst Certification Board) that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies
  - a person licensed in California as a physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist
- "Qualified Autism Service Professional" means a person who meets all of the following criteria:
  - provides behavioral health treatment
  - is employed and supervised by a Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - provides treatment pursuant to a treatment plan developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - is a behavioral health treatment provider approved as a vendor by a California regional center to provide Services as an

Associate Behavior Analyst, Behavior Analyst, Behavior Management Assistant, Behavior Management Consultant, or Behavior Management Program as defined in Section 54342 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations

- has training and experience in providing Services for pervasive developmental disorder or autism pursuant to Division 4.5 (commencing with Section 4500) of the Welfare and Institutions Code or Title 14 (commencing with Section 95000) of the Government Code

- "Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessional" means an unlicensed and uncertified individual who meets all of the following criteria:
  - is employed and supervised by a Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - provides treatment and implements Services pursuant to a treatment plan developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - meets the criteria set forth in the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4686.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
  - has adequate education, training, and experience, as certified by a Qualified Autism Service Provider

We cover behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism (including applied behavior analysis and evidence-based behavior intervention programs) that develops or restores, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of a person with pervasive developmental disorder or autism and that meet all of the following criteria:

- The treatment is prescribed by a Plan Physician, or is developed by a Plan Provider who is a psychologist
- The treatment is provided under a treatment plan prescribed by a Plan Provider who is a Qualified Autism Service Provider
- The treatment is administered by a Plan Provider who is one of the following:
  - a Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - a Qualified Autism Service Professional supervised and employed by the Qualified Autism Service Provider
  - a Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessional supervised and employed by a Qualified Autism Service Provider
- The treatment plan has measurable goals over a specific timeline that is developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider for the Member being treated
- The treatment plan is reviewed no less than once every six months by the Qualified Autism Service Provider and modified whenever appropriate
- The treatment plan requires the Qualified Autism Service Provider to do all of the following:
  - Describe the Member's behavioral health impairments to be treated
  - Design an intervention plan that includes the service type, number of hours, and parent participation needed to achieve the plan's goal and objectives, and the frequency at which the Member's progress is evaluated and reported
  - Provide intervention plans that utilize evidence-based practices, with demonstrated clinical efficacy in treating pervasive developmental disorder or autism
  - Discontinue intensive behavioral intervention Services when the treatment goals and objectives are achieved or no longer appropriate
- The treatment plan is not used for either of the following:
  - for purposes of providing (or for the reimbursement of) respite care, day care, or educational services

- to reimburse a parent for participating in the treatment program

You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Individual visits: **no charge**
- Group visits: **no charge**

Effective as of the date that federal proposed final rulemaking for essential health benefits is issued, we will cover Services under this "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" section only if they are included in the essential health benefits that all health plans will be required by federal regulations to provide under section 1302(b) of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act.

Chemical Dependency Services

Inpatient detoxification

We cover hospitalization in a Plan Hospital only for medical management of withdrawal symptoms, including room and board, Plan Physician Services, drugs, dependency recovery Services, education, and counseling. We cover these Services at **no charge**.

Outpatient chemical dependency care

We cover the following Services for treatment of chemical dependency:

- Day-treatment programs
- Individual and group chemical dependency counseling
- Intensive outpatient programs
- Medical treatment for withdrawal symptoms

You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Individual chemical dependency evaluation and treatment: **no charge**
- Group chemical dependency treatment: **no charge**
- Intensive outpatient and day-treatment programs: **no charge**

Residential treatment

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover the following Services at **no charge** when the Services are provided in a licensed residential treatment facility that provides 24-hour individualized chemical dependency treatment, the Services are generally and customarily provided by a chemical dependency residential treatment program in a licensed residential treatment facility, and the Services are above the level of custodial care:

- Individual and group chemical dependency counseling
- Medical services
- Medication monitoring
- Room and board
- Social services
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Provider as part of your plan of care in the residential treatment facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the facility by medical personnel (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the residential treatment facility, please refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Discharge planning

Coverage for Services related to "Chemical Dependency Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient laboratory (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")

- Outpatient self-administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")

Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia

Dental Services for radiation treatment

We cover services in accord with Medicare guidelines, including dental evaluation, X-rays, fluoride treatment, and extractions necessary to prepare your jaw for radiation therapy of cancer in your head or neck if a Plan Physician provides the Services or if the Medical Group authorizes a referral to a dentist (as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section).

Dental anesthesia

For dental procedures at a Plan Facility, we provide general anesthesia and the facility's Services associated with the anesthesia if all of the following are true:

- You are under age 7, or you are developmentally disabled, or your health is compromised
- Your clinical status or underlying medical condition requires that the dental procedure be provided in a hospital or outpatient surgery center
- The dental procedure would not ordinarily require general anesthesia

We do not cover any other Services related to the dental procedure, such as the dentist's Services, unless the Service is covered in accord with Medicare guidelines.

Your Copayments and Coinsurance for dental Services for radiation treatment and dental anesthesia

You pay the following for dental Services covered under this "Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia" section:

- Hospital inpatient care: **no charge**
- Primary Care Visits for evaluations and treatment and Non-Physician Specialist Visits (including visits with dentists for Services covered under this "Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia" section) for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Copayment or Coinsurance that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")

Coverage for Services related to "Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and

Dental Anesthesia" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under this heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")

Dialysis Care

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

- You satisfy all medical criteria developed by the Medical Group
- The facility is certified by Medicare
- A Plan Physician provides a written referral for your dialysis treatment except for out-of-area dialysis care

We also cover hemodialysis and peritoneal home dialysis (including equipment, training, and medical supplies).

Out-of-area dialysis care

We cover dialysis (kidney) Services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you are temporarily outside your Home Region Service Area. If possible, before you leave the Service Area, please let us know where you are going so we can help arrange for you to have maintenance dialysis while outside your Home Region Service Area. The procedure for obtaining reimbursement for out-of-area dialysis care is described in the "Requests for Payment" section.

You pay the following for these covered Services related to dialysis:

- Inpatient dialysis care: **no charge**
- One routine outpatient visit per month with the multidisciplinary nephrology team for a consultation, evaluation, or treatment: **no charge**
- Hemodialysis treatment: **no charge**
- All other Primary Care Visits for evaluations and treatment and Non-Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- All other Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**

Coverage for Services related to "Dialysis Care" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Durable medical equipment for home use (refer to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use")
- Kidney disease education (refer to "Health Education")
- Outpatient laboratory (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Care")

Dialysis Care exclusions

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment, supplies and features
- Nonmedical items, such as generators or accessories to make home dialysis equipment portable for travel

Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use

For Members who live inside California, we cover durable medical equipment for use in your home (or another location used as your home as defined by Medicare) in accord with our durable medical equipment formulary or Medicare guidelines. Durable medical equipment for home use is an item that is intended for repeated use, primarily and customarily used to serve a medical

purpose, generally not useful to a person who is not ill or injured, and appropriate for use in the home.

Coverage is limited to the standard item of equipment that adequately meets your medical needs. We decide whether to rent or purchase the equipment, and we select the vendor.

Durable medical equipment for diabetes

The following diabetes blood-testing supplies and equipment and insulin-administration devices are covered under this "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" section:

- Blood glucose monitors for diabetes blood testing and their supplies (such as blood glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices)
- Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump

Your Copayments and Coinsurance for durable medical equipment

You pay the following for covered durable medical equipment (including repair or replacement of covered equipment):

- Blood glucose monitors for diabetes blood testing and their supplies (such as blood glucose monitor test strips, lancets, and lancet devices): **no charge**
- External sexual dysfunction devices: **no charge**
- Insulin pumps and supplies to operate the pump: **no charge**
- All other covered durable medical equipment: **no charge**

About our durable medical equipment formulary

Our durable medical equipment formulary includes the list of durable medical equipment that is covered by Medicare or has been approved by our Durable Medical Equipment Formulary Executive Committee for our Members. Our durable medical equipment formulary was developed by a multidisciplinary clinical and operational work group with review and input from Plan Physicians and medical professionals with durable medical equipment expertise (for example: physical, respiratory, and enterostomal therapists and home health). A multidisciplinary Durable Medical Equipment Formulary Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising the durable medical equipment formulary. Our durable medical equipment formulary is periodically updated to keep pace with changes in medical technology, Medicare guidelines, and clinical practice. To find out whether a particular item is included in our durable medical equipment formulary, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Our formulary guidelines allow you to obtain nonformulary durable medical equipment (equipment not listed on our durable medical equipment formulary for your condition) if the equipment would otherwise be covered and the Medical Group determines that it is Medically Necessary as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

Coverage for Services related to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Dialysis equipment and supplies required for home hemodialysis and home peritoneal dialysis (refer to "Dialysis Care")
- Diabetes urine testing supplies and insulin-administration devices other than insulin pumps (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Durable medical equipment related to the terminal illness for Members who are receiving covered hospice care (refer to "Hospice Care")

- Insulin and any other drugs administered with an infusion pump (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")

Durable medical equipment for home use exclusions

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Dental appliances
- Items not intended for maintaining normal activities of daily living, such as exercise equipment (including devices intended to provide additional support for recreational or sports activities) and hygiene equipment
- Nonmedical items, such as sauna baths or elevators
- Modifications to your home or car, unless covered in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Devices for testing blood or other body substances (except diabetes blood glucose monitors and their supplies)
- Electronic monitors of the heart or lungs except infant apnea monitors
- Repair or replacement of equipment due to misuse

Health Education

We cover a variety of health education counseling, programs, and materials that your personal Plan Physician or other Plan Providers provide during a visit covered under another part of this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

We also cover a variety of health education counseling, programs, and materials to help you take an active role in protecting and improving your health, including programs for tobacco cessation, stress management, and chronic conditions (such as diabetes and asthma). Kaiser Permanente also offers health education counseling, programs, and materials that are not covered, and you may be required to pay a fee.

For more information about our health education counseling, programs, and materials, please contact a Health Education Department or our Member Service Contact Center, refer to the *Provider Directory*, or go to our website at **kp.org.**

Note: Our Health Education Department offers a comprehensive self-management workshop to help members learn the best choices in exercise, diet, monitoring, and medications to manage and control diabetes. Members may also choose to receive diabetes self-management training from a program outside our Plan that is recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and approved by Medicare. Also, our Health Education Department offers education to teach kidney care and help members make informed decisions about their care.

You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Covered health education programs, which may include programs provided online and counseling over the phone: **no charge**
- The following Preventive Care Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines:
  - individual counseling during an office visit related to smoking cessation: **no charge**
  - individual counseling during an office visit related to diabetes management: **no charge**
- Other covered individual counseling when the office visit is solely for health education: **no charge**
- Health education provided during an outpatient consultation or evaluation covered in another part of this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section: **no additional Copayment or Coinsurance beyond the Copayment or Coinsurance required in that other part of this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section**
- Covered health education materials: **no charge**

Hearing Services

We cover the following:

- Hearing exams to determine the need for hearing correction: **no charge**
- Hearing tests to determine the appropriate hearing aid: **no charge**
- A **$2,500 Allowance** for each ear toward the purchase price of a hearing aid every 36 months when prescribed by a Plan Physician or by a Plan Provider who is an audiologist. We will cover hearing aids for both ears only if both aids are required to provide significant improvement that is not obtainable with only one hearing aid. We will not provide the Allowance if we have provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) a hearing aid for that same ear within the previous 36 months. This also means that if your Group's non-Medicare plan includes coverage for hearing aids, the **$2,500 Allowance** reflects the coordination of the two coverages, thus they cannot be combined. Also, the Allowance can only be used at the initial point of sale. If you do not use all of your Allowance at the initial point of sale, you cannot use it later
- Consultations and exams to verify that the hearing aid conforms to the prescription: **no charge**
- Consultations and exams for fitting, counseling, adjustment, cleaning, and inspection after the warranty is exhausted: **no charge**

We select the provider or vendor that will furnish the covered hearing aid. Coverage is limited to the types and models of hearing aids furnished by the provider or vendor.

Coverage for Services related to "Hearing Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Services related to the ear or hearing other than those described in this section, such as outpatient care to treat an ear infection and outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Cochlear implants and osseointegrated hearing devices (refer to "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices")

Hearing Services exclusions

- Internally implanted hearing aids
- Replacement parts and batteries, repair of hearing aids, and replacement of lost or broken hearing aids (the manufacturer warranty may cover some of these)

Home Health Care

"Home health care" means Services provided in the home by nurses, medical social workers, home health aides, and physical, occupational, and speech therapists. We cover home health care at **no charge** only if all of the following are true:

- You are substantially confined to your home
- Your condition requires the Services of a nurse, physical therapist, or speech therapist or continued need for an occupational therapist (home health aide Services are not covered unless you are also getting covered home health care from a nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist that only a licensed provider can provide)
- A Plan Physician determines that it is feasible to maintain effective supervision and control of your care in your home and that the Services can be safely and effectively provided in your home
- The Services are provided inside California.

The Medical Group must authorize any home health nursing or other care of at least eight continuous hours, in accord with "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section (that authorization procedure

does not apply to home health nursing or other care of less than eight continuous hours).

Coverage for Services related to "Home Health Care" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism (refer to "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism")
- Dialysis care (refer to "Dialysis Care")
- Durable medical equipment (refer to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use")
- Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies (refer to "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies")
- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices (refer to "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices")

Home health care exclusion

- Care in the home if the home is not a safe and effective treatment setting

Hospice Care

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

If you have Medicare Part A, you may receive care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. Your hospice doctor can be a Plan Provider or a Non–Plan Provider. Covered Services include:

- Drugs for symptom control and pain relief
- Short-term respite care
- Home care

For hospice services and services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are related to your terminal condition: Original Medicare (rather than our Plan) will pay for your hospice services and any Part A and Part B services related to your terminal condition. While you are in the hospice program, your hospice provider will bill Original Medicare for the services that Original Medicare pays for.

For services that are covered by Medicare Part A or B and are not related to your terminal condition: If you need nonemergency, non–urgently needed services that are covered under Medicare Part A or B and that are not related to your terminal condition, your cost for these services depends on whether you use a Plan Provider:

- If you obtain the covered services from a Plan Provider, you only pay the Plan Copayments and Coinsurance amount
- If you obtain the covered services from a Non–Plan Provider, you pay the cost-sharing under Fee-for-Service Medicare (Original Medicare)

For services that are covered by our Plan but are not covered by Medicare Part A or B: We will continue to cover Plan-covered Services that are not covered under Part A or B whether or not they are related to your terminal condition. You pay your Plan Copayment or Coinsurance amount for these Services.

For drugs that may be covered by our plan's Part D benefit: Drugs are never covered by both hospice and our plan at the same time. For more information, please see "What if you're in a

Medicare-certified hospice" in the "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section.

Note: If you need non-hospice care (care that is not related to your terminal condition), you should contact us to arrange the services. Getting non-hospice care from a Plan Provider will lower your share of the costs for the services.

For more information about Original Medicare hospice coverage, visit **www.medicare.gov**, and under "Search Tools," choose "Find a Medicare Publication" to view or download the publication "Medicare Hospice Benefits." Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Special note if you do not have Medicare Part A

We cover the hospice Services listed below at **no charge** only if all of the following requirements are met:

- You are not entitled to Medicare Part A (if you are entitled to Medicare Part A, see the "Special note if you have Medicare Part A" for more information)
- A Plan Physician has diagnosed you with a terminal illness and determines that your life expectancy is 12 months or less
- The Services are provided inside your Home Region Service Area (or inside California but within 15 miles or 30 minutes from your Home Region Service Area if you live outside your Home Region Service Area, and you have been a Senior Advantage Member continuously since before January 1, 1999, at the same home address)
- The Services are provided by a licensed hospice agency that is a Plan Provider
- The Services are necessary for the palliation and management of your terminal illness and related conditions

If all of the above requirements are met, we cover the following hospice Services, which are available on a 24-hour basis if necessary for your hospice care:

- Plan Physician Services
- Skilled nursing care, including assessment, evaluation, and case management of nursing needs, treatment for pain and symptom control, provision of emotional support to you and your family, and instruction to caregivers
- Physical, occupational, or speech therapy for purposes of symptom control or to enable you to maintain activities of daily living
- Respiratory therapy
- Medical social services
- Home health aide and homemaker services
- Palliative drugs prescribed for pain control and symptom management of the terminal illness for up to a 100-day supply in accord with our drug formulary guidelines. You must obtain these drugs from a Plan Pharmacy. Certain drugs are limited to a maximum 30-day supply in any 30-day period (please call our Member Service Contact Center for the current list of these drugs)
- Durable medical equipment
- Respite care when necessary to relieve your caregivers. Respite care is occasional short-term inpatient care limited to no more than five consecutive days at a time
- Counseling and bereavement services
- Dietary counseling
- The following care during periods of crisis when you need continuous care to achieve palliation or management of acute medical symptoms:
  - nursing care on a continuous basis for as much as 24 hours a day as necessary to maintain you at home
  - short-term inpatient care required at a level that cannot be provided at home

Infertility Services

We cover the following Services related to infertility at **no charge**:

- Services for diagnosis and treatment of infertility
- Artificial insemination

For purposes of this "Infertility Services" section, "infertility" means not being able to get pregnant or carry a pregnancy to a live birth after a year or more of regular sexual relations without contraception or having a medical or other demonstrated condition that is recognized by a Plan Physician as a cause of infertility.

Coverage for Services related to "Infertility Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under this heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")

Infertility Services exclusions

- Services to reverse voluntary, surgically induced infertility
- Semen and eggs (and Services related to their procurement and storage)
- Conception by artificial means, such as ovum transplants, gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT), semen and eggs (and Services related to their procurement and storage), in vitro fertilization (IVF), and zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT)

Mental Health Services

We cover Services specified in this "Mental Health Services" section only when the Services are for the diagnosis or treatment of Mental Disorders. A "Mental Disorder" is a mental health condition identified as a "mental disorder" in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental* Disorders, *Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM)* that results in clinically significant distress or impairment of mental, emotional, or behavioral functioning. We do not cover services for conditions that the *DSM* identifies as something other than a "mental disorder." For example, the *DSM* identifies relational problems as something other than a "mental disorder," so we do not cover services (such as couples counseling or family counseling) for relational problems.

"Mental Disorders" include the following conditions:

- Severe Mental Illness of a person of any age. "Severe Mental Illness" means the following mental disorders: schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depressive disorders, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, pervasive developmental disorder or autism, anorexia nervosa, or bulimia nervosa
- A Serious Emotional Disturbance of a child under age 18. A "Serious Emotional Disturbance" of a child under age 18 means a condition identified as a "mental disorder" in the *DSM*, other than a primary substance use disorder or developmental disorder, that results in behavior inappropriate to the child's age according to expected developmental norms, if the child also meets at least one of the following three criteria:
  - as a result of the mental disorder, (1) the child has substantial impairment in at least two of the following areas: self-care, school functioning, family relationships, or ability to function in the community; and (2) either (a) the child is at risk of removal from the home or has already been removed from the home, or (b) the mental disorder and impairments have been present for more than six months or are likely to continue for more than one year without treatment
  - the child displays psychotic features, or risk of suicide or violence due to a mental disorder
  - the child meets special education eligibility requirements under Chapter 26.5 (commencing with Section 7570) of

Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code

Outpatient mental health Services

We cover the following Services when provided by Plan Physicians or other Plan Providers who are licensed health care professionals acting within the scope of their license:

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment
- Psychological testing when necessary to evaluate a Mental Disorder
- Outpatient Services for the purpose of monitoring drug therapy

Intensive psychiatric treatment programs. We cover the following intensive psychiatric treatment programs at a Plan Facility:

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

Your Copayment or Coinsurance. You pay the following for these covered Services:

- Individual mental health evaluation and treatment: **no charge**
- Group mental health treatment: **no charge**
- Intensive psychiatric treatment programs: **no charge**

Residential treatment

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover the following Services at **no charge** when the Services are provided in a licensed residential treatment facility that provides 24-hour individualized mental health treatment, the Services are generally and customarily provided by a mental health residential treatment program in a licensed residential treatment facility, and the Services are above the level of custodial care:

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment
- Medical services
- Medication monitoring
- Room and board
- Social services
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Provider as part of your plan of care in the residential treatment facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the facility by medical personnel (for discharge drugs prescribed when you are released from the residential treatment facility, please refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Discharge planning

Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization

We cover care for acute psychiatric conditions in a Medicare-certified psychiatric hospital at **no charge**.

Coverage for Services related to "Mental Health Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Outpatient laboratory (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")

Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies

Inside California, we cover ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies prescribed in accord with our soft goods formulary or Medicare guidelines at **no charge**. We select the vendor, and coverage is limited to the standard supply that adequately meets your medical needs.

About our soft goods formulary

Our soft goods formulary includes the list of ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies that are covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or have been approved by our Soft Goods Formulary Executive Committee for our Members. Our Soft Goods Formulary Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising the soft goods formulary. Our soft goods formulary is periodically updated to keep pace with changes in medical technology, Medicare guidelines, and clinical practice. To find out whether a particular ostomy, urological, or wound care supply is included in our soft goods formulary, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Our formulary guidelines allow you to obtain nonformulary ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies (those not listed on our soft goods formulary for your condition) if they would otherwise be covered and the Medical Group determines that they are Medically Necessary as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

Ostomy, urological, and wound care supplies exclusion

- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features

Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures

We cover the following Services at the Copayment or Coinsurance indicated only when prescribed as part of care covered under other headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- The following Imaging Services that are Preventive Care Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines:
  - screening mammograms: **no charge**
  - aortic aneurysm screenings prescribed during the one-time "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit: **no charge**
  - bone mass measurement screenings: **no charge**
  - barium enema: **no charge**
- CT to screen for lung cancer (preventive): **no charge**
- All other CT scans, and all MRIs and PET scans: **no charge**
- All other imaging Services, such as diagnostic and therapeutic X-rays, mammograms, and ultrasounds: **no charge**
- Nuclear medicine: **no charge**
- Laboratory tests and screenings that are Preventive Care Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines**:**
  - fecal occult blood tests: **no charge**
  - routine laboratory tests and screenings, such as cervical cancer screenings, prostate specific antigen tests, cardiovascular disease testing (cholesterol tests including lipid panel and profile), diabetes screening (fasting blood glucose tests), sexually transmitted disease (STD) tests, and HIV tests: **no charge**
- Routine laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of dialysis: **no charge**
- All other laboratory tests (including tests for specific genetic disorders for which genetic counseling is available): **no charge**
- Routine preventive retinal photography screenings: **no charge**
- All other diagnostic procedures provided by Plan Providers who are not physicians (such as EKGs and EEGs): **no charge**
- Radiation therapy: **no charge**
- Ultraviolet light treatments: **no charge**

Coverage for Services related to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and

Special Procedures" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under this heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Services related to diagnosis and treatment of infertility (refer to "Infertility Services")

Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements

We cover outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements specified in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section if all of the following are true:

- The item is prescribed either (a) by a Plan Physician, or (b) by a dentist or a Non–Plan Physician in the following circumstances unless a Plan Physician determines that the item is not Medically Necessary or is for a sexual dysfunction disorder:
  - a Non–Plan Physician prescribes the item after the Medical Group authorizes a written referral to the Non–Plan Physician (in accord with "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" in the "How to Obtain Services" section) and the item is covered as part of that referral
  - a Non–Plan Physician prescribes the item as part of covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section
  - a dentist prescribes the drug for dental care
- The item meets the requirements of our applicable drug formulary guidelines (our Medicare Part D formulary or our formulary applicable to non–Part D items)
- You obtain the item at a Plan Pharmacy or through our mail-order service, except as otherwise described under "Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section. Please refer to our *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory* for the locations of Plan Pharmacies in your area. Plan Pharmacies can change without notice and if a pharmacy is no longer a Plan Pharmacy, you must obtain covered items from another Plan Pharmacy, except as otherwise described under "Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section
- Your prescriber must either accept Medicare or file documentation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services showing that he or she is qualified to write prescriptions. You should ask your prescribers the next time you call or visit if they meet this condition

In addition to our plan's Part D and medical benefits coverage, if you have Medicare Part A, your drugs may be covered by Original Medicare if you are in Medicare hospice. For more information, please see "What if you're in a Medicare-certified hospice" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section.

Obtaining refills by mail

Most refills are available through our mail-order service, but there are some restrictions. A Plan Pharmacy, our *Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Directory*, or our website at **kp.org/refill** can give you more information about obtaining refills through our mail-order service. Please check with your local Plan Pharmacy if you have a question about whether your prescription can be mailed. Items available through our mail-order service are subject to change at any time without notice.

Certain items from Non–Plan Pharmacies

Generally, we only cover drugs filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy in limited, nonroutine circumstances when a Plan Pharmacy is not available. Below are the situations when we may cover prescriptions filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy. **Before you fill your prescription in these situations, call our Member Service Contact Center to see if there is a Plan**

Pharmacy in your area where you can fill your prescription.

- The drug is related to covered Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, or Out-of-Area Urgent Care described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section. Note: Prescription drugs prescribed and provided outside of the United States and its territories as part of covered Emergency Services or Urgent Care are covered up to a 30-day supply in a 30-day period. These drugs are covered under your medical benefits, and are not covered under Medicare Part D
- For Medicare Part D covered drugs, the following are additional situations when a Part D drug may be covered:
  - if you are traveling outside our Service Area, but in the United States and its territories, and you become ill or run out of your covered Part D prescription drugs. We will cover prescriptions that are filled at a Non–Plan Pharmacy according to our Medicare Part D formulary guidelines
  - if you are unable to obtain a covered drug in a timely manner inside our Service Area because there is no Plan Pharmacy within a reasonable driving distance that provides 24 hour service. We may not cover your prescription if a reasonable person could have purchased the drug at a Plan Pharmacy during normal business hours
  - if you are trying to fill a prescription for a drug that is not regularly stocked at an accessible Plan Pharmacy or available through our mail order pharmacy (including high-cost drugs)

Payment and reimbursement. If you go to a Non–Plan Pharmacy for the reasons listed, you may have to pay the full cost (rather than paying just your Copayment or Coinsurance) when you fill your prescription. You may ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost by submitting a request for reimbursement as described in the "Requests for Payment" section. If we pay for the drugs you obtained from a Non–Plan Pharmacy, you may still pay more for your drugs than what you would have paid if you had gone to a Plan Pharmacy because you may be responsible for paying the difference between Plan Pharmacy Charges and the price that the Non–Plan Pharmacy charged you.

What if you're in a Medicare-certified hospice

If you have Medicare Part A, drugs are never covered by both hospice and our plan at the same time. If you are enrolled in Medicare hospice and require an anti-nausea, laxative, pain medication, or antianxiety drug that is not covered by your hospice because it is unrelated to your terminal illness and related conditions, our plan must receive notification from either the prescriber or your hospice provider that the drug is unrelated before our plan can cover the drug. To prevent delays in receiving any unrelated drugs that should be covered by our plan, you can ask your hospice provider or prescriber to make sure we have the notification that the drug is unrelated before you ask a pharmacy to fill your prescription.

In the event you either revoke your hospice election or are discharged from hospice, our plan should cover all your drugs. To prevent any delays at a pharmacy when your Medicare hospice benefit ends, you should bring documentation to the pharmacy to verify your revocation or discharge.

Medicare Part D drugs

Medicare Part D covers most outpatient prescription drugs if they are sold in the United States and approved for sale by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Our Part D formulary includes all drugs that can be covered under Medicare Part D according to Medicare requirements and certain insulin administration devices (needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, and gauze) at **no charge** for up to a 100-day supply. Please refer to "Medicare Part D drug formulary (*Kaiser Permanente 2016 Abridged Formulary or Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*)" in this "Outpatient Prescription

Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section for more information about this formulary.

Keeping track of Medicare Part D drugs. The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* is a document you will get for each month you use your Part D prescription drug coverage. The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* will tell you the total amount you, or others on your behalf, have spent on your prescription drugs and the total amount we have paid for your prescription drugs. A "*Part D Explanation of Benefits*" is also available upon request from our Member Service Contact Center.

Medicare Part D drug formulary (Kaiser Permanente 2016 Abridged Formulary or Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary)

Our Medicare Part D formulary is a list of covered drugs selected by our plan in consultation with a team of health care providers that represents the drug therapies believed to be a necessary part of a quality treatment program. Our formulary must meet requirements set by Medicare and is approved by Medicare. Our formulary includes all drugs that can be covered under Medicare Part D according to Medicare requirements. For a complete, current listing of the Medicare Part D prescription drugs we cover, please visit our website at **kp.org/seniormedrx** or call our Member Service Contact Center.

The presence of a drug on our formulary does not necessarily mean that your Plan Physician will prescribe it for a particular medical condition. Our drug formulary guidelines allow you to obtain Medicare Part D prescription drugs if a Plan Physician determines that they are Medically Necessary for your condition. If you disagree with your Plan Physician's determination, refer to "Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

Preferred and nonpreferred generic drugs listed in the formulary will be subject to the generic drug Copayment or Coinsurance listed under "Copayment and Coinsurance for Medicare Part D drugs" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section. Preferred and nonpreferred brand-name drugs and specialty tier drugs listed in the formulary will be subject to the brand-name Copayment or Coinsurance listed under "Copayment and Coinsurance for Medicare Part D drugs" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section. Please note that sometimes a drug may appear more than once on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*. This is because different restrictions or cost-sharing may apply based on factors such as the strength, amount, or form of the drug prescribed by your health care provider (for instance, 10 mg versus 100 mg; one per day versus two per day; tablet versus liquid).

You can get updated information about the drugs our plan covers by visiting our website at **kp.org/seniormedrx**. You may also call our Member Service Contact Center to find out if your drug is on the formulary or to request an updated copy of our formulary.

We may make certain changes to our formulary during the year. Changes in the formulary may affect which drugs are covered and how much you will pay when filling your prescription. The kinds of formulary changes we may make include:

- Adding or removing drugs from the formulary
- Adding prior authorizations or other restrictions on a drug

If we remove drugs from the formulary or add prior authorizations or restrictions on a drug, and you are taking the drug affected by the change, you will be permitted to continue receiving that drug at the same level of Copayment or Coinsurance for the remainder of the calendar year. However, if a brand-name drug is replaced with a new generic drug, or our formulary is changed as a result of new information on a drug's safety or effectiveness, you may be affected by this change. We will notify you of the

change at least 60 days before the date that the change becomes effective or provide you with a 60-day supply at the Plan Pharmacy. This will give you an opportunity to work with your physician to switch to a different drug that we cover or request an exception. (If a drug is removed from our formulary because the drug has been recalled, we will not give 60 days' notice before removing the drug from the formulary. Instead, we will remove the drug immediately and notify members taking the drug about the change as soon as possible.)

If your drug isn't listed on your copy of our formulary, you should first check the formulary on our website, which we update when there is a change. In addition, you may call our Member Service Contact Center to be sure it isn't covered. If Member Services confirms that we don't cover your drug, you have two options:

- You may ask your Plan Physician if you can switch to another drug that is covered by us
- You or your Plan Physician may ask us to make an exception (a type of coverage determination) to cover your Medicare Part D drug. See the "Coverage Decisions, Complaints, and Appeals" section for more information on how to request an exception

Transition policy. If you recently joined our plan, you may be able to get a temporary supply of a Medicare Part D drug you were previously taking that may not be on our formulary or has other restrictions, during the first 90 days of your membership. Current members may also be affected by changes in our formulary from one year to the next. Members should talk to their Plan Physicians to decide if they should switch to a different drug that we cover or request a Part D formulary exception in order to get coverage for the drug. Please refer to our formulary or our website, **kp.org/seniormedrx**, for more information about our Part D transition coverage.

Medicare Part D exclusions (non–Part D drugs). By law, certain types of drugs are not covered by Medicare Part D. A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan can't cover a drug under Medicare Part D in the following situations:

- The drug would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B
- Drug purchased outside the United States and its territories
- Off-label uses (meaning for uses other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration) of a prescription drug, except in cases where the use is supported by certain reference books. Congress specifically listed the reference books that list whether the off-label use would be permitted. (These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System, and the USPDI or its successor.) If the use is not supported by one of these reference books, known as compendia, then the drug is considered a non–Part D drug and cannot be covered under Medicare Part D coverage

In addition, by law, certain types of drugs or categories of drugs are not covered under Medicare Part D. These drugs include:

- Nonprescription drugs (also called over-the-counter drugs)
- Drugs when used to promote fertility
- Drugs when used for the relief of cough or cold symptoms
- Drugs when used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Drugs when used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction, such as Viagra®, Cialis®, Levitra®, and Caverject®
- Drugs when used for treatment of anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer seeks to require that associated tests or monitoring services be purchased exclusively from the manufacturer as a condition of sale

Note: In addition to the coverage provided under this Medicare Part D plan, you also have coverage for non–Part D drugs described under "Home infusion therapy," "Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B," and "Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare (Non–Part D)" in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section. If a drug is not covered under Medicare Part D, please refer to those headings for information about your non–Part D drug coverage.

Other prescription drug coverage. If you have additional health care or drug coverage from another plan besides your Group's non-Medicare plan, you must provide that information to our plan. The information you provide helps us calculate how much you and others have paid for your prescription drugs. In addition, if you lose or gain additional health care or prescription drug coverage, please call our Member Service Contact Center to update your membership records.

Home infusion therapy

We cover home infusion supplies and drugs at **no charge** if all of the following are true:

- Your prescription drug is on our Medicare Part D formulary
- We approved your prescription drug for home infusion therapy
- Your prescription is written by a network provider and filled at a network home-infusion pharmacy

Outpatient drugs covered by Medicare Part B

In addition to Medicare Part D drugs, we also cover the limited number of outpatient prescription drugs that are covered by Medicare Part B in accord with our Part D drug formulary at **no charge** for up to a 100-day supply (except that certain self-administered intravenous drugs are provided up to a 30-day supply.

The following are the types of drugs that Medicare Part B covers:

- Drugs that usually aren't self-administered by the patient and are injected or infused while you are getting physician, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgical center services
- Drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were prescribed by a Plan Physician
- Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia
- Immunosuppressive drugs, if Medicare paid for the transplant (or a group plan was required to pay before Medicare paid for it)
- Injectable osteoporosis drugs, if you are homebound, have a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and cannot self-administer the drug
- Antigens
- Certain oral anticancer drugs and antinausea drugs
- Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when Medically Necessary, topical anesthetics, and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents
- Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases

Certain intravenous drugs, supplies, and supplements. We cover certain self-administered intravenous drugs, fluids, additives, and nutrients that require specific types of parenteral-infusion (such as an intravenous or intraspinal-infusion) at **no charge** for up to a 30-day supply. In addition, we cover the supplies and equipment required for the administration of these drugs at **no charge**.

Outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements not covered by Medicare (Non–Part D)

If a drug, supply, or supplement is not covered by Medicare Part B or D, we cover the following

additional items in accord with our non–Part D drug formulary:

- Drugs for which a prescription is required by law that are not covered by Medicare Part B or D. We also cover certain drugs that do not require a prescription by law if they are listed on our drug formulary applicable to non–Part D items
- Diaphragms, cervical caps, contraceptive rings, and contraceptive patches
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered drugs, pen delivery devices, and visual aids required to ensure proper dosage (except eyewear), that are not covered by Medicare Part B or D
- Inhaler spacers needed to inhale covered drugs
- Ketone test strips and sugar or acetone test tablets or tapes for diabetes urine testing
- Continuity non–Part D drugs: If this *Evidence of Coverage* is amended to exclude a non–Part D drug that we have been covering and providing to you under this *Evidence of Coverage*, we will continue to provide the non–Part D drug if a prescription is required by law and a Plan Physician continues to prescribe the drug for the same condition and for a use approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration

Copayments and Coinsurance for other outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements. The Copayments and Coinsurance for these items is as follows:

- Items other than those described below in this "Copayments and Coinsurance for other outpatient drugs, supplies, and supplements" section: **no charge** for up to a 100-day supply
- Amino acid–modified products used to treat congenital errors of amino acid metabolism (such as phenylketonuria) and elemental dietary enteral formula when used as a primary therapy for regional enteritis: **no charge** for up to a 30-day supply
- Continuity drugs: **50 percent Coinsurance** for up to a 30-day supply in a 30-day period

Non–Part D drug formulary. Our non- Part D drug formulary includes the list of drugs that our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has approved for our Members. Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, which is primarily composed of Plan Physicians, selects drugs for the drug formulary based on a number of factors, including safety and effectiveness as determined from a review of medical literature. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meets at least quarterly to consider additions and deletions based on new information or drugs that become available. If you would like to request a copy of our non–Part D drug formulary, please call our Member Service Contact Center. Note: The presence of a drug on our drug formulary does not necessarily mean that your Plan Physician will prescribe it for a particular medical condition.

Our drug formulary guidelines allow you to obtain nonformulary prescription drugs (those not listed on our drug formulary for your condition) if they would otherwise be covered and a Plan Physician determines that they are Medically Necessary. If you disagree with your Plan Physician's determination that a nonformulary prescription drug is not Medically Necessary, you may file an appeal as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. Also, our non–Part D formulary guidelines may require you to participate in a behavioral intervention program approved by the Medical Group for specific conditions and you may be required to pay for the program.

Drug utilization review

We conduct drug utilization reviews to make sure that you are getting safe and appropriate care. These reviews are especially important if you have more than one doctor who prescribes your medications. We conduct drug utilization reviews each time you fill a prescription and on a regular basis by reviewing our records. During these reviews, we look for medication problems such as:

- Possible medication errors

- Duplicate drugs that are unnecessary because you are taking another drug to treat the same medical condition
- Drugs that are inappropriate because of your age or gender
- Possible harmful interactions between drugs you are taking
- Drug allergies
- Drug dosage errors

If we identify a medication problem during our drug utilization review, we will work with your doctor to correct the problem.

Medication therapy management program

We offer a medication therapy management program at no additional cost to Members who have multiple medical conditions, who are taking many prescription drugs, and who have high drug costs. This program was developed for us by a team of pharmacists and doctors. We use this medication therapy management program to help us provide better care for our members. For example, this program helps us make sure that you are using appropriate drugs to treat your medical conditions and help us identify possible medication errors.

If you are selected to join a medication therapy management program, we will send you information about the specific program, including information about how to access the program.

ID card at Plan Pharmacies

You must present your Kaiser Permanente ID card when obtaining covered items from Plan Pharmacies, including those that are not owned and operated by Kaiser Permanente. If you do not have your ID card, the Plan Pharmacy may require you to pay Charges for your covered items, and you will have to file a claim for reimbursement as described in the "Requests for Payment" section.

Notes:

- If Charges for a covered item are less than the Copayment, you will pay the lesser amount
- Durable medical equipment used to administer drugs, such as diabetes insulin pumps (and their supplies) and diabetes blood-testing equipment (and their supplies) are not covered under this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section (instead, refer to "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Except for vaccines covered by Medicare Part D, drugs administered to you in a Plan Medical Office or during home visits are not covered under this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section (instead, refer to "Outpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- Drugs covered during a covered stay in a Plan Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility are not covered under this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section (instead, refer to "Hospital Inpatient Care" and "Skilled Nursing Facility Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements limitations

Day supply limit. Plan Physicians determine the amount of a drug or other item that is Medically Necessary for a particular day supply for you. Upon payment of the Copayments and Coinsurance specified in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section, you will receive the supply prescribed up to a 100-day supply in a 100-day period. However, the Plan Pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed to a 30-day supply in any 30-day period at the Copayment or Coinsurance listed in this "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section if the Plan Pharmacy determines that the drug is in limited supply in the market or a 31-day supply in any

31-day period if the item is dispensed by a long term care facility's pharmacy. Plan Pharmacies may also limit the quantity dispensed as described under "Utilization management." If you wish to receive more than the covered day supply limit, then the additional amount is not covered and you must pay Charges for any prescribed quantities that exceed the day supply limit.

Utilization management. For certain items, we have additional coverage requirements and limits that help promote effective drug use and help us control drug plan costs. Examples of these utilization management tools are:

- **Quantity limits:** The Plan Pharmacy may reduce the day supply dispensed at the Copayment or Coinsurance specified in this "Outpatient Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" section to a 30-day supply or less in any 30-day period for specific drugs. Your Plan Pharmacy can tell you if a drug you take is one of these drugs. In addition, we cover episodic drugs prescribed for the treatment of sexual dysfunction up to a maximum of 8 doses in any 30-day period, up to 16 doses in any 60-day period, or up to 27 doses in any 100-day period. Also, when there is a shortage of a drug in the marketplace and the amount of available supplies, we may reduce the quantity of the drug dispensed accordingly and charge one Copayment or Coinsurance
- **Generic substitution:** When there is a generic version of a brand-name drug available, Plan Pharmacies will automatically give you the generic version, unless your Plan Physician has specifically requested a formulary exception because it is Medically Necessary for you to receive the brand-name drug instead of the formulary alternative

Outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements exclusions

- Any requested packaging (such as dose packaging) other than the dispensing pharmacy's standard packaging
- Compounded products unless the active ingredient in the compounded product is listed on one of our drug formularies
- Drugs prescribed to shorten the duration of the common cold

Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices

Inside California, we cover the prosthetic and orthotic devices specified in this "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" section if all of the following requirements are met:

- The device is in general use, intended for repeated use, and primarily and customarily used for medical purposes
- The device is the standard device that adequately meets your medical needs
- You receive the device from the provider or vendor that we select

Coverage includes fitting and adjustment of these devices, their repair or replacement, and Services to determine whether you need a prosthetic or orthotic device. If we cover a replacement device, then you pay the Copayment or Coinsurance that you would pay for obtaining that device.

Internally implanted devices

We cover prosthetic and orthotic devices, such as pacemakers, intraocular lenses, cochlear implants, osseointegrated hearing devices, and hip joints, in accord with Medicare guidelines, if they are implanted during a surgery that we are covering under another section of this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section. We cover these devices at **no charge**.

External devices

We cover the following external prosthetic and orthotic devices at **no charge**:

- Prosthetics and orthotics in accord with Medicare guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, braces, prosthetic shoes, artificial limbs, and therapeutic footwear for

severe diabetes-related foot disease in accord with Medicare guidelines

- Prosthetic devices and installation accessories to restore a method of speaking following the removal of all or part of the larynx (this coverage does not include electronic voice-producing machines, which are not prosthetic devices)
- Prostheses needed after a Medically Necessary mastectomy, including custom-made prostheses when Medically Necessary
- Podiatric devices (including footwear) to prevent or treat diabetes-related complications when prescribed by a Plan Physician or by a Plan Provider who is a podiatrist
- Compression burn garments and lymphedema wraps and garments
- Enteral formula for Members who require tube feeding in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Prostheses to replace all or part of an external facial body part that has been removed or impaired as a result of disease, injury, or congenital defect
- Other covered prosthetic and orthotic devices:
  - prosthetic devices required to replace all or part of an organ or extremity, but only if they also replace the function of the organ or extremity
  - orthotic devices required to support or correct a defective body part in accord with Medicare guidelines
  - covered special footwear when custom made for foot disfigurement due to disease, injury, or developmental disability

Coverage for Services related to "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Eyeglasses and contact lenses (refer to "Vision Services")
- Hearing aids other than internally implanted devices described in this section (refer to "Hearing Services")

Prosthetic and orthotic devices exclusions

- Dental appliances
- Nonrigid supplies not covered by Medicare, such as elastic stockings and wigs, except as otherwise described above in this "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" section and the "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies" section
- Comfort, convenience, or luxury equipment or features
- Repair or replacement of device due to misuse
- Shoes, shoe inserts, arch supports, or any other footwear, even if custom-made, except footwear described above in this "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" section for diabetes-related complications and foot disfigurement
- Orthotic devices not intended for maintaining normal activities of daily living (including devices intended to provide additional support for recreational or sports activities)
- Nonconventional intraocular lenses (IOLs) following cataract surgery (for example, presbyopia-correcting IOLs). You may request and we may provide insertion of presbyopia-correcting IOLs or astigmatism-correcting IOLs following cataract surgery in lieu of conventional IOLs. However, you must pay the difference between Charges for nonconventional IOLs and associated services and Charges for insertion of conventional IOLs following cataract surgery

Reconstructive Surgery

We cover the following reconstructive surgery Services:

- Reconstructive surgery to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or

disease, if a Plan Physician determines that it is necessary to improve function, or create a normal appearance, to the extent possible

- Following Medically Necessary removal of all or part of a breast, we cover reconstruction of the breast, surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, and treatment of physical complications, including lymphedemas

You pay the following for covered reconstructive surgery Services:

- Hospital inpatient care (including room and board, drugs, imaging, laboratory, special procedures, and Plan Physician Services): **no charge**
- Primary Care Visits for evaluations and treatment and Non-Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits for consultations, evaluations, and treatment: **no charge**
- Outpatient surgery and outpatient procedures when provided in an outpatient or ambulatory surgery center or in a hospital operating room, or if it is provided in any setting and a licensed staff member monitors your vital signs as you regain sensation after receiving drugs to reduce sensation or to minimize discomfort: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient surgery that does not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **no charge**
- Any other outpatient procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above: **the Copayment or Coinsurance that would otherwise apply for the procedure** in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section (for example, radiology procedures that do not require a licensed staff member to monitor your vital signs as described above are covered under "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")

Coverage for Services related to "Reconstructive Surgery" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient imaging and laboratory (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Care")
- Prosthetics and orthotics (refer to "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices")

Reconstructive surgery exclusions

- Surgery that, in the judgment of a Plan Physician specializing in reconstructive surgery, offers only a minimal improvement in appearance
- Surgery that is performed to alter or reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve appearance

Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services

Care in a Medicare-certified Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution (RNHCI) is covered by our Plan under certain conditions. Covered Services in an RNHCI are limited to nonreligious aspects of care. To be eligible for covered Services in a RNHCI, you must have a medical condition that would allow you to receive inpatient hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility care. You may get Services furnished in the home, but only items and Services ordinarily furnished by home health agencies that are not RNHCIs. In addition, you must sign a legal document that says you are conscientiously opposed to the acceptance of "nonexcepted" medical treatment. ("Excepted" medical treatment is a Service or treatment that you receive involuntarily or that is required under federal,

state, or local law. "Nonexcepted" medical treatment is any other Service or treatment.) Your stay in the RNHCI is not covered by us unless you obtain authorization (approval) in advance from us.

Note: Covered Services are subject to the same limitations Copayments and Coinsurance required for Services provided by Plan Providers as described in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Routine Services Associated with Clinical Trials

If you participate in a Medicare-approved clinical trial, Original Medicare (and not Senior Advantage) pays most of the routine costs for the covered Services you receive as part of the trial. When you are in a clinical trial, you may stay enrolled in Senior Advantage and continue to get the rest of your care (the care that is not related to the trial) through our plan.

If you want to participate in a Medicare-approved clinical trial, you don't need to get a referral from a Plan Provider and the providers that deliver your care as part of the clinical trial don't need to be Plan Providers. Although you don't need to get a referral from a Plan Provider, you do need to tell us before you start participating in a clinical trial so we can keep track of your Services.

Once you join a Medicare-approved clinical trial, you are covered for routine Services you receive as part of the trial. Routine Services include room and board for a hospital stay that Medicare would pay for even if you weren't in a trial, an operation or other medical procedure if it is part of the trial, and treatment of side effects and complications arising from the new care.

Original Medicare pays most of the cost of the covered Services you receive as part of the trial. After Medicare has paid its share of the cost for these Services, we will pay the difference between the copayment or coinsurance of Original Medicare and your Copayment or Coinsurance as a Member of our plan. This means you will pay the same amount for the routine Services you receive as part of the trial as you would if you received these Services from our Plan.

In order for us to pay for our share of the costs, you will need to submit a request for payment. With your request, you will need to send us a copy of your Medicare Summary Notices or other documentation that shows what services you received as part of the trial and how much you owe. Please see the "Requests for Payment" section for more information about submitting requests for payment.

To learn more about joining a clinical trial, please refer to the "Medicare and Clinical Research Studies" brochure. To get a free copy, call Medicare directly toll free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit **www.medicare.gov** on the Web.

Routine Services associated with clinical trials exclusions

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

- The new item or service that the study is testing, unless Medicare would cover the item or service even if you were not in a study
- Items or services provided only to collect data, and not used in your direct health care
- Services that are customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge to enrollees in the clinical trial

Skilled Nursing Facility Care

Inside your Home Region Service Area, we cover at **no charge** skilled inpatient Services in a Plan Skilled Nursing Facility and in accord with Medicare guidelines. The skilled inpatient Services must be customarily provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility, and above the level of custodial or intermediate care.

We cover the following Services:

- Physician and nursing Services
- Room and board
- Drugs prescribed by a Plan Physician as part of your plan of care in the Plan Skilled Nursing Facility in accord with our drug formulary guidelines if they are administered to you in the Plan Skilled Nursing Facility by medical personnel
- Durable medical equipment in accord with our durable medical equipment formulary or Medicare guidelines if Skilled Nursing Facilities ordinarily furnish the equipment
- Imaging and laboratory Services that Skilled Nursing Facilities ordinarily provide
- Medical social services
- Blood, blood products, and their administration
- Medical supplies
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy in accord with Medicare guidelines
- Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism
- Respiratory therapy

Coverage for Services related to "Skilled Nursing Facility Care" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient imaging, laboratory, and special procedures (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")

Non–Plan Skilled Nursing Facility care

Generally, you will get your Skilled Nursing Facility care from Plan Facilities. However, under certain conditions listed below, you may be able to receive covered care from a non–Plan facility, if the facility accepts our Plan's amounts for payment.

- A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where you were living right before you went to the hospital (as long as it provides Skilled Nursing Facility care)
- A Skilled Nursing Facility where your spouse is living at the time you leave the hospital

Transplant Services

We cover transplants of organs, tissue, or bone marrow in accord with Medicare guidelines and if the Medical Group provides a written referral for care to a transplant facility as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

After the referral to a transplant facility, the following applies:

- If either the Medical Group or the referral facility determines that you do not satisfy its respective criteria for a transplant, we will only cover Services you receive before that determination is made
- Health Plan, Plan Hospitals, the Medical Group, and Plan Physicians are not responsible for finding, furnishing, or ensuring the availability of an organ, tissue, or bone marrow donor
- In accord with our guidelines for Services for living transplant donors, we provide certain donation-related Services for a donor, or an individual identified by the Medical Group as a potential donor, whether or not the donor is a Member. These Services must be directly related to a covered transplant for you, which may include certain Services for harvesting the organ, tissue, or bone marrow and for treatment of complications. Please call our Member Service Contact Center for questions about donor Services

For covered transplant Services that you receive, you will pay the **Copayments and Coinsurance you would pay if the Services were not related to a transplant**. For example, see "Hospital Inpatient Care" in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section for the Copayment or

Coinsurance that applies for hospital inpatient care.

We provide or pay for donation-related Services for actual or potential donors (whether or not they are Members) in accord with our guidelines for donor Services at **no charge**.

Coverage for Services related to "Transplant Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under these headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Outpatient imaging and laboratory (refer to "Outpatient Imaging, Laboratory, and Special Procedures")
- Outpatient prescription drugs (refer to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements")
- Outpatient administered drugs (refer to "Outpatient Care")

Vision Services

We cover the following:

- Glaucoma screenings in accord with Medicare guidelines:
  no charge
- Routine eye exams with a Plan Optometrist to determine the need for vision correction and to provide a prescription for eyeglass lenses: **no charge**
- Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **no charge**
- Non-Physician Specialist Visits to diagnose and treat injuries or diseases of the eye: **no charge**

Optical Services

We cover the Services described in this "Optical Services" section at Plan Medical Offices or Plan Optical Sales Offices.

The date we provide an Allowance toward (or otherwise cover) an item described in this "Optical Services" section is the date on which you order the item. For example, if we last provided an Allowance toward an item you ordered on May 1, 2013, and if we provide an Allowance not more than once every 24 months for that type of item, then we would not provide another Allowance toward that type of item until on or after May 1, 2016. You can use the Allowances under this "Optical Services" section only when you first order an item. If you use part but not all of an Allowance when you first order an item, you cannot use the rest of that Allowance later.

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

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

We will not provide the Allowance if we have provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) eyeglass lenses or frames within the previous 24 months. This also means that if your Group's non-Medicare plan includes coverage for eyeglasses or contact lenses, the **$350 Allowance** reflects the coordination of the two coverages, thus they cannot be combined.

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

these replacement lenses is **$30** for a single vision eyeglass lens or for a contact lens (including fitting and dispensing) and **$45** for a multifocal or lenticular eyeglass lens.

Special contact lenses for aniridia and aphakia. We cover the following special contact lenses when prescribed by a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist:

- Up to two Medically Necessary contact lenses per eye (including fitting and dispensing) in any 12-month period to treat aniridia (missing iris): **no charge.** We will not cover an aniridia contact lens if we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) more than one aniridia contact lens for that eye within the previous 12 months (including when we provided an Allowance toward, or otherwise covered, one or more aniridia contact lenses under any other evidence of coverage offered by your Group)
- In accord with Medicare guidelines, we cover at **no charge** corrective lenses (including contact lens fitting and dispensing) and frames (and replacements) for Members who are aphakic (for example, who have had a cataract removed but do not have an implanted intraocular lens (IOL) or who have congenital absence of the lens)

Special contact lenses that provide a significant vision improvement not obtainable with eyeglasses. If a Plan Physician or Plan Optometrist prescribes contact lenses (other than contact lenses for aniridia or aphakia) that will provide a significant improvement in your vision that eyeglass lenses cannot provide, we cover either one pair of contact lenses (including fitting and dispensing) or an initial supply of disposable contact lenses (including fitting and dispensing) not more than once every 24 months at **no charge**. We will not cover any contact lenses under this "Special contact lenses that provide a significant vision improvement not obtainable with eyeglasses" section if we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) a contact lens within the previous 24 months, but not including any of the following:

- Contact lenses for aniridia or aphakia
- Contact lenses we provided an Allowance toward (or otherwise covered) under "Eyeglasses and contact lenses following cataract surgery" in this "Vision Services" section as a result of cataract surgery

Eyeglasses and contact lenses following cataract surgery. We cover at no charge one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses (including fitting or dispensing) at Plan Medical Offices or Plan Optical Sales Offices following each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens when prescribed by a physician or optometrist. When multiple cataract surgeries are needed, and you do not obtain eyeglasses or contact lenses between procedures, we will only cover one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after any surgery. If the eyewear you purchase costs more than what Medicare covers for someone who has Original Medicare (also known as "Fee-for-Service Medicare"), you pay the difference.

Coverage for Services related to "Vision Services" described in other sections

Coverage for the following Services is described under other headings in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section:

- Services related to the eye or vision other than Services covered under this "Vision Services" section, such as outpatient surgery and outpatient prescription drugs, supplies, and supplements (refer to the applicable heading in this "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)

Vision Services exclusions

- Industrial frames
- Lenses and sunglasses without refractive value, except that this exclusion does not apply to any of the following:
  - a clear balance lens if only one eye needs correction

- tinted lenses when Medically Necessary to treat macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa

- Replacement of lost, broken, or damaged contact lenses, eyeglass lenses, and frames, but not including eyeglass lenses or frames we covered under "Eyeglasses and contact lenses following cataract surgery" in this "Vision Services" section
- Eyeglass or contact lens adornment, such as engraving, faceting, or jeweling
- Low-vision devices, including fitting and dispensing
- Items that do not require a prescription by law (other than eyeglass frames), such as eyeglass holders, eyeglass cases, and repair kits

EXCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, COORDINATION OF BENEFITS, AND REDUCTIONS

Exclusions

The items and services listed in this "Exclusions" section are excluded from coverage. These exclusions apply to all Services that would otherwise be covered under this *Evidence of Coverage* regardless of whether the services are within the scope of a provider's license or certificate. Additional exclusions that apply only to a particular benefit are listed in the description of that benefit in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Certain exams and Services

Physical exams and other Services (1) required for obtaining or maintaining employment or participation in employee programs, (2) required for insurance or licensing, or (3) on court order or required for parole or probation. This exclusion does not apply if a Plan Physician determines that the Services are Medically Necessary.

Cosmetic Services

Services that are intended primarily to change or maintain your appearance, except that this exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Services covered under "Reconstructive Surgery" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- The following devices covered under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section: testicular implants implanted as part of a covered reconstructive surgery, breast prostheses needed after a mastectomy, and prostheses to replace all or part of an external facial body part

Custodial care

Assistance with activities of daily living (for example: walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, and taking medicine).

This exclusion does not apply to assistance with activities of daily living that is provided as part of covered hospice for Members who do not have Part A, Skilled Nursing Facility, or inpatient hospital care.

Dental care

Dental care and dental X-rays, such as dental Services following accidental injury to teeth, dental appliances, dental implants, orthodontia, and dental Services resulting from medical treatment such as surgery on the jawbone and radiation treatment, except for Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or under "Dental Services for Radiation Treatment and Dental Anesthesia" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Disposable supplies

Disposable supplies for home use, such as bandages, gauze, tape, antiseptics, dressings, Ace-type bandages, and diapers, underpads, and other incontinence supplies.

This exclusion does not apply to disposable supplies covered in accord with Medicare guidelines or under "Durable Medical Equipment for Home Use," "Home Health Care," "Hospice Care," "Ostomy, Urological, and Wound Care Supplies," "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices," and "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Experimental or investigational Services

A Service is experimental or investigational if we, in consultation with the Medical Group, determine that one of the following is true:

- Generally accepted medical standards do not recognize it as safe and effective for treating the condition in question (even if it has been authorized by law for use in testing or other studies on human patients)
- It requires government approval that has not been obtained when the Service is to be provided

Hair loss or growth treatment

Items and services for the promotion, prevention, or other treatment of hair loss or hair growth.

Intermediate care

Care in a licensed intermediate care facility. This exclusion does not apply to Services covered under "Durable Medical Equipment," "Home Health Care," and "Hospice Care" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Items and services that are not health care items and services

For example, we do not cover:

- Teaching manners and etiquette
- Teaching and support services to develop planning skills such as daily activity planning and project or task planning
- Items and services for the purpose of increasing academic knowledge or skills
- Teaching and support services to increase intelligence
- Academic coaching or tutoring for skills such as grammar, math, and time management
- Teaching you how to read, whether or not you have dyslexia
- Educational testing
- Teaching art, dance, horse riding, music, play, or swimming, except that this exclusion for "teaching play" does not apply to Services that are part of a behavioral health therapy treatment plan and covered under "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section
- Teaching skills for employment or vocational purposes
- Vocational training or teaching vocational skills
- Professional growth courses
- Training for a specific job or employment counseling
- Aquatic therapy and other water therapy, except when ordered as part of a physical therapy program in accord with Medicare guidelines

Items and services to correct refractive defects of the eye

Items and services (such as eye surgery or contact lenses to reshape the eye) for the purpose of correcting refractive defects of the eye such as myopia, hyperopia, or astigmatism.

Massage therapy

Massage therapy, except when ordered as part of a physical therapy program in accord with Medicare guidelines.

Oral nutrition

Outpatient oral nutrition, such as dietary supplements, herbal supplements, weight loss aids, formulas, and food.

This exclusion does not apply to any of the following:

- Amino acid–modified products and elemental dietary enteral formula covered under "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and

Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

- Enteral formula covered under "Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

Residential care

Care in a facility where you stay overnight, except that this exclusion does not apply when the overnight stay is part of covered care in a hospital, a Skilled Nursing Facility, inpatient respite care covered in the "Hospice Care" section for Members who do not have Part A, or residential treatment program Services covered in the "Chemical Dependency Services" and "Mental Health Services" sections.

Routine foot care items and services

Routine foot care items and services, except for Medically Necessary Services covered in accord with Medicare guidelines.

Services not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration

Drugs, supplements, tests, vaccines, devices, radioactive materials, and any other Services that by law require federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in order to be sold in the U.S., but are not approved by the FDA. This exclusion applies to Services provided anywhere, even outside the U.S., unless the Services are covered under the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section.

Services not covered by Medicare

Services that aren't reasonable and necessary, according to the standards of the Original Medicare plan, unless these Services are otherwise listed in this *Evidence of Coverage* as a covered Service.

Services performed by unlicensed people

Services that are performed safely and effectively by people who do not require licenses or certificates by the state to provide health care services and where the Member's condition does not require that the services be provided by a licensed health care provider. This exclusion does not apply to Services covered under "Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Services related to a noncovered Service

When a Service is not covered, all Services related to the noncovered Service are excluded, except for Services we would otherwise cover to treat complications of the noncovered Service or if covered in accord with Medicare guidelines. For example, if you have a noncovered cosmetic surgery, we would not cover Services you receive in preparation for the surgery or for follow-up care. If you later suffer a life-threatening complication such as a serious infection, this exclusion would not apply and we would cover any Services that we would otherwise cover to treat that complication.

Surrogacy

Services for anyone in connection with a Surrogacy Arrangement, except for otherwise-covered Services provided to a Member who is a surrogate. Please refer to "Surrogacy arrangements" under "Reductions" in this "Exclusions, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section for information about your obligations to us in connection with a Surrogacy Arrangement, including your obligations to reimburse us for any Services we cover and to provide information about anyone who may be financially responsible for Services the baby (or babies) receive.

Travel and lodging expenses

Travel and lodging expenses, except for the following:

- In some situations if the Medical Group refers you to a Non–Plan Provider as described in "Medical Group authorization procedure for certain referrals" under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section, we may pay certain expenses that we preauthorize in accord with our travel and lodging guidelines. Please call our Member Service Contact Center for questions about travel and lodging
- Reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses provided under "Bariatric Surgery" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

Limitations

We will make a good faith effort to provide or arrange for covered Services within the remaining availability of facilities or personnel in the event of unusual circumstances that delay or render impractical the provision of Services under this *Evidence of Coverage*, such as a major disaster, epidemic, war, riot, civil insurrection, disability of a large share of personnel at a Plan Facility, complete or partial destruction of facilities, and labor disputes. Under these circumstances, if you have an Emergency Medical Condition, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital as described under "Emergency Services" in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section, and we will provide coverage and reimbursement as described in that section.

Additional limitations that apply only to a particular benefit are listed in the description of that benefit in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

Coordination of Benefits

If you have other medical or dental coverage besides your Group's non-Medicare plan, it is important to use your other coverage in combination with your coverage as a Senior Advantage Member to pay for the care you receive. This is called "coordination of benefits" because it involves coordinating all of the health benefits that are available to you. Using all of the coverage you have helps keep the cost of health care more affordable for everyone.

You must tell us if you have other health care coverage, in addition to your Group's non-Medicare plan, and let us know whenever there are any changes in your additional coverage. The types of additional coverage that you might have include the following:

- Coverage that you have from another employer's group health care coverage for employees or retirees, either through yourself or your spouse
- Coverage that you have under workers' compensation because of a job-related illness or injury, or under the Federal Black Lung Program
- Coverage you have for an accident where no-fault insurance or liability insurance is involved
- Coverage you have through Medicaid
- Coverage you have through the "TRICARE for Life" program (veteran's benefits)
- Coverage you have for dental insurance or prescription drugs
- "Continuation coverage" you have through COBRA (COBRA is a law that requires employers with 20 or more employees to let employees and their dependents keep their group health coverage for a time after they leave their group health plan under certain conditions)

When you have additional health care coverage besides your Group's non-Medicare plan, how we coordinate your benefits as a Senior Advantage Member with your benefits from your other coverage depends on your situation. With coordination of benefits, you will often get your care as usual from Plan Providers, and the other coverage you have will simply help pay for the care you receive. In other situations, such as benefits that we don't cover, you may get your care outside of our plan directly through your other coverage.

In general, the coverage that pays its share of your bills first is called the "primary payer." Then the other company or companies that are involved (called the "secondary payers") each pay their share of what is left of your bills. Often your other coverage will settle its share of payment directly with us and you will not have to be involved. However, if payment owed to us is sent directly to you, you are required under Medicare law to give this payment to us. When you have additional coverage, whether we pay first or second, or at all, depends on what type or types of additional coverage you have and the rules that apply to your situation. Many of these rules are set by Medicare. Some of them take into account whether you have a disability or have end-stage renal disease, or how many employees are covered by an employer's group plan.

If you have additional health coverage besides your Group's non-Medicare plan, please call our Member Service Contact Center to find out which rules apply to your situation, and how payment will be handled.

Reductions

Employer responsibility

For any Services that the law requires an employer to provide, we will not pay the employer, and, when we cover any such Services, we may recover the value of the Services from the employer.

Government agency responsibility

For any Services that the law requires be provided only by or received only from a government agency, we will not pay the government agency, and, when we cover any such Services, we may recover the value of the Services from the government agency.

Injuries or illnesses alleged to be caused by third parties

Third parties who cause you injury or illness (and/or their insurance companies) usually must pay first before Medicare or our plan. Therefore, we are entitled to pursue these primary payments. If you obtain a judgment or settlement from or on behalf of a third party who allegedly caused an injury or illness for which you received covered Services, you must pay us Charges for those Services, except that the amount you must pay will not exceed the maximum amount allowed under California Civil Code Section 3040. Note: This "Injuries or illnesses alleged to be caused by third parties" section does not affect your obligation to pay Copayments and Coinsurance for these Services, but we will credit any such payments toward the amount you must pay us under this paragraph.

To the extent permitted or required by law, we have the option of becoming subrogated to all claims, causes of action, and other rights you may have against a third party or an insurer, government program, or other source of coverage for monetary damages, compensation, or indemnification on account of the injury or illness allegedly caused by the third party. We will be so subrogated as of the time we mail or deliver a written notice of our exercise of this option to you or your attorney, but we will be subrogated only to the extent of the total of Charges for the relevant Services.

To secure our rights, we will have a lien on the proceeds of any judgment or settlement you or we obtain against a third party. The proceeds of any judgment or settlement that you or we obtain shall first be applied to satisfy our lien, regardless of whether the total amount of the proceeds is less than the actual losses and damages you incurred.

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

For Northern California Members:
Trover Solutions, Inc.
Kaiser Permanente – Northern California Region
Subrogation Mailbox
9390 Bunsen Parkway

Louisville, KY 40220

For Southern California Members:
The Rawlings Group
Subrogation Mailbox
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031

In order for us to determine the existence of any rights we may have and to satisfy those rights, you must complete and send us all consents, releases, authorizations, assignments, and other documents, including lien forms directing your attorney, the third party, and the third party's liability insurer to pay us directly. You may not agree to waive, release, or reduce our rights under this provision without our prior, written consent.

If your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator asserts a claim against a third party based on your injury or illness, your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator and any settlement or judgment recovered by the estate, parent, guardian, or conservator shall be subject to our liens and other rights to the same extent as if you had asserted the claim against the third party. We may assign our rights to enforce our liens and other rights.

Surrogacy arrangements

If you enter into a Surrogacy Arrangement, you must pay us Charges for covered Services you receive related to conception, pregnancy, delivery, or postpartum care in connection with that arrangement ("Surrogacy Health Services"), except that the amount you must pay will not exceed the payments or other compensation you and any other payee are entitled to receive under the Surrogacy Arrangement. A "Surrogacy Arrangement" is one in which a woman agrees to become pregnant and to surrender the baby (or babies) to another person or persons who intend to raise the child (or children), whether or not the woman receives payment for being a surrogate. Note: This "Surrogacy arrangements" section does not affect your obligation to pay Copayments and Coinsurance for these Services, but we will credit any such payments toward the amount you must pay us under this paragraph. After you surrender a baby to the legal parents, you are not obligated to pay Charges for any Services that the baby receives (the legal parents are financially responsible for any Services that the baby receives).

By accepting Surrogacy Health Services, you automatically assign to us your right to receive payments that are payable to you or any other payee under the Surrogacy Arrangement, regardless of whether those payments are characterized as being for medical expenses. To secure our rights, we will also have a lien on those payments and on any escrow account, trust, or any other account that holds those payments. Those payments (and amounts in any escrow account, trust, or other account that holds those payments) shall first be applied to satisfy our lien. The assignment and our lien will not exceed the total amount of your obligation to us under the preceding paragraph.

Within 30 days after entering into a Surrogacy Arrangement, you must send written notice of the arrangement, including all of the following information:

- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the other parties to the arrangement
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of any escrow agent or trustee
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the intended parents and any other parties who are financially responsible for Services the baby (or babies) receive, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers for any health insurance that will cover Services that the baby (or babies) receive
- A signed copy of any contracts and other documents explaining the arrangement
- Any other information we request in order to satisfy our rights

You must send this information to:

For Northern California Members:
Trover Solutions, Inc.

Kaiser Permanente – Northern California Region
Surrogacy Mailbox
9390 Bunsen Parkway
Louisville, KY 40220

For Southern California Members:
The Rawlings Group
Surrogacy Mailbox
P.O. Box 2000
LaGrange, KY 40031

You must complete and send us all consents, releases, authorizations, lien forms, and other documents that are reasonably necessary for us to determine the existence of any rights we may have under this "Surrogacy arrangements" section and to satisfy those rights. You may not agree to waive, release, or reduce our rights under this "Surrogacy arrangements" section without our prior, written consent.

If your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator asserts a claim against a third party based on the surrogacy arrangement, your estate, parent, guardian, or conservator and any settlement or judgment recovered by the estate, parent, guardian, or conservator shall be subject to our liens and other rights to the same extent as if you had asserted the claim against the third party. We may assign our rights to enforce our liens and other rights.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

For any Services for conditions arising from military service that the law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide, we will not pay the Department of Veterans Affairs, and when we cover any such Services we may recover the value of the Services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Workers' compensation or employer's liability benefits

Workers' compensation usually must pay first before Medicare or our plan. Therefore, we are entitled to pursue primary payments under workers' compensation or employer's liability law. You may be eligible for payments or other benefits, including amounts received as a settlement (collectively referred to as "Financial Benefit"), under workers' compensation or employer's liability law. We will provide covered Services even if it is unclear whether you are entitled to a Financial Benefit, but we may recover the value of any covered Services from the following sources:

- From any source providing a Financial Benefit or from whom a Financial Benefit is due
- From you, to the extent that a Financial Benefit is provided or payable or would have been required to be provided or payable if you had diligently sought to establish your rights to the Financial Benefit under any workers' compensation or employer's liability law

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT

Requests for Payment of Covered Services or Part D drugs

If you pay our share of the cost of your covered services or Part D drugs, or if you receive a bill, you can ask us for payment

Sometimes when you get medical care or a Part D drug, you may need to pay the full cost right away. Other times, you may find that you have paid more than you expected under the coverage rules of our plan. In either case, you can ask us to pay you back (paying you back is often called "reimbursing" you). It is your right to be paid back by our plan whenever you've paid more than your share of the cost for medical services or Part D drugs that are covered by our plan.

There may also be times when you get a bill from a provider for the full cost of medical care you have received. In many cases, you should send this bill to us instead of paying it. We will look at the bill and decide whether the services should be covered. If we decide they should be covered, we will pay the provider directly.

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

- **When you've received emergency, urgent, or dialysis care from a Non–Plan Provider.** You can receive emergency services from any provider, whether or not the provider is a Plan Provider. When you receive emergency, urgent, or dialysis care from a Non–Plan Provider, you are only responsible for paying your share of the cost, not for the entire cost. You should ask the provider to bill our plan for our share of the cost
  - if you pay the entire amount yourself at the time you receive the care, you need to ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Send us the bill, along with documentation of any payments you have made
  - at times you may get a bill from the provider asking for payment that you think you do not owe. Send us this bill, along with documentation of any payments you have already made
  - if the provider is owed anything, we will pay the provider directly
  - if you have already paid more than your share of the cost of the service, we will determine how much you owed and pay you back for our share of the cost
- **When a Plan Provider sends you a bill you think you should not pay.** Plan Providers should always bill us directly, and ask you only for your share of the cost. But sometimes they make mistakes, and ask you to pay more than your share
  - you only have to pay your Copayment or Coinsurance amount when you get Services covered by our plan. We do not allow providers to add additional separate charges, called "balance billing." This protection (that you never pay more than your Copayment or Coinsurance amount) applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service, and even if there is a dispute and we don't pay certain provider charges
  - whenever you get a bill from a Plan Provider that you think is more than you should pay, send us the bill. We will contact the provider directly and resolve the billing problem
  - if you have already paid a bill to a Plan Provider, but you feel that you paid too much, send us the bill along with documentation of any payment you have made and ask us to pay you back the difference between the amount you paid and the amount you owed under our plan
- **If you are retroactively enrolled in our plan.** Sometimes a person's enrollment in our plan is retroactive. ("Retroactive" means that the first

day of their enrollment has already passed. The enrollment date may even have occurred last year.) If you were retroactively enrolled in our plan and you paid out-of-pocket for any of your covered Services or Part D drugs after your enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back for our share of the costs. You will need to submit paperwork for us to handle the reimbursement. Please call our Member Service Contact Center for additional information about how to ask us to pay you back and deadlines for making your request

- **When you use a Non–Plan Pharmacy to get a prescription filled.** If you go to a Non–Plan Pharmacy and try to use your membership card to fill a prescription, the pharmacy may not be able to submit the claim directly to us. When that happens, you will have to pay the full cost of your prescription. We cover prescriptions filled at Non–Plan Pharmacies only in a few special situations. Please see "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section to learn more
  - save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost
- **When you pay the full cost for a prescription because you don't have your plan membership card with you.** If you do not have your plan membership card with you, you can ask the pharmacy to call us or to look up your plan enrollment information. However, if the pharmacy cannot get the enrollment information they need right away, you may need to pay the full cost of the prescription yourself
  - save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost
- **When you pay the full cost for a prescription in other situations.** You may pay the full cost of the prescription because you find that the drug is not covered for some reason
  - for example, the drug may not be on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*; or it could have a requirement or restriction that you didn't know about or don't think should apply to you. If you decide to get the drug immediately, you may need to pay the full cost for it
  - save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back. In some situations, we may need to get more information from your doctor in order to pay you back for our share of the cost
- **When you pay copayments under a drug manufacturer patient assistance program.** If you get help from, and pay copayments under, a drug manufacturer patient assistance program outside our plan's benefit, you may submit a paper claim to have your out-of-pocket expense count toward qualifying you for catastrophic coverage
  - save your receipt and send a copy to us

All of the examples above are types of coverage decisions. This means that if we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. The "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section has information about how to make an appeal.

How to Ask Us to Pay You Back or to Pay a Bill You Have Received

How and where to send us your request for payment

To file a claim, this is what you need to do:

- As soon as possible, request our claim form by calling our Member Service Contact Center toll free at 1-800-443-0815 or 1-800-390-3510 (TTY users call 711). One of our representatives will be happy to assist you if you need help completing our claim form
- If you have paid for services, you must send us your request for reimbursement. Please attach any bills and receipts from the Non–Plan Provider

- You must complete and return to us any information that we request to process your claim, such as claim forms, consents for the release of medical records, assignments, and claims for any other benefits to which you may be entitled. For example, we may require documents such as travel documents or original travel tickets to validate your claim
- The completed claim form must be mailed to the following address as soon as possible, but no later than 15 months after receiving the care (or up to 27 months according to Medicare rules, in some cases). Please do not send any bills or claims to Medicare. Any additional information we request should also be mailed to this address:

  For Northern California Members:
  Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
  Claims Department
  P.O. Box 24010
  Oakland, CA 94623-1010

  For Southern California Members:
  Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
  Claims Department
  P.O. Box 7004
  Downey, CA 90242-7004

Note: If you are requesting payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed by a Plan Provider and obtained from a Plan Pharmacy, write to:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Part D Unit
P.O. Box 23170
Oakland, CA 94623-0170

Contact our Member Service Contact Center if you have any questions. If you don't know what you should have paid, or you receive bills and you don't know what to do about those bills, we can help. You can also call if you want to give us more information about a request for payment you have already sent to us.

We Will Consider Your Request for Payment and Say Yes or No

We check to see whether we should cover the service or Part D drug and how much we owe

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

- If we decide that the medical care or Part D drug is covered and you followed all the rules for getting the care or Part D drug, we will pay for our share of the cost. If you have already paid for the service or Part D drug, we will mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. If you have not paid for the service or Part D drug yet, we will mail the payment directly to the provider
- If we decide that the medical care or Part D drug is not covered, or you did not follow all the rules, we will not pay for our share of the cost. Instead, we will send you a letter that explains the reasons why we are not sending the payment you have requested and your rights to appeal that decision

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

If you think we have made a mistake in turning down your request for payment, or you don't agree with the amount we are paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you are asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment.

For the details about how to make this appeal, go to the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. The appeals process is a formal process with detailed procedures and important deadlines. If making an appeal is new to you, you will find it helpful to start by reading "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" in the "Coverage Decisions,

Appeals, and Complaints" section, which is an introductory section that explains the process for coverage decisions and appeals and gives you definitions of terms such as "appeal." Then, after you have read "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals," you can go to the section in "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" that tells you what to do for your situation:

- If you want to make an appeal about getting paid back for a medical service, go to "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal" under "Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section
- If you want to make an appeal about getting paid back for a Part D drug, go to "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 appeal" under "Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section

Other Situations in Which You Should Save Your Receipts and Send Copies to Us

In some cases, you should send copies of your receipts to us to help us track your out-of-pocket drug costs

There are some situations when you should let us know about payments you have made for your covered Part D prescription drugs. In these cases, you are not asking us for payment. Instead, you are telling us about your payments so that we can calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly. This may help you to qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly.

Here is one situation when you should send us copies of receipts to let us know about payments you have made for your drugs:

- **When you get a drug through a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer.** Some members are enrolled in a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer that is outside our plan benefits. If you get any drugs through a program offered by a drug manufacturer, you may pay a copayment to the patient assistance program
  - save your receipt and send a copy to us so that we can have your out-of-pocket expenses count toward qualifying you for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage
  - note: Because you are getting your drug through the patient assistance program and not through our plan's benefits, we will not pay for any share of these drug costs. But sending a copy of the receipt allows us to calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly and may help you qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly

Since you are not asking for payment in the case described above, this situation is not considered a coverage decision. Therefore, you cannot make an appeal if you disagree with our decision.

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We must honor your rights as a Member of our plan

We must provide information in a way that works for you (in languages other than English, in Braille, in large print, or in audio tapes)

To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

Our plan has people and free language interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English-speaking members. This booklet is available in Spanish by calling our Member Service Contact Center. We can also give you information in Braille, large print, or audio tapes if you need it. If you are eligible for Medicare because of a disability, we are required to give you information about our plan's benefits that is accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan because of problems related to language or a disability, please call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and tell them that you want to file a complaint. TTY users call **1-877-486-2048**.

Debemos proporcionar información de una manera que funcione para usted (en idiomas aparte del inglés, en Braille, en tipo de letra grande o en cintas de audio)

Si desea obtener información nuestra de una manera que funcione para usted, por favor llame a nuestro Centro de Contacto de Servicios a los Miembros.

Nuestro plan cuenta con personas y con servicios de interpretación gratis para responder a las preguntas de los miembros que no hablan inglés. Se puede obtener este folleto en español llamando a nuestro Centro de Contacto de Servicios a los Miembros. También podemos proporcionarle información en Braille, en tipo de letra grande o en cintas de audio si usted lo necesita. Si califica para recibir Medicare debido a una discapacidad, se requiere que le demos información sobre los beneficios de nuestro plan de una manera accesible y apropiada para usted.

Si tiene algún problema para obtener información de nuestro plan debido a problemas relacionados con el idioma o una discapacidad, por favor llame a Medicare al **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, e infórmeles que desea presentar una queja. Los usuarios de la línea TTY deben llamar al **1-877-486-2048**.

We must treat you with fairness and respect at all times

Our plan must obey laws that protect you from discrimination or unfair treatment. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, cultural background, ancestry, language, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or geographic location within the service area.

If you want more information or have concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment, please call the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights at **1-800-368-**

1019 (TTY 1-800-537-7697) or your local Office for Civil Rights.

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, please call our Member Service Contact Center. If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, our Member Service Contact Center can help.

We must ensure that you get timely access to your covered services and Part D drugs

As a Member of our plan, you have the right to choose a primary care provider (PCP) in our network to provide and arrange for your covered services (the "How to Obtain Services" section explains more about this). Call our Member Service Contact Center to learn which doctors are accepting new patients. You also have the right to go to a women's health specialist (such as a gynecologist), a mental health services provider, and an optometrist without a referral, as well as other primary care providers described in the "How to Obtain Services" section.

As a plan Member, you have the right to get appointments and covered services from our network of providers within a reasonable amount of time. This includes the right to get timely services from specialists when you need that care. You also have the right to get your prescriptions filled or refilled at any of our network pharmacies without long delays.
If you think that you are not getting your medical care or Part D drugs within a reasonable amount of time, "How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service, or other concerns" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you what you can do. (If we have denied coverage for your medical care or Part D drugs and you don't agree with our decision, "A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals" in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you what you can do.)

We must protect the privacy of your personal health information

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

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

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records
- In most situations, if we give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care, we are required to get written permission from you first. Written permission can be given by you or by someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you
- Your health information is shared with your Group only with your authorization or as otherwise permitted by law
- There are certain exceptions that do not require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.
  - for example, we are required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care
  - because you are a Member of our plan through Medicare, we are required to give Medicare your health information, including information about your Part D

prescription drugs. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to federal statutes and regulations

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

You have the right to look at your medical records held by our plan, and to get a copy of your records. We are allowed to charge you a fee for making copies. You also have the right to ask us to make additions or corrections to your medical records. If you ask us to do this, we will work with your health care provider to decide whether the changes should be made. You have the right to know how your health information has been shared with others for any purposes that are not routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

We must give you information about our plan, our Plan Providers, and your covered services

As a Member of our plan, you have the right to get several kinds of information from us. (As explained under "We must provide information in a way that works for you (in languages other than English, in Braille, in large print or in audio tapes)," you have the right to get information from us in a way that works for you. This includes getting the information in Spanish, Braille, large print, or audio tapes.)

If you want any of the following kinds of information, please call our Member Service Contact Center:

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about our plan's financial condition. It also includes information about the number of appeals made by Members and our plan's performance ratings, including how it has been rated by Members and how it compares to other Medicare health plans
- **Information about our network providers, including our network pharmacies**
  - for example, you have the right to get information from us about the qualifications of the providers and pharmacies in our network and how we pay the providers in our network
  - for a list of the providers in our network, see the *Provider Directory*
  - for a list of the pharmacies in our network, see the *Pharmacy Directory*
  - for more detailed information about our providers or pharmacies, you can call our Member Service Contact Center or visit our website at **kp.org**
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage**
  - in the "How to Obtain Services" and "Benefits. Copayments, and Coinsurance" sections, we explain what medical services are covered for you, any restrictions to your coverage, and what rules you must follow to get your covered medical services
  - to get the details on your Part D prescription drug coverage, see "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section plus our plan's *Drug List.* That section, together with the *Drug List*, tell you what drugs are covered and explain the rules you must follow and the restrictions to your coverage for certain drugs
  - if you have questions about the rules or restrictions, please call our Member Service Contact Center
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it**
  - if a medical service or Part D drug is not covered for you, or if your coverage is restricted in some way, you can ask us for

a written explanation. You have the right to this explanation even if you received the medical service or Part D drug from an out-of-network provider or pharmacy

- if you are not happy or if you disagree with a decision we make about what medical care or Part D drug is covered for you, you have the right to ask us to change the decision. You can ask us to change the decision by making an appeal. For details on what to do if something is not covered for you in the way you think it should be covered, see the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. It gives you the details about how to make an appeal if you want us to change our decision. (it also tells you about how to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, and other concerns)
- if you want to ask us to pay our share of a bill you have received for medical care or a Part D drug, see the "Request for Payments" section

We must support your right to make decisions about your care

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

You have the right to get full information from your doctors and other health care providers when you go for medical care. Your providers must explain your medical condition and your treatment choices in a way that you can understand.

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

- **To know about all of your choices.** This means that you have the right to be told about all of the treatment options that are recommended for your condition, no matter what they cost or whether they are covered by our plan. It also includes being told about programs our plan offers to help members manage their medications and use drugs safely
- **To know about the risks.** You have the right to be told about any risks involved in your care. You must be told in advance if any proposed medical care or treatment is part of a research experiment. You always have the choice to refuse any experimental treatments
- **The right to say "no."** You have the right to refuse any recommended treatment. This includes the right to leave a hospital or other medical facility, even if your doctor advises you not to leave. You also have the right to stop taking your medication. Of course, if you refuse treatment or stop taking a medication, you accept full responsibility for what happens to your body as a result
- **To receive an explanation if you are denied coverage for care.** You have the right to receive an explanation from us if a provider has denied care that you believe you should receive. To receive this explanation, you will need to ask us for a coverage decision. The "coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section of this booklet tells you how to ask us for a coverage decision

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

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

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

care if you become unable to make decisions for yourself

The legal documents that you can use to give your directions in advance in these situations are called "**advance directives**." There are different types of advance directives and different names for them. Documents called "**living will**" and "**power of attorney for health care**" are examples of advance directives.

If you want to use an "advance directive" to give your instructions, here is what to do:

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

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

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

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

What if your instructions are not followed?

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital did not follow the instructions in it, you may file a complaint with the Quality Improvement Organization listed in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section.

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

If you have any problems or concerns about your covered services or care, the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section of this booklet tells you what you can do. It gives you the details about how to deal with all types of problems and complaints.

What you need to do to follow up on a problem or concern depends upon the situation. You might need to ask us to make a coverage decision for you, make an appeal to us to change a coverage decision, or make a complaint. Whatever you do—ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint—we are required to treat you fairly.

You have the right to get a summary of information about the appeals and complaints that other members have filed against our plan in the past. To get this information, please call our Member Service Contact Center.

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

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

If you believe you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected due to your

race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, or national origin, you should call the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights at **1-800-368-1019** or TTY **1-800-537-7697**, or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

Is it about something else?

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

- You can call our Member Service Contact Center
- You can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- Or you can call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**

How to get more information about your rights

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

- **You can call our Member Service Contact Center**
- **You can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program**. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- **You can contact Medicare:**
  - you can visit the Medicare website to read or download the publication "Your Medicare Rights & Protections." (The publication is available at http://www.**medicare.gov**/Pubs/pdf/11534.pdf)
  - or you can call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**

Information about new technology assessments

Rapidly changing technology affects health care and medicine as much as any other industry. To determine whether a new drug or other medical development has long-term benefits, our plan carefully monitors and evaluates new technologies for inclusion as covered benefits. These technologies include medical procedures, medical devices, and new medications.

You have some responsibilities as a Member of our plan

What are your responsibilities?

Things you need to do as a Member of our plan are listed below. If you have any questions, please call our Member Service Contact Center. We're here to help.

- **Get familiar with your covered services and the rules you must follow to get these covered services**. Use this *Evidence of Coverage* booklet to learn what is covered for you and the rules you need to follow to get your covered services
  - the "How to Obtain Services" and "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" sections give details about your medical services, including what is covered, what is not covered, rules to follow, and what you pay
  - the "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" gives details about your coverage for Part D prescription drugs
- **If you have any other health insurance coverage or prescription drug coverage in addition to our plan, you are required to tell us**. Please call our Member Service Contact Center to let us know
  - we are required to follow rules set by Medicare to make sure that you are using

all of your coverage in combination when you get your covered services from our plan. This is called "coordination of benefits" because it involves coordinating the health and drug benefits you get from us with any other health and drug benefits available to you. We'll help you coordinate your benefits. (For more information about coordination of benefits, go to the "Exclusion, Limitations, Coordination of Benefits, and Reductions" section)

- **Tell your doctor and other health care providers that you are enrolled in our plan.** Show your plan membership card whenever you get your medical care or Part D drugs
- **Help your doctors and other providers help you by giving them information, asking questions, and following through on your care**
  - to help your doctors and other health care providers give you the best care, learn as much as you are able to about your health problems and give them the information they need about you and your health. Follow the treatment plans and instructions that you and your doctors agree upon
  - make sure your doctors know all of the drugs you are taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements
  - if you have any questions, be sure to ask. Your doctors and other health care providers are supposed to explain things in a way you can understand. If you ask a question and you don't understand the answer you are given, ask again
- **Be considerate.** We expect all our members to respect the rights of other patients. We also expect you to act in a way that helps the smooth running of your doctor's office, hospitals, and other offices
- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you are responsible for these payments:
  - in order to be eligible for our plan, you must have Medicare Part B. For that reason, most Members must pay a premium for Medicare Part B to remain a Member of our plan
  - for most of your Services or Part D drugs covered by our plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the Service or Part D drug. This will be a Copayment (a fixed amount) or Coinsurance (a percentage of the total cost). The "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section tells you what you must pay for your Services and Part D drugs
  - if you get any medical services or Part D drugs that are not covered by our plan or by other insurance you may have, you must pay the full cost
  - if you disagree with our decision to deny coverage for a service or Part D drug, you can make an appeal. Please see the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section for information about how to make an appeal
  - if you are required to pay a late enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty to keep your prescription drug coverage
  - if you are required to pay the extra amount for Part D because of your yearly income, you must pay the extra amount directly to the government to remain a Member of our plan
- **Tell us if you move.** If you are going to move, it's important to tell us right away. Call our Member Service Contact Center
  - if you move outside of our Service Area, you cannot remain a Member of our plan. (The "Definitions" section tells you about our Service Area.) We can help you figure out whether you are moving outside our Service Area.
  - if you move within our Service Area, we still need to know so we can keep your

membership record up-to-date and know how to contact you

- if you move, it is also important to tell Social Security (or the Railroad Retirement Board). You can find phone numbers and contact information for these organizations in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section

- **Call our Member Service Contact Center for help if you have questions or concerns.** We also welcome any suggestions you may have for improving our plan
  - phone numbers and calling hours for our Member Service Contact Center
  - for more information about how to reach us, including our mailing address, please see the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section

COVERAGE DECISIONS, APPEALS, AND COMPLAINTS

What to Do if You Have a Problem or Concern

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

- For some types of problems, you need to use the process for coverage decisions and appeals
- For other types of problems, you need to use the process for making complaints

Both of these processes have been approved by Medicare. To ensure fairness and prompt handling of your problems, each process has a set of rules, procedures, and deadlines that must be followed by you and us.

Which one do you use? That depends upon the type of problem you are having. The guide under "To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use?" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section will help you identify the right process to use.

Hospice care

If you have Medicare Part A, your hospice care is covered by Original Medicare and it is not covered under this *Evidence of Coverage*. Therefore, any complaints related to the coverage of hospice care must be resolved directly with Medicare and not through any complaint or appeal procedure discussed in this *Evidence of Coverage*. Medicare complaint and appeal procedures are described in the Medicare handbook Medicare & You, which is available from your local Social Security office, at www.medicare.gov, or by calling toll free **1-800-MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)** 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you do not have Medicare Part A, Original Medicare does not cover hospice care. Instead, we will provide hospice care, and any complaints related to hospice care are subject to this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

What about the legal terms?

There are technical legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people and can be hard to understand.

To keep things simple, this section explains the legal rules and procedures using simpler words in place of certain legal terms. For example, this section generally says "making a complaint" rather than "filing a grievance," "coverage decision" rather than "organization determination" or "coverage determination," and "Independent Review Organization" instead of "Independent Review Entity." It also uses abbreviations as little as possible.

However, it can be helpful, and sometimes quite important, for you to know the correct legal terms for the situation you are in. Knowing which terms to use will help you communicate more clearly and accurately when you are dealing with your problem and get the right help or information for your situation.

You Can Get Help from Government Organizations That Are Not Connected with Us

Where to get more information and personalized assistance

Sometimes it can be confusing to start or follow through the process for dealing with a problem. This can be especially true if you do not feel well or have limited energy. Other times, you may not have the knowledge you need to take the next step.

Get help from an independent government organization

We are always available to help you. But in some situations you may also want help or guidance from someone who is not connected with us. You can always contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program. This government program has trained counselors in every state. The program is not connected with us or with any insurance company or health plan. The counselors at this program can help you understand which process you should use to handle a problem you are having. They can also answer your questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

The services of the State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselors are free. You will find phone numbers in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section.

You can also get help and information from Medicare

For more information and help in handling a problem, you can also contact Medicare. Here are two ways to get information directly from Medicare:

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

To Deal with Your Problem, Which Process Should You Use?

Should you use the process for coverage decisions and appeals? Or should you use the process for making complaints?

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

To figure out which part of this section will help you with your specific problem or concern, START HERE:

- **Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?** (This includes problems about whether particular medical care or Part D drugs are covered or not, the way in which they are covered, and problems related to payment for medical care or Part D drugs)
  - **yes, my problem is about benefits or coverage:** Go on to "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals"
  - **no, my problem is not about benefits or coverage:** Skip ahead to "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns"

A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals

Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals—The big picture

The process for coverage decisions and appeals deals with problems related to your benefits and coverage for medical care and Part D drugs, including problems related to payment. This is the process you use for issues such as whether something is covered or not, and the way in which something is covered.

Asking for coverage decisions

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical services or Part D drugs. For example, your Plan Physician makes a (favorable) coverage decision for you whenever you receive medical care from him or her or if your Plan Physician refers you to a medical specialist. You or your doctor can also contact us and ask for a coverage decision, if your doctor is unsure whether we will cover a particular medical service or refuses to provide medical care you think that you need. In other words, if you want

to know if we will cover a medical service before you receive it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you.

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

Making an appeal

If we make a coverage decision and you are not satisfied with this decision, you can "appeal" the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made.

When you appeal a decision for the first time, this is called a Level 1 Appeal. In this appeal, we review the coverage decision we made to check to see if we were following all of the rules properly. Your appeal is handled by different reviewers than those who made the original unfavorable decision. When we have completed the review we give you our decision. Under certain circumstances, which we discuss later, you can request an expedited or "fast coverage decision" or fast appeal of a coverage decision.

If we say no to all or part of your Level 1 Appeal, you can go on to a Level 2 Appeal. The Level 2 Appeal is conducted by an independent organization that is not connected to us. (In some situations, your case will be automatically sent to the independent organization for a Level 2 Appeal. If this happens, we will let you know. In other situations, you will need to ask for a Level 2 Appeal.) If you are not satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 Appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal.

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

Would you like some help? Here are resources you may wish to use if you decide to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision:

- You can call our Member Service Contact Center (phone numbers are on the cover of this *Evidence of Coverage*)
- To get free help from an independent organization that is not connected with our plan, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)
- **Your doctor can make a request for you.**
  - for medical care, your doctor can request a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your appeal is denied at Level 1, it will be automatically forwarded to Level 2. To request any appeal after Level 2, your doctor must be appointed as your representative
  - for Part D prescription drugs, your doctor or other prescriber can request a coverage decision or a Level 1 or Level 2 appeal on your behalf. To request any appeal after Level 2, your doctor or other prescriber must be appointed as your representative
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** If you want to, you can name another person to act for you as your "representative" to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal
  - there may be someone who is already legally authorized to act as your representative under state law
  - if you want a friend, relative, your doctor or other provider, or other person to be your representative, call our Member Service Contact Center and ask for the "Appointment of Representative" form. (The form is also available on Medicare's website at www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1696.pdf.) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person whom you

would like to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form

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

Which section gives the details for your situation?

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

- "Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal"
- "Your Part D prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal"
- "How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon"
- "How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage is Ending Too Soon" (applies to these services only: home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services)

If you're not sure which section you should be using, please call our Member Service Contact Center (phone numbers are on the cover of this *Evidence of Coverage*). You can also get help or information from government organizations such as your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section has the phone numbers for this program).

Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal

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

This section is about your benefits for medical care and services. These benefits are described in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

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

- You are not getting certain medical care you want, and you believe that this care is covered by our plan
- We will not approve the medical care your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe that this care is covered by our plan
- You have received medical care or services that you believe should be covered by our plan, but we have said we will not pay for this care
- You have received and paid for medical care or services that you believe should be covered by our plan, and you want to ask us to reimburse you for this care
- You are being told that coverage for certain medical care you have been getting that we previously approved will be reduced or stopped, and you believe that reducing or stopping this care could harm your health
- Note: If the coverage that will be stopped is for hospital care, home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services, you need to read a separate section because special rules apply to these types of care. Here's what to read in those situations:
    - go to "How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon"

- go to "How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage Is Ending Too Soon." This section is about three services only: home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services

For all other situations that involve being told that medical care you have been getting will be stopped, use this "Your Medical Care: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal" section as your guide for what to do.

Which of these situations are you in?

- Do you want to find out whether we will cover the medical care or services you want?
  - you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you. Go to "Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision"
- Have we already told you that we will not cover or pay for a medical service in the way that you want it to be covered or paid for?
  - you can make an appeal. (This means you are asking us to reconsider.) **Skip ahead to "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal"**
- Do you want to ask us to pay you back for medical care or services you have already received and paid for?
  - you can send us the bill. Skip ahead to "What if you are asking us to pay you for our share of a bill you have received for medical care?"

Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision (how to ask us to authorize or provide the services you want)

Step 1: You ask us to make a coverage decision on the medical care you are requesting. If your health requires a quick response, you should ask us to make a "fast coverage decision." A "fast coverage decision" is called an "expedited determination."

How to request coverage for the medical care you want

- Start by calling, writing, or faxing us to make your request for us to authorize or provide coverage for the medical care you want. You, your doctor, or your representative can do this
- For the details about how to contact us, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your medical care" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section

Generally we use the standard deadlines for giving you our decision

When we give you our decision, we will use the "standard" deadlines unless we have agreed to use the "fast" deadlines. A standard coverage decision means we will give you an answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request.

- However, we can take up to 14 more calendar days if you ask for more time, or if we need information (such as medical records from Non–Plan Providers) that may benefit you. If we decide to take extra days to make the decision, we will tell you in writing
- If you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to take extra days. When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (The process for making a complaint is different from the process for coverage decisions and appeals. For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section)

If your health requires it, ask us to give you a "fast coverage decision"

- A fast coverage decision means we will answer within 72 hours
  - however, we can take up to 14 more calendar days if we find that some information that may benefit you is missing (such as medical records from Non–Plan Providers), or if you need time to get information to us for the review. If we decide to take extra days, we will tell you in writing
  - if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to take extra days. (For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.) We will call you as soon as we make the decision
- To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet two requirements:
  - you can get a fast coverage decision only if you are asking for coverage for medical care you have not yet received. (You cannot get a fast coverage decision if your request is about payment for medical care you have already received)
  - you can get a fast coverage decision only if using the standard deadlines could cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to function
- If your doctor tells us that your health requires a "fast coverage decision," we will automatically agree to give you a fast coverage decision
- If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own, without your doctor's support, we will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision
  - if we decide that your medical condition does not meet the requirements for a fast coverage decision, we will send you a letter that says so (and we will use the standard deadlines instead)
  - this letter will tell you that if your doctor asks for the fast coverage decision, we will automatically give a fast coverage decision
  - the letter will also tell how you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you requested. (For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section)

Step 2: We consider your request for medical care coverage and give you our answer

Deadlines for a "fast coverage decision"

- Generally, for a fast coverage decision, we will give you our answer within 72 hours
  - as explained above, we can take up to 14 more calendar days under certain circumstances
  - if we decide to take extra days to make the coverage decision, we will tell you in writing
  - if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to take extra days. When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section)
  - if we do not give you our answer within 72 hours (or if there is an extended time period, by the end of that period), you have the right to appeal. "Step-by-step: How to make

a Level 1 Appeal" below tells you how to make an appeal

- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize or provide the medical care coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we received your request. If we extended the time needed to make our coverage decision, we will authorize or provide the coverage by the end of that extended period
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a detailed written explanation as to why we said no

Deadlines for a "standard coverage decision"

- Generally, for a standard coverage decision, we will give you our answer within 14 calendar days of receiving your request
  - we can take up to 14 more calendar days ("an extended time period") under certain circumstances
  - if we decide to take extra days to make the coverage decision, we will tell you in writing
  - if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to take extra days. When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section)
  - if we do not give you our answer within 14 calendar days (or if there is an extended time period, by the end of that period), you have the right to appeal. "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal" below tells you how to make an appeal
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize or provide the medical care coverage we have agreed to provide within 14 calendar days after we received your request. If we extended the time needed to make our coverage decision, we will authorize or provide the coverage by the end of that extended period
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no

Step 3: If we say no to your request for coverage for medical care, you decide if you want to make an appeal

- If we say no, you have the right to ask us to reconsider, and perhaps change this decision by making an appeal. Making an appeal means making another try to get the medical care coverage you want
- If you decide to make an appeal, it means you are going on to Level 1 of the appeals process (see "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal" below)

Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal (how to ask for a review of a medical care coverage decision made by our plan)

Step 1: You contact us and make your appeal. If your health requires a quick response, you must ask for a "fast appeal"

An appeal to our plan about a medical care coverage decision is called a plan "reconsideration."

What to do:

- **To start an appeal, you, your doctor, or your representative must contact us.** For details about how to reach us for any purpose related to your appeal, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your medical care" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- **If you are asking for a standard appeal, make your standard appeal in writing by submitting a request**

- if you have someone appealing our decision for you other than your doctor, your appeal must include an "Appointment of Representative" form authorizing this person to represent you. To get the form, call our Member Service Contact Center and ask for the "Appointment of Representative" form. It is also available on Medicare's website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1696.pdf. While we can accept an appeal request without the form, we cannot begin or complete our review until we receive it. If we do not receive the form within 44 calendar days after receiving your appeal request (our deadline for making a decision on your appeal), your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we will send you a written notice explaining your right to ask the Independent Review Organization to review our decision

- **If you are asking for a fast appeal, make your appeal in writing or call us** (see "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your medical care" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)
- **You must make your appeal request within 60 calendar days from the date on the written notice** we sent to tell you our answer to your request for a coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, we may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause for missing the deadline may include if you had a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for requesting an appeal
- **You can ask for a copy of the information regarding your medical decision and add more information to support your appeal**
  - you have the right to ask us for a copy of the information regarding your appeal. We are allowed to charge a fee for copying and sending this information to you
  - if you wish, you and your doctor may give us additional information to support your appeal

If your health requires it, ask for a "fast appeal" (you can make a request by calling us)
A "fast appeal" is also called an expedited reconsideration."

- If you are appealing a decision we made about coverage for care you have not yet received, you and/or your doctor will need to decide if you need a "fast appeal"
- The requirements and procedures for getting a "fast appeal" are the same as those for getting a "fast coverage decision." To ask for a fast appeal, follow the instructions for asking for a fast coverage decision. (These instructions are given earlier in this section)
- If your doctor tells us that your health requires a "fast appeal," we will give you a fast appeal

Step 2: We consider your appeal and we give you our answer

- When we are reviewing your appeal, we take another careful look at all of the information about your request for coverage of medical care. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request
- We will gather more information if we need it. We may contact you or your doctor to get more information

Deadlines for a "fast appeal"

- When we are using the fast deadlines, we must give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your appeal. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to do so
  - however, if you ask for more time, or if we need to gather more information that may benefit you, we can take up to 14 more calendar days. If we decide to take extra days to make the decision, we will tell you in writing

- if we do not give you an answer within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we are required to automatically send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent organization. Later in this section, we tell you about this organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process

- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize or provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written denial notice informing you that we have automatically sent your appeal to the Independent Review Organization for a Level 2 Appeal

Deadlines for a "standard appeal"

- If we are using the standard deadlines, we must give you our answer within 30 calendar days after we receive your appeal if your appeal is about coverage for services you have not yet received. We will give you our decision sooner if your health condition requires us to
  - however, if you ask for more time, or if we need to gather more information that may benefit you, we can take up to 14 more calendar days
  - if you believe we should not take extra days, you can file a "fast complaint" about our decision to take extra days. When you file a fast complaint, we will give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (For more information about the process for making complaints, including fast complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section)
  - if we do not give you an answer by the deadline above (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent outside organization. Later in this section, we talk about this review organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize or provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 30 calendar days after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written denial notice informing you that we have automatically sent your appeal to the Independent Review Organization for a Level 2 Appeal

Step 3: If our plan says no to part or all of your appeal, your case will *automatically* be sent on to the next level of the appeals process

- To make sure we were following all the rules when we said no to your appeal, we are required to send your appeal to the Independent Review Organization. When we do this, it means that your appeal is going on to the next level of the appeals process, which is Level 2

Step-by-step: How a Level 2 Appeal is done

If we say no to your Level 1 Appeal, your case will automatically be sent on to the next level of the appeals process. During the Level 2 Appeal, the Independent Review Organization reviews our decision for your first appeal. This organization decides whether the decision we made should be changed. The formal name for the Independent Review Organization is the "Independent Review Entity." It is sometimes called the "IRE."

Step 1: The Independent Review Organization reviews your appeal

- The Independent Review Organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare. This organization is not connected with us and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to handle the job of being the Independent Review Organization. Medicare oversees its work
- We will send the information about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your "case file." You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file. We are allowed to charge you a fee for copying and sending this information to you
- You have a right to give the Independent Review Organization additional information to support your appeal
- Reviewers at the Independent Review Organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal

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

- If you had a fast appeal to our plan at Level 1, you will automatically receive a fast appeal at Level 2. The review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal within 72 hours of when it receives your appeal
- However, if the Independent Review Organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, it can take up to 14 more calendar days

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

- If you had a standard appeal to our plan at Level 1, you will automatically receive a standard appeal at Level 2. The review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal within 30 calendar days of when it receives your appeal
- However, if the Independent Review Organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, it can take up to 14 more calendar days

Step 2: The Independent Review Organization gives you their answer

The Independent Review Organization will tell you its decision in writing and explain the reasons for it.

- If the review organization says yes to part or all of what you requested, we must authorize the medical care coverage within 72 hours or provide the service within 14 calendar days after we receive the decision from the review organization
- If this organization says no to part or all of your appeal, it means they agree with us that your request (or part of your request) for coverage for medical care should not be approved. (This is called "upholding the decision." It is also called "turning down your appeal")
  - if the Independent Review Organization "upholds the decision" you have the right to a Level 3 appeal. However, to make another appeal at Level 3, the dollar value of the medical care coverage you are requesting must meet a certain minimum. If the dollar value of the coverage you are requesting is too low, you cannot make another appeal, which means that the decision at Level 2 is final. The written notice you get from the Independent Review Organization will tell you how to find out the dollar amount to continue the appeals process

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

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal)
- If your Level 2 Appeal is turned down and you meet the requirements to continue with the appeals process, you must decide whether you want to go on to Level 3 and make a third

appeal. The details about how to do this are in the written notice you got after your Level 2 Appeal

- The Level 3 Appeal is handled by an administrative law judge. "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

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

If you want to ask us for payment for medical care, start by reading the "Requests for Payment" section, which describes the situations in which you may need to ask for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have received from a provider. It also tells you how to send us the paperwork that asks us for payment.

Asking for reimbursement is asking for a coverage decision from us

If you send us the paperwork that asks for reimbursement, you are asking us to make a coverage decision (for more information about coverage decisions, see "Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals—*The big picture*" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section). To make this coverage decision, we will check to see if the medical care you paid for is a covered service (see the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section). We will also check to see if you followed all the rules for using your coverage for medical care (these rules are given in the "How to Obtain Services" section).

We will say yes or no to your request

- If the medical care you paid for is covered and you followed all the rules, we will send you the payment for our share of the cost of your medical care within 60 calendar days after we receive your request. Or if you haven't paid for the services, we will send the payment directly to the provider. (When we send the payment, it's the same as saying yes to your request for a coverage decision)
- If the medical care is not covered, or you did not follow all the rules, we will not send payment. Instead, we will send you a letter that says we will not pay for the medical care and the reasons why in detail. (When we turn down your request for payment, it's the same as saying no to your request for a coverage decision)

What if you ask for payment and we say that we will not pay?

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

To make this appeal, follow the process for appeals that we describe under "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal." Go to this section for step-by-step instructions. When you are following these instructions, please note:

- If you make an appeal for reimbursement, we must give you our answer within 60 calendar days after we receive your appeal. (If you are asking us to pay you back for medical care you have already received and paid for yourself, you are not allowed to ask for a fast appeal)
- If the Independent Review Organization reverses our decision to deny payment, we must send the payment you have requested to you or to the provider within 30 calendar days. If the answer to your appeal is yes at any stage of the appeals process after Level 2, we must send the payment you requested to you or to the provider within 60 calendar days

Your Part D Prescription Drugs: How to Ask for a Coverage Decision or Make an Appeal

What to do if you have problems getting a Part D drug or you want us to pay you back for a Part D drug

Your benefits as a Member of our plan include coverage for many prescription drugs. Please refer to our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Abridged Formulary* or *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*. To be covered, the Part D drug must be used for a medically accepted indication. (A "medically accepted indication" is a use of the drug that is either approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books.)

- **This section is about your Part D drugs only.** To keep things simple, we generally say "drug" in the rest of this section, instead of repeating "covered outpatient prescription drug" or "Part D drug" every time
- For details about what we mean by Part D drugs, the *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Abridged Formulary* and *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*, rules and restrictions on coverage, and cost information, see "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section

Part D coverage decisions and appeals

As discussed under "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section, a coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your drugs. An initial coverage decision about your Part D drugs is called a "coverage determination."

Here are examples of coverage decisions you ask us to make about your Part D drugs:

- You ask us to make an exception, including:
  - asking us to cover a Part D drug that is not on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*
  - asking us to waive a restriction on our plan's coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get)
- You ask us whether a drug is covered for you and whether you satisfy any applicable coverage rules. For example, when your drug is on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*, but we require you to get approval from us before we will cover it for you
  - note: if your pharmacy tells you that your prescription cannot be filled as written, you will get a written notice explaining how to contact us to ask for a coverage decision
- You ask us to pay for a prescription drug you already bought. This is a request for a coverage decision about payment

If you disagree with a coverage decision we have made, you can appeal our decision.

Which of these situations are you in?

This section tells you both how to ask for coverage decisions and how to request an appeal. Use this guide to help you determine which part has information for your situation:

- Do you need a drug that isn't on our Drug List or need us to waive a rule or restriction on a drug we cover? You can ask us to make an exception. (This is a type of coverage decision.) **Start with "What is a Part D exception?"**
- Do you want us to cover a drug on our Drug List and you believe you meet any plan rules or restrictions (such as getting approval in advance) for the drug you need? You can us for a coverage decision. **Skip ahead to "Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception"**
- Do you want to ask us to pay you back for a drug you have already received and paid for? You can ask us to pay you back. (This is a

type of coverage decision.) **Skip ahead to "Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception"**

- Have we already told you that we will not cover or pay for a drug in the way that you want it to be covered or paid for? You can make an appeal. (This means you are asking us to reconsider.) **Skip ahead to "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal"**

What is a Part D exception?

If a Part D drug is not covered in the way you would like it to be covered, you can ask us to make an "exception." An exception is a type of coverage decision. Similar to other types of coverage decisions, if we turn down your request for an exception, you can appeal our decision.

When you ask for an exception, your doctor or other prescriber will need to explain the medical reasons why you need the exception approved. We will then consider your request. Here are two examples of exceptions that you or your doctor or other prescriber can ask us to make:

- **Covering a Part D drug for you that is not on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary*.** (We call it the "Drug List" for short.) Asking for coverage of a drug that is not on the *Drug List* is sometimes called asking for a "formulary exception"
  - if we agree to make an exception and cover a drug that is not on the Drug List, you will need to pay the Copayments or Coinsurance amount that applies to drugs in the brand-name drug tier. You cannot ask for an exception to the Copayment or Coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the drug
  - you cannot ask for coverage of any "excluded drugs" or other non–Part D drugs that Medicare does not cover. (For more information about excluded drugs, see "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)
- **Removing a restriction on our coverage for a covered Part D drug.** There are extra rules or restrictions that apply to certain drugs on our *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Abridged Formulary* and *Kaiser Permanente 2016 Comprehensive Formulary* (for more information, go to "Outpatient Prescription Drugs, Supplies, and Supplements" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section). Asking for a removal of a restriction on coverage for a drug is sometimes called asking for a "formulary exception"
  - the extra rules and restrictions on coverage for certain drugs include getting **plan approval in advance** before we will agree to cover the drug for you. (This is sometimes called "prior authorization"). For some drugs, there are restrictions on the amount of the drug you can have
  - if we agree to make an exception and waive a restriction for you, you can ask for an exception to the Copayment or Coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the Part D drug

Important things to know about asking for a Part D exception

Your doctor must tell us the medical reasons

Your doctor or other prescriber must give us a statement that explains the medical reasons for requesting a Part D exception. For a faster decision, include this medical information from your doctor or other prescriber when you ask for the exception.

Typically, our Drug List includes more than one drug for treating a particular condition. These different possibilities are called "alternative" drugs. If an alternative drug would be just as effective as the drug you are requesting and would not cause more side effects or other health problems, we will generally not approve your request for an exception.

We can say yes or no to your request

- If we approve your request for a Part D exception, our approval usually is valid until the end of the plan year. This is true as long as your doctor continues to prescribe the drug for you and that drug continues to be safe and effective for treating your condition
- If we say no to your request for a Part D exception, you can ask for a review of our decision by making an appeal. The "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal" section tells how to make an appeal if we say no

The next section tells you how to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception.

Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception

Step 1: You ask us to make a coverage decision about the drug(s) or payment you need.

If your health requires a quick response, you must ask us to make a "fast coverage decision." You cannot ask for a fast coverage decision if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug you already bought.

What to do:

- Request the type of coverage decision you want. Start by calling, writing, or faxing us to make your request. You, your representative, or your doctor (or other prescriber) can do this. You can also access the coverage decision process through our website. For the details, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section. Or if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug, go to "Where to send a request asking us to pay for our share of the cost for medical care or a Part D drug you have received" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- You or your doctor or someone else who is acting on your behalf can ask for a coverage decision. The "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" section tells you how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative. You can also have a lawyer act on your behalf
- If you want to ask us to pay you back for a drug, start by reading the "Requests for Payment" section, which describes the situations in which you may need to ask for reimbursement. It also tells you how to send us the paperwork that asks us to pay you back for our share of the cost of a drug you have paid for
- If you are requesting a Part D exception, provide the "supporting statement." Your doctor or other prescriber must give us the medical reasons for the drug exception you are requesting. (We call this the "supporting statement.") Your doctor or other prescriber can fax or mail the statement to us. Or your doctor or other prescriber can tell us on the phone and follow up by faxing or mailing a written statement if necessary. See "What is a Part D exception?" and "Important things to know about asking for a Part D exception" for more information about exception requests
- We must accept any written request, including a request submitted on the CMS Model Coverage Determination Request Form, which is available on our website

If your health requires it, ask us to give you a "fast coverage decision"

A "fast coverage decision" is called an "expedited coverage determination."

- When we give you our decision, we will use the "standard" deadlines unless we have agreed to use the "fast" deadlines. A standard coverage decision means we will give you an answer within 72 hours after we receive your doctor's statement. A fast coverage decision means we will answer within 24 hours after we receive your doctor's statement
- To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet two requirements:

- you can get a fast coverage decision only if you are asking for a drug you have not yet received. (You cannot get a fast coverage decision if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug you have already bought)
- you can get a fast coverage decision only if using the standard deadlines could cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to function

- If your doctor or other prescriber tells us that your health requires a "fast coverage decision," we will automatically agree to give you a fast coverage decision
- If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own (without your doctor's or other prescriber's support), we will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision
  - if we decide that your medical condition does not meet the requirements for a fast coverage decision, we will send you a letter that says so (and we will use the standard deadlines instead)
  - this letter will tell you that if your doctor or other prescriber asks for the fast coverage decision, we will automatically give a fast coverage decision
  - the letter will also tell you how you can file a complaint about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you requested. It tells you how to file a "fast complaint," which means you would get our answer to your complaint within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. (The process for making a complaint is different from the process for coverage decisions and appeals. For more information about the process for making complaints, see "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section

Step 2: We consider your request and we give you our answer

Deadlines for a "fast coverage decision"

- If we are using the fast deadlines, we must give you our answer within 24 hours
  - generally, this means within 24 hours after we receive your request. If you are requesting a Part D exception, we will give you our answer within 24 hours after we receive your doctor's statement supporting your request. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to
  - if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent, outside organization. Later in this section, we talk about this review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 24 hours after we receive your request or doctor's statement supporting your request
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how to appeal

Deadlines for a "standard coverage decision" about a Part D drug you have not yet received

- If we are using the standard deadlines, we must give you our answer within 72 hours
  - generally, this means within 72 hours after we receive your request. If you are requesting a Part D exception, we will give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your doctor's statement supporting your request. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to
  - if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent organization. Later in this section, we talk about this

review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2

- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested:
  - if we approve your request for coverage, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your request or doctor's statement supporting your request
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how to appeal

Deadlines for a "standard coverage decision" about payment for a drug you have already bought

- We must give you our answer within 14 calendar days after we receive your request
  - if we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent organization. Later in this section, we talk about this review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we are also required to make payment to you within 14 calendar days after we receive your request
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We will also tell you how to appeal

Step 3: If we say no to your coverage request, you decide if you want to make an appeal

- If we say no, you have the right to request an appeal. Requesting an appeal means asking us to reconsider—and possibly change—the decision we made

Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal (how to ask for a review of a coverage decision made by our plan)

An appeal to our plan about a Part D drug coverage decision is called a plan "redetermination."

Step 1: You contact us and make your Level 1 Appeal. If your health requires a quick response, you must ask for a "fast appeal."

What to do:

- To start your appeal, you (or your representative or your doctor or other prescriber) must contact us
  - for details about how to reach us by phone, fax, mail, or on our website, for any purpose related to your appeal, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- If you are asking for a standard appeal, make your appeal by submitting a written request
- If you are asking for a fast appeal, you may make your appeal in writing or you may call us at the phone number shown under "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- We must accept any written request, including a request submitted on the CMS Model Coverage Determination Request Form, which is available on our website
- You must make your appeal request within 60 calendar days from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer to your request for a coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, we may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause for missing the deadline may include if you had a serious illness that prevented you from

contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for requesting an appeal

- You can ask for a copy of the information in your appeal and add more information
  - you have the right to ask us for a copy of the information regarding your appeal. We are allowed to charge a fee for copying and sending this information to you
  - if you wish, you and your doctor or other prescriber may give us additional information to support your appeal

If your health requires it, ask for a "fast appeal"

A "fast appeal" is also called an "expedited redetermination."

- If you are appealing a decision we made about a drug you have not yet received, you and your doctor or other prescriber will need to decide if you need a "fast appeal"
- The requirements for getting a "fast appeal" are the same as those for getting a "fast coverage decision" in "Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including a Part D exception"

Step 2: We consider your appeal and we give you our answer

- When we are reviewing your appeal, we take another careful look at all of the information about your coverage request. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request. We may contact you or your doctor or other prescriber to get more information

Deadlines for a "fast appeal"

- If we are using the fast deadlines, we must give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your appeal. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires it
  - if we do not give you an answer within 72 hours, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an Independent Review Organization. Later in this section, we talk about this review organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how to appeal our decision

Deadlines for a "standard appeal"

- If we are using the standard deadlines, we must give you our answer within 7 calendar days after we receive your appeal. We will give you our decision sooner if you have not received the drug yet and your health condition requires us to do so. If you believe your health requires it, you should ask for a "fast appeal"
- If we do not give you a decision within 7 calendar days, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an Independent Review Organization. Later in this section, we tell you about this review organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process
- If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested:
  - if we approve a request for coverage, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide as quickly as your health requires, but no later than 7 calendar days after we receive your appeal
  - if we approve a request to pay you back for a drug you already bought, we are required to send payment to you within 30 calendar days after we receive your appeal request
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how to appeal our decision

Step 3: If we say no to your appeal, you decide if you want to continue with the appeals process and make *another* appeal

- If we say no to your appeal, you then choose whether to accept this decision or continue by making another appeal
- If you decide to make another appeal, it means your appeal is going on to Level 2 of the appeals process (see below)

Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 Appeal

If we say no to your appeal, you then choose whether to accept this decision or continue by making another appeal. If you decide to go on to a Level 2 Appeal, the Independent Review Organization reviews the decision we made when we said no to your first appeal. This organization decides whether the decision we made should be changed.

The formal name for the Independent Review Organization is the "Independent Review Entity." It is sometimes called the "IRE."

Step 1: To make a Level 2 Appeal, you (or your representative or your doctor or other prescriber) must contact the Independent Review Organization and ask for a review of your case

- If we say no to your Level 1 Appeal, the written notice we send you will include instructions about how to make a Level 2 Appeal with the Independent Review Organization. These instructions will tell you who can make this Level 2 Appeal, what deadlines you must follow, and how to reach the review organization
- When you make an appeal to the Independent Review Organization, we will send the information we have about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your "case file." You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file. We are allowed to charge you a fee for copying and sending this information to you
- You have a right to give the Independent Review Organization additional information to support your appeal

Step 2: The Independent Review Organization does a review of your appeal and gives you an answer

- The Independent Review Organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare. This organization is not connected with us and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to review our decisions about your Part D benefits with us
- Reviewers at the Independent Review Organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal. The organization will tell you its decision in writing and explain the reasons for it

Deadlines for "fast appeal" at Level 2

- If your health requires it, ask the Independent Review Organization for a fast appeal
- If the review organization agrees to give you a fast appeal, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal within 72 hours after it receives your appeal request
- If the Independent Review Organization says yes to part or all of what you requested, we must provide the drug coverage that was approved by the review organization within 24 hours after we receive the decision from the review organization

Deadlines for "standard appeal" at Level 2

- If you have a standard appeal at Level 2, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal within 7 calendar days after it receives your appeal
- If the Independent Review Organization says yes to part or all of what you requested:
  - if the Independent Review Organization approves a request for coverage, we must

provide the drug coverage that was approved by the review organization within 72 hours after we receive the decision from the review organization

- if the Independent Review Organization approves a request to pay you back for a drug you already bought, we are required to send payment to you within 30 calendar days after we receive the decision from the review organization

What if the review organization says no to your appeal?
If this organization says no to your appeal, it means the organization agrees with our decision not to approve your request. (This is called "upholding the decision." It is also called "turning down your appeal.")

If the Independent Review Organization "upholds the decision" you have the right to a Level 3 appeal. However, to make another appeal at Level 3, the dollar value of the drug coverage you are requesting must meet a minimum amount. If the dollar value of the drug coverage you are requesting is too low, you cannot make another appeal and the decision at Level 2 is final. The notice you get from the Independent Review Organization will tell you the dollar value that must be in dispute to continue with the appeals process.

Step 3: If the dollar value of the coverage you are requesting meets the requirement, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal)
- If your Level 2 Appeal is turned down and you meet the requirements to continue with the appeals process, you must decide whether you want to go on to Level 3 and make a third appeal. If you decide to make a third appeal, the details about how to do this are in the written notice you got after your second appeal
- The Level 3 Appeal is handled by an administrative law judge. "Taking your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

How to Ask Us to Cover a Longer Inpatient Hospital Stay if You Think the Doctor Is Discharging You Too Soon

When you are admitted to a hospital, you have the right to get all of your covered hospital Services that are necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury. For more information about our coverage for your hospital care, including any limitations on this coverage, see the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

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

- The day you leave the hospital is called your "discharge date."
- When your discharge date has been decided, your doctor or the hospital staff will let you know
- If you think you are being asked to leave the hospital too soon, you can ask for a longer hospital stay and your request will be considered. This section tells you how to ask

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

During your covered hospital stay, you will be given a written notice called *An Important Message from Medicare about Your Rights.* Everyone with Medicare gets a copy of this notice whenever they are admitted to a hospital. Someone at the hospital (for example, a caseworker or nurse) must give it to you within two days after you are admitted. If you do not get the notice, ask any hospital employee for it. If you need help, please call our Member Service Contact Center. You can also call 1-800-

MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 (TTY 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Read this notice carefully and ask questions if you don't understand it. It tells you about your rights as a hospital patient, including:**
  - your right to receive Medicare-covered services during and after your hospital stay, as ordered by your doctor. This includes the right to know what these services are, who will pay for them, and where you can get them
  - your right to be involved in any decisions about your hospital stay, and know who will pay for it
  - where to report any concerns you have about quality of your hospital care
  - your right to appeal your discharge decision if you think you are being discharged from the hospital too soon
  - the written notice from Medicare tells you how you can "request an immediate review." Requesting an immediate review is a formal, legal way to ask for a delay in your discharge date so that we will cover your hospital care for a longer time. "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal to change your hospital discharge date" tells you how you can request an immediate review
- **You must sign the written notice to show that you received it and understand your rights**
  - you or someone who is acting on your behalf must sign the notice. ("A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative)
  - signing the notice shows only that you have received the information about your rights. The notice does not give your discharge date (your doctor or hospital staff will tell you your discharge date). Signing the notice does not mean you are agreeing on a discharge date
- **Keep your copy of the signed notice so you will have the information about making an appeal (or reporting a concern about quality of care) handy if you need it**
  - if you sign the notice more than two days before the day you leave the hospital, you will get another copy before you are scheduled to be discharged
  - to look at a copy of this notice in advance, you can call our Member Service Contact Center or 1-800 MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 (TTY 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also see it online at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/HospitalDischargeAppealNotices.html

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

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

- **Follow the process.** Each step in the first two levels of the appeals process is explained below
- **Meet the deadlines.** The deadlines are important. Be sure that you understand and follow the deadlines that apply to things you must do
- **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have questions or need help at any time, please call our Member Service Contact Center (phone numbers are on the cover of this *Evidence of Coverage*). Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, a government organization that provides personalized assistance (see the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)

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

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

What is the Quality Improvement Organization?

- This organization is a group of doctors and other health care professionals who are paid by the federal government. These experts are not part of our plan. This organization is paid by Medicare to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. This includes reviewing hospital discharge dates for people with Medicare

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you received (*An Important Message from Medicare About Your Rights*) tells you how to reach this organization. (Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)

Act quickly:

- To make your appeal, you must contact the Quality Improvement Organization before you leave the hospital and no later than your planned discharge date. (Your "planned discharge date" is the date that has been set for you to leave the hospital)
  - if you meet this deadline, you are allowed to stay in the hospital after your discharge date without paying for it while you wait to get the decision on your appeal from the Quality Improvement Organization
  - if you do not meet this deadline, and you decide to stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, you may have to pay all of the costs for hospital care you receive after your planned discharge date
- If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization about your appeal, you can make your appeal directly to our plan instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see "What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 Appeal?"

Ask for a "fast review" (a "fast review" is also called an "immediate review" or an "expedited review")

- You must ask the Quality Improvement Organization for a "fast review" of your discharge. Asking for a "fast review" means you are asking for the organization to use the "fast" deadlines for an appeal instead of using the standard deadlines

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

What happens during this review?

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (we will call them "the reviewers" for short) will ask you (or your representative) why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you may do so if you wish
- The reviewers will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that the hospital and we have given to them
- By noon of the day after the reviewers informed our plan of your appeal, you will also get a written notice that gives you your planned discharge date and explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it is right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date. This written explanation is called the *Detailed Notice of Discharg*e. You can get a sample of this notice by calling our Member Service Contact Center or 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048). Or you can see a

sample notice online at www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/

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

What happens if the answer is yes?

- If the review organization says yes to your appeal, we must keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as these services are medically necessary
- You will have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as Copayments or Coinsurance, if applicable). In addition, there may be limitations on your covered hospital services. (See the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)

What happens if the answer is no?

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

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

- If the Quality Improvement Organization has turned down your appeal, and you stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, then you can make another appeal. Making another appeal means you are going on to "Level 2" of the appeals process

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

If the Quality Improvement Organization has turned down your appeal and you stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, then you can make a Level 2 Appeal. During a Level 2 Appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at the decision they made on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 Appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your stay after your planned discharge date.

Here are the steps for Level 2 of the appeals process:

Step 1: You contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review

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

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

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

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your request for a second review, the Quality Improvement Organization reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you their decision

If the review organization says yes

- We must reimburse you for our share of the costs of hospital care you have received since noon on the day after the date your first appeal was turned down by the Quality Improvement

Organization. We must continue providing coverage for your inpatient hospital care for as long as it is medically necessary

- You must continue to pay your share of the costs, and coverage limitations may apply

If the review organization says no

- It means they agree with the decision they made on your Level 1 Appeal and will not change it. This is called "upholding the decision"
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to continue with the review process. It will give you the details about how to go on to the next level of appeal, which is handled by a judge

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

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal). If the review organization turns down your Level 2 Appeal, you can choose whether to accept that decision or whether to go on to Level 3 and make another appeal. At Level 3, your appeal is reviewed by a judge
- The "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 Appeal?

You can appeal to us instead

As explained under "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal to change your hospital discharge date" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section, you must act quickly to contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your first appeal of your hospital discharge. ("Quickly" means before you leave the hospital and no later than your planned discharge date.) If you miss the deadline for contacting this organization, there is another way to make your appeal.
If you use this other way of making your appeal, the first two levels of appeal are different.

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

If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, you can make an appeal to us, asking for a "fast review." A fast review is an appeal that uses the fast deadlines instead of the standard deadlines.
A "fast review" (or "fast appeal") is also called an "expedited appeal."

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

- For details about how to contact us, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your medical care" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- Be sure to ask for a "fast review." This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the "fast" deadlines rather than the "standard" deadlines

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

- During this review, we take a look at all of the information about your hospital stay. We check to see if your planned discharge date was medically appropriate. We will check to see if the decision about when you should leave the hospital was fair and followed all the rules
- In this situation, we will use the "fast" deadlines rather than the standard deadlines for giving you the answer to this review

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

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

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

- To make sure we were following all the rules when we said no to your fast appeal, we are required to send your appeal to the Independent Review Organization. When we do this, it means that you are automatically going on to Level 2 of the appeals process

Step-by-step: Level 2 *Alternate* Appeal Process

If we say no to your Level 1 Appeal, your case will automatically be sent on to the next level of the appeals process. During the Level 2 Appeal, the Independent Review Organization reviews the decision we made when we said no to your "fast appeal." This organization decides whether the decision we made should be changed. The formal name for the Independent Review Organization is the "Independent Review Entity." It is sometimes called the "IRE."

Step 1: We will automatically forward your case to the Independent Review Organization

- We are required to send the information for your Level 2 Appeal to the Independent Review Organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying no to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. The complaint process is different from the appeals process. "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you how to make a complaint)

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

- The Independent Review Organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare. This organization is not connected with our plan and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to handle the job of being the Independent Review Organization. Medicare oversees its work
- Reviewers at the Independent Review Organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal of your hospital discharge
- If this organization says yes to your appeal, then we must reimburse you (pay you back) for our share of the costs of hospital care you have received since the date of your planned discharge. We must also continue our plan's coverage of your inpatient hospital services for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how

much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover your services

- If this organization says no to your appeal, it means they agree with us that your planned hospital discharge date was medically appropriate
  - the notice you get from the Independent Review Organization will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to continue with the review process. It will give you the details about how to go on to a Level 3 Appeal, which is handled by a judge

Step 3: If the Independent Review Organization turns down your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal). If reviewers say no to your Level 2 Appeal, you decide whether to accept their decision or go on to Level 3 and make a third appeal
- "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

How to Ask Us to Keep Covering Certain Medical Services if You Think Your Coverage Is Ending Too Soon

Home health care, Skilled Nursing Facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services

This section is only about the following types of care:

- Home health care services you are getting
- Skilled nursing care you are getting as a patient in a Skilled Nursing Facility. (To learn about requirements for being considered a "Skilled Nursing Facility," see the "Definitions" section)
- Rehabilitation care you are getting as an outpatient at a Medicare-approved Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF). Usually this means you are getting treatment for an illness or accident, or you are recovering from a major operation. (For more information about this type of facility, see the "Definitions" section)

When you are getting any of these types of care, you have the right to keep getting your covered services for that type of care for as long as the care is needed to diagnose and treat your illness or injury. For more information about your covered services, including your share of the cost and any limitations to coverage that may apply, see the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section.

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

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

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

- **You receive a notice in writing.** At least two days before our plan is going to stop covering your care, you will receive a notice
  - the written notice tells you the date when we will stop covering the care for you
  - the written notice also tells you what you can do if you want to ask us to change this decision about when to end your care, and keep covering it for a longer period of time
  - in telling you what you can do, the written notice is telling how you can request a "fast-track appeal." Requesting a fast-track appeal is a formal, legal way to request a change to our coverage decision about when to stop your care. "Step-by-step: How to

make a Level 1 Appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time" tells you how you can request a fast-track appeal

- the written notice is called the Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage. To get a sample copy, call our Member Service Contact Center or 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048). Or see a copy online at www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/

- **You must sign the written notice to show that you received it**
  - you or someone who is acting on your behalf must sign the notice. ("A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative.)
  - signing the notice shows only that you have received the information about when your coverage will stop. Signing it does not mean you agree with us that it's time to stop getting the care

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

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

- **Follow the process.** Each step in the first two levels of the appeals process is explained below
- **Meet the deadlines.** The deadlines are important. Be sure that you understand and follow the deadlines that apply to things you must do. There are also deadlines our plan must follow. (If you think we are not meeting our deadlines, you can file a complaint. "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you how to file a complaint)
- **Ask for help if you need it**. If you have questions or need help at any time, please call our Member Service Contact Center (phone numbers are on the front cover of this booklet). Or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, a government organization that provides personalized assistance (see the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)

If you ask for a Level 1 Appeal on time, the Quality Improvement Organization reviews your appeal and decides whether to change the decision made by our plan.

Step 1: Make your Level 1 Appeal: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization for your state and ask for a review. You must act quickly

What is the Quality Improvement Organization?

- This organization is a group of doctors and other health care experts who are paid by the federal government. These experts are not part of our plan. They check on the quality of care received by people with Medicare and review plan decisions about when it's time to stop covering certain kinds of medical care

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you received tells you how to reach this organization. (Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section)

What should you ask for?

- Ask this organization for a "fast-track appeal" (to do an independent review) of whether it is medically appropriate for us to end coverage for your medical services

Your deadline for contacting this organization

- You must contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your appeal no later than noon of the day after you receive the written notice telling you when we will stop covering your care
- If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization about your appeal, you can make your appeal directly to us instead. For details about this other way to make your appeal, see "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 Appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time"

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

What happens during this review?

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

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

What happens if the reviewers say yes to your appeal?

- If the reviewers say yes to your appeal, then we must keep providing your covered services for as long as it is medically necessary
- You will have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as Copayments or Coinsurance, if applicable). In addition, there may be limitations on your covered services (see the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section)

What happens if the reviewers say no to your appeal?

- If the reviewers say no to your appeal, then your coverage will end on the date we have told you. We will stop paying our share of the costs of this care on the date listed on the notice
- If you decide to keep getting the home health care, or Skilled Nursing Facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services after this date when your coverage ends, then you will have to pay the full cost of this care yourself

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

- This first appeal you make is "Level 1" of the appeals process. If reviewers say no to your Level 1 Appeal, and you choose to continue getting care after your coverage for the care has ended, then you can make another appeal
- Making another appeal means you are going on to "Level 2" of the appeals process

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

If the Quality Improvement Organization has turned down your appeal and you choose to continue getting care after your coverage for the care has ended, then you can make a Level 2 Appeal. During a Level 2 Appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at the decision they made on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 Appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your home

health care, or Skilled Nursing Facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* the date when we said your coverage would end.

Here are the steps for Level 2 of the appeals process:

Step 1: You contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review

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

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

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

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

What happens if the review organization says yes to your appeal?

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

What happens if the review organization says no?

- It means they agree with the decision we made to your Level 1 Appeal and will not change it
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to continue with the review process. It will give you the details about how to go on to the next level of appeal, which is handled by a judge

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

- There are three additional levels of appeal after Level 2, for a total of five levels of appeal. If reviewers turn down your Level 2 Appeal, you can choose whether to accept that decision or to go on to Level 3 and make another appeal. At Level 3, your appeal is reviewed by a judge
- "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

What if you miss the deadline for making your Level 1 Appeal?

You can appeal to us instead

As explained under "Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time," you must act quickly to contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your first appeal (within a day or two, at the most). If you miss the deadline for contacting this organization, there is another way to make your appeal. If you use this other way of making your appeal, the first two levels of appeal are different.

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

If you miss the deadline for contacting the Quality Improvement Organization, you can make an appeal to us, asking for a "fast review." A fast review is an appeal that uses the fast deadlines instead of the standard deadlines. A "fast review" (or "fast appeal") is also called an "expedited appeal."

Here are the steps for a Level 1 Alternate Appeal:

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

- For details about how to contact us, go to "How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your medical care" in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section
- Be sure to ask for a "fast review." This means you are asking us to give you an answer using the "fast" deadlines rather than the "standard" deadlines

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

- During this review, we take another look at all of the information about your case. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we set the date for ending our plan's coverage for services you were receiving
- We will use the "fast" deadlines rather than the standard deadlines for giving you the answer to this review.

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

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

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

- To make sure we were following all the rules when we said no to your fast appeal, we are required to send your appeal to the Independent Review Organization. When we do this, it means that you are automatically going on to Level 2 of the appeals process

Step-by-step: Level 2 *Alternate* Appeal Process

If we say no to your Level 1 Appeal, your case will automatically be sent on to the next level of the appeals process. During the Level 2 Appeal, the Independent Review Organization reviews the decision we made when we said no to your "fast appeal." This organization decides whether the decision we made should be changed. The formal name for the Independent Review Organization is the "Independent Review Entity." It is sometimes called the "IRE."

Step 1: We will automatically forward your case to the Independent Review Organization

- We are required to send the information for your Level 2 Appeal to the Independent Review Organization within 24 hours of when we tell you that we are saying no to your first appeal. (If you think we are not meeting this deadline or other deadlines, you can make a complaint. The complaint process is different from the appeals process. "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells how to make a complaint)

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

- The Independent Review Organization is an independent organization that is hired by Medicare. This organization is not connected with our plan and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to handle the job of being the Independent Review Organization. Medicare oversees its work
- Reviewers at the Independent Review Organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal
- If this organization says yes to your appeal, then we must reimburse you (pay you back) for our share of the costs of care you have received since the date when we said your coverage would end. We must also continue to cover the care for as long as it is medically necessary. You must continue to pay your share of the costs. If there are coverage limitations, these could limit how much we would reimburse or how long we would continue to cover your services
- If this organization says no to your appeal, it means they agree with the decision our plan made to your first appeal and will not change it
  - the notice you get from the Independent Review Organization will tell you in writing what you can do if you wish to continue with the review process. It will give you the details about how to go on to a Level 3 Appeal

Step 3: If the Independent Review Organization turns down your appeal, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further

- There are three additional levels of appeal after Level 2, for a total of five levels of appeal. If reviewers say no to your Level 2 Appeal, you can choose whether to accept that decision or whether to go on to Level 3 and make another appeal. At Level 3, your appeal is reviewed by a judge
- "Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section tells you more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process

Taking Your Appeal to Level 3 and Beyond

Levels of Appeal 3, 4, and 5 for Medical Service Appeals

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

If the dollar value of the item or medical service you have appealed meets certain minimum levels, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar value is less than the minimum level, you cannot appeal any further. If the dollar value is high enough, the written response you receive to your Level 2 Appeal will explain whom to contact and what to do to ask for a Level 3 Appeal.

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

Level 3 Appeal: A judge who works for the federal government will review your appeal and give you an answer. This judge is called an "administrative law judge"

- If the administrative law judge says yes to your appeal, the appeals process may or may not be over. We will decide whether to appeal this decision to Level 4. Unlike a decision at Level 2 (Independent Review Organization), we have the right to appeal a Level 3 decision that is favorable to you
  - if we decide not to appeal the decision, we must authorize or provide you with the

service within 60 calendar days after receiving the judge's decision

  - if we decide to appeal the decision, we will send you a copy of the Level 4 Appeal request with any accompanying documents. We may wait for the Level 4 Appeal decision before authorizing or providing the service in dispute
- If the administrative law judge says no to your appeal, the appeals process may or may not be over
  - if you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over
  - if you do not want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. If the administrative law judge says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal

Level 4 Appeal: The Appeals Council will review your appeal and give you an answer. The Appeals Council works for the federal government

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

Level 5 Appeal: A judge at the Federal District Court will review your appeal

- This is the last step of the administrative appeals process

Levels of Appeal 3, 4, and 5 for Part D Drug Appeals

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

If the value of the Part D drug you have appealed meets a certain dollar amount, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar amount is less, you cannot appeal any further. The written response you receive to your Level 2 Appeal will explain whom to contact and what to do to ask for a Level 3 Appeal.

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

Level 3 Appeal: A judge who works for the federal government will review your appeal and give you an answer. This judge is called an "administrative law judge"

- If the answer is yes, the appeals process is over. What you asked for in the appeal has

been approved. We must authorize or provide the drug coverage that was approved by the administrative law judge within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days after we receive the decision

- If the answer is no, the appeals process may or may not be over
  - If you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over
  - If you do not want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. If the administrative law judge says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal

Level 4 Appeal: The Appeals Council will review your appeal and give you an answer. The Appeals Council works for the federal government

- If the answer is yes, the appeals process is over. What you asked for in the appeal has been approved. We must authorize or provide the drug coverage that was approved by the Appeals Council within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days after we receive the decision
- If the answer is no, the appeals process may or may not be over
  - if you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over
  - if you do not want to accept the decision, you might be able to continue to the next level of the review process. If the Appeals Council says no to your appeal or denies your request to review the appeal, the notice you get will tell you whether the rules allow you to go on to a Level 5 Appeal. If the rules allow you to go on, the written notice will also tell you whom to contact and what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal

Level 5 Appeal: A judge at the Federal District Court will review your appeal

- This is the last step of the appeals process

How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service, or Other Concerns

If your problem is about decisions related to benefits, coverage, or payment, then this section is not for you. Instead, you need to use the process for coverage decisions and appeals. Go to "A Guide to the Basics of Coverage Decisions and Appeals" in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process?

This section explains how to use the process for making complaints. The complaint process is only used for certain types of problems. This includes problems related to quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you receive.

Here are examples of the kinds of problems handled by the complaint process:

If you have any of these kinds of problems, you can "make a complaint"

- **Quality of your medical care**
  - are you unhappy with the quality of care you have received (including care in the hospital)?
- **Respecting your privacy**
  - do you believe that someone did not respect your right to privacy or shared information about you that you feel should be confidential?
- **Disrespect, poor customer service, or other negative behaviors**

- has someone been rude or disrespectful to you?
- are you unhappy with how our Member Services has treated you?
- do you feel you are being encouraged to leave our plan?

- **Waiting times**
  - are you having trouble getting an appointment, or waiting too long to get it?
  - have you been kept waiting too long by doctors, pharmacists, or other health professionals? Or by Member Services or other staff at our plan? Examples include waiting too long on the phone, in the waiting room, when getting a prescription, or in the exam room
- **Cleanliness**
  - are you unhappy with the cleanliness or condition of a clinic, hospital, or doctor's office?
- **Information you get from our plan**
  - do you believe we have not given you a notice that we are required to give?
  - do you think written information we have given you is hard to understand?

Timeliness (these types of complaints are all related to the timeliness of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals)

The process of asking for a coverage decision and making appeals is explained in this "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. If you are asking for a decision or making an appeal, you use that process, not the complaint process.

However, if you have already asked for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think that we are not responding quickly enough, you can also make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples:

- If you have asked us to give you a "fast coverage decision" or a "fast appeal," and we have said we will not, you can make a complaint
- If you believe our plan is not meeting the deadlines for giving you a coverage decision or an answer to an appeal you have made, you can make a complaint
- When a coverage decision we made is reviewed and our plan is told that we must cover or reimburse you for certain medical services or Part D drugs, there are deadlines that apply. If you think we are not meeting these deadlines, you can make a complaint
- When we do not give you a decision on time, we are required to forward your case to the Independent Review Organization. If we do not do that within the required deadline, you can make a complaint

Step-by-step: Making a complaint

- What this section calls a "complaint" is also called a "grievance"
- Another term for "making a complaint" is "filing a grievance"
- Another way to say "using the process for complaints" is "using the process for filing a grievance"

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

- Usually calling our Member Service Contact Center is the first step. If there is anything else you need to do, our Member Service Contact Center will let you know. Please call us at 1-800-443-0815 (TTY users call 711), seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- If you do not wish to call (or you called and were not satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us. If you put your complaint in writing, we will respond to you in writing. We will also respond in writing when you make a complaint by phone

if you request a written response or your complaint is related to quality of care

- If you have a complaint, we will try to resolve your complaint over the phone. If we cannot resolve your complaint over the phone, we have a formal procedure to review your complaints. Your grievance must explain your concern, such as why you are dissatisfied with the services you received. Please see the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section for whom you should contact if you have a complaint
  - you must submit your grievance to us (orally or in writing) within 60 calendar days of the event or incident. We must address your grievance as quickly as your health requires, but no later than 30 calendar days after receiving your complaint. We may extend the time frame to make our decision by up to 14 calendar days if you ask for an extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest.
  - you can file a fast grievance about our decision not to expedite a coverage decision or appeal, or if we extend the time we need to make a decision about a coverage decision or appeal. We must respond to your fast grievance within 24 hours
- Whether you call or write, you should contact our Member Service Contact Center right away. The complaint must be made within 60 calendar days after you had the problem you want to complain about
- If you are making a complaint because we denied your request for a "fast coverage decision" or a "fast appeal," we will automatically give you a "fast complaint." If you have a "fast complaint," it means we will give you an answer within 24 hours. What this section calls a "fast complaint" is also called an "expedited grievance"

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

- If possible, we will answer you right away. If you call us with a complaint, we may be able to give you an answer on the same phone call. If your health condition requires us to answer quickly, we will do that
- Most complaints are answered in 30 calendar days. If we need more information and the delay is in your best interest or if you ask for more time, we can take up to 14 more calendar days (44 calendar days total) to answer your complaint
- If we do not agree with some or all of your complaint or don't take responsibility for the problem you are complaining about, we will let you know. Our response will include our reasons for this answer. We must respond whether we agree with the complaint or not

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

You can make your complaint about the quality of care you received to us by using the step-by-step process outlined above.

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

- **You can make your complaint to the Quality Improvement Organization**. If you prefer, you can make your complaint about the quality of care you received directly to this organization (without making the complaint to us)
  - the Quality Improvement Organization is a group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients
  - to find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state, look in the "Important Phone Numbers and Resources" section. If you make a complaint to this

organization, we will work with them to resolve your complaint

- **Or you can make your complaint to both at the same time**. If you wish, you can make your complaint about quality of care to us and also to the Quality Improvement Organization

You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to **www.medicare.gov/ MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx**. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program.

If you have any other feedback or concerns, or if you feel our plan is not addressing your issue, please call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY/TDD users can call **1-877-486-2048**.

Appeal Procedure Following Disposition of Medicare's Grievance Process

If you do not achieve resolution of your complaint through the grievance process described under "How to Make a Complaint About Quality of Care, Waiting Times, Customer Service or Other Concerns" you have additional dispute resolution options, depending on the nature of the complaint.

Eligibility issues

Issues of eligibility must be referred directly to CalPERS at:

CalPERS
Member Account Management Division
Attn: Enrollment Administration
P.O. Box 942714
Sacramento, CA 94229-2714

Fax: (916)795-1277, or telephone the CalPERS Customer Service and Outreach Division toll free at **888 CalPERS** (or **888**-225-7377).

CalPERS Administrative Review process

If you remain dissatisfied with the determination, you may request an Administrative Review. You must exhaust the Medicare appeals procedures, when applicable, prior to submitting a request for CalPERS Administrative Review.

The request for an Administrative Review must be submitted in writing to CalPERS within thirty (30) days from the date of our grievance denial letter.

The request must be mailed to:
CalPERS Health Plan Administration Division
Health Appeals Coordinator
P.O. Box 1953
Sacramento, CA 95812-1953

If you are planning to submit information we may have regarding your dispute with your request for Administrative Review, please note that we may require you to sign an authorization form to release this information. In addition, if CalPERS determines that additional information is needed after we submit the information we have regarding your dispute, CalPERS may ask you sign an Authorization to Release Health Information (ARHI) form.

If you have additional medical records from Providers or scientific studies that you believe are relevant to CalPERS review, those records should be included with the written request. You should send copies of documents, not originals, as CalPERS will retain the documents for its files. You are responsible for the cost of copying and mailing medical records required for the Administrative Review. Providing supporting information to CalPERS is voluntary. However, failure to provide such information may delay or preclude CalPERS in providing a final Administrative Review determination.CalPERS cannot review claims of medical malpractice (i.e.

quality of care, quality of service disputes, or claims subject to a Medicare appeals process).

CalPERS will attempt to provide a written determination of its Administrative Review within 30 days from the date all pertinent information is received by CalPERS. For claims involving urgent care, CalPERS will make a decision as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but no later than three (3) business days from the date all pertinent information is received by CalPERS.

Appeal Beyond Administrative Review

If you are dissatisfied with the Board's decision, you may petition the Board for reconsideration of its decision, or may appeal to the Superior Court.

You may not begin civil legal remedies until after exhausting these administrative procedures.

Summary of Process and Rights of Members under the Administrative Procedure Act.

- **Right to records, generally.** You may, at your own expense, obtain copies of all non-medical and non-privileged medical records from us and/or CalPERS, as applicable
- **Records subject to attorney-client privilege.** Communication between an attorney and a client, whether oral or in writing, will not be disclosed under any circumstances
- **Attorney Representation.** At any stage of the appeal proceedings, you may be represented by an attorney. If you choose to be represented by an attorney, you must do so at your own expense. Neither CalPERS nor Health Plan will provide an attorney or reimburse you for the cost of an attorney even if you prevail on appeal
- **Right to experts and consultants.** At any stage of the proceedings, you may present information through the opinion of an expert, such as a physician. If you choose to retain an expert to assist in presentation of a claim, it must be at your own expense. Neither CalPERS nor Health Plan will reimburse you for the costs of experts, consultants or evaluations

Service of Legal Process

Legal process or service upon CalPERS must be served in person at:

CalPERS Legal Office
Lincoln Plaza North
400 "Q" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Additional Review

You may have certain additional rights if you remain dissatisfied after you have exhausted the Medicare grievance process:

- If your Group's benefit plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), you may file a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA. To understand these rights, you should check with your Group or contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration (part of the U.S. Department of Labor) at 1-866-444-EBSA (1-866-444-3272)
- If your Group's benefit plan is not subject to ERISA (for example, most state or local government plans and church plans), you may have a right to request review in state court

Binding Arbitration

For all claims subject to this "Binding Arbitration" section, both Claimants and Respondents give up the right to a jury or court trial and accept the use of binding arbitration. Insofar as this "Binding Arbitration" section applies to claims asserted by Kaiser Permanente Parties, it shall apply retroactively to all unresolved claims that accrued before the effective date of this *Evidence of Coverage*. Such retroactive application shall be binding only on the Kaiser Permanente Parties.

Scope of arbitration

Any dispute shall be submitted to binding arbitration if all of the following requirements are met:

- The claim arises from or is related to an alleged violation of any duty incident to or arising out of or relating to this *Evidence of Coverage* or a Member Party's relationship to Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (Health Plan), including any claim for medical or hospital malpractice (a claim that medical services or items were unnecessary or unauthorized or were improperly, negligently, or incompetently rendered), for premises liability, or relating to the coverage for, or delivery of, services or items, irrespective of the legal theories upon which the claim is asserted
- The claim is asserted by one or more Member Parties against one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties or by one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties against one or more Member Parties
- Governing law does not prevent the use of binding arbitration to resolve the claim

Members enrolled under this *Evidence of Coverage* thus give up their right to a court or jury trial, and instead accept the use of binding arbitration except that the following types of claims are not subject to binding arbitration:

- Claims within the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court
- Claims subject to a Medicare appeal procedure
- Claims that cannot be subject to binding arbitration under governing law

As referred to in this "Binding Arbitration" section, "Member Parties" include:

- A Member
- A Member's heir, relative, or personal representative
- Any person claiming that a duty to him or her arises from a Member's relationship to one or more Kaiser Permanente Parties

"Kaiser Permanente Parties" include:

- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
- Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
- KP Cal, LLC
- The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.
- Southern California Permanente Medical Group
- The Permanente Federation, LLC
- The Permanente Company, LLC
- Any Southern California Permanente Medical Group or The Permanente Medical Group physician
- Any individual or organization whose contract with any of the organizations identified above requires arbitration of claims brought by one or more Member Parties
- Any employee or agent of any of the foregoing

"Claimant" refers to a Member Party or a Kaiser Permanente Party who asserts a claim as described above. "Respondent" refers to a Member Party or a Kaiser Permanente Party against whom a claim is asserted.

Rules of Procedure

Arbitrations shall be conducted according to the *Rules for Kaiser Permanente Member Arbitrations Overseen by the Office of the Independent Administrator* ("Rules of Procedure") developed by the Office of the Independent Administrator in consultation with Kaiser Permanente and the Arbitration Oversight Board. Copies of the Rules of Procedure may be obtained from our Member Service Contact Center.

Initiating arbitration

Claimants shall initiate arbitration by serving a Demand for Arbitration. The Demand for Arbitration shall include the basis of the claim against the Respondents; the amount of damages the Claimants seek in the arbitration; the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the

Claimants and their attorney, if any; and the names of all Respondents. Claimants shall include in the Demand for Arbitration all claims against Respondents that are based on the same incident, transaction, or related circumstances.

Serving Demand for Arbitration

Health Plan, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, KP Cal, LLC, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., Southern California Permanente Medical Group, The Permanente Federation, LLC, and The Permanente Company, LLC, shall be served with a Demand for Arbitration by mailing the Demand for Arbitration addressed to that Respondent in care of:

For Northern California Members:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Legal Department
1950 Franklin St., 17th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

For Southern California Members:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Legal Department
393 E. Walnut St.
Pasadena, CA 91188

Service on that Respondent shall be deemed completed when received. All other Respondents, including individuals, must be served as required by the California Code of Civil Procedure for a civil action.

Filing fee

The Claimants shall pay a single, nonrefundable filing fee of $150 per arbitration payable to "Arbitration Account" regardless of the number of claims asserted in the Demand for Arbitration or the number of Claimants or Respondents named in the Demand for Arbitration.

Any Claimant who claims extreme hardship may request that the Office of the Independent Administrator waive the filing fee and the neutral arbitrator's fees and expenses. A Claimant who seeks such waivers shall complete the Fee Waiver Form and submit it to the Office of the Independent Administrator and simultaneously serve it upon the Respondents. The Fee Waiver Form sets forth the criteria for waiving fees and is available by calling our Member Service Contact Center.

Number of arbitrators

The number of arbitrators may affect the Claimants' responsibility for paying the neutral arbitrator's fees and expenses (see the Rules of Procedure).

If the Demand for Arbitration seeks total damages of $200,000 or less, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one neutral arbitrator, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing that the arbitration shall be heard by two party arbitrators and one neutral arbitrator. The neutral arbitrator shall not have authority to award monetary damages that are greater than $200,000.

If the Demand for Arbitration seeks total damages of more than $200,000, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one neutral arbitrator and two party arbitrators, one jointly appointed by all Claimants and one jointly appointed by all Respondents. Parties who are entitled to select a party arbitrator may agree to waive this right. If all parties agree, these arbitrations will be heard by a single neutral arbitrator.

Payment of arbitrators' fees and expenses

Health Plan will pay the fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator under certain conditions as set forth in the Rules of Procedure. In all other arbitrations, the fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator shall be paid one-half by the Claimants and one-half by the Respondents.

If the parties select party arbitrators, Claimants shall be responsible for paying the fees and expenses of their party arbitrator and Respondents shall be responsible for paying the fees and expenses of their party arbitrator.

Costs

Except for the aforementioned fees and expenses of the neutral arbitrator, and except as otherwise mandated by laws that apply to arbitrations under this "Binding Arbitration" section, each party shall bear the party's own attorneys' fees, witness fees, and other expenses incurred in prosecuting or defending against a claim regardless of the nature of the claim or outcome of the arbitration.

General provisions

A claim shall be waived and forever barred if (1) on the date the Demand for Arbitration of the claim is served, the claim, if asserted in a civil action, would be barred as to the Respondent served by the applicable statute of limitations, (2) Claimants fail to pursue the arbitration claim in accord with the Rules of Procedure with reasonable diligence, or (3) the arbitration hearing is not commenced within five years after the earlier of (a) the date the Demand for Arbitration was served in accord with the procedures prescribed herein, or (b) the date of filing of a civil action based upon the same incident, transaction, or related circumstances involved in the claim. A claim may be dismissed on other grounds by the neutral arbitrator based on a showing of a good cause. If a party fails to attend the arbitration hearing after being given due notice thereof, the neutral arbitrator may proceed to determine the controversy in the party's absence.

The California Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 (including any amendments thereto), including sections establishing the right to introduce evidence of any insurance or disability benefit payment to the patient, the limitation on recovery for non-economic losses, and the right to have an award for future damages conformed to periodic payments, shall apply to any claims for professional negligence or any other claims as permitted or required by law.

Arbitrations shall be governed by this "Binding Arbitration" section, Section 2 of the Federal Arbitration Act, and the California Code of Civil Procedure provisions relating to arbitration that are in effect at the time the statute is applied, together with the Rules of Procedure, to the extent not inconsistent with this "Binding Arbitration" section. In accord with the rule that applies under Sections 3 and 4 of the Federal Arbitration Act, the right to arbitration under this "Binding Arbitration" section shall not be denied, stayed, or otherwise impeded because a dispute between a Member Party and a Kaiser Permanente Party involves both arbitrable and nonarbitrable claims or because one or more parties to the arbitration is also a party to a pending court action with a third party that arises out of the same or related transactions and presents a possibility of conflicting rulings or findings.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Your Group is required to inform the Subscriber of the date your membership terminates. The guidelines that determine the termination of coverage from the CalPERS Health Program are governed in accord with the Public Employees' Medical & Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA). For an explanation of specific eligibility criteria and termination requirements, please consult your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division). Your *CalPERS Health Program Guide* also includes eligibility and termination information and can be ordered through the CalPERS website or by calling CalPERS.

Your membership termination date is the first day you are not covered (for example, if your termination date is January 1, 2017, your last minute of coverage is at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2016). When a Subscriber's membership ends, the memberships of any Dependents end at the same time. You will be billed as a non-Member for any Services you receive after your membership terminates.

Health Plan and Plan Providers have no further liability or responsibility under this *Evidence of Coverage* after your membership terminates, except:

- As provided under "Payments after Termination" in this "Termination of Membership" section
- If you are receiving covered Services as an acute care hospital inpatient on the termination date, we will continue to cover those hospital Services (but not physician Services or any other Services) until you are discharged

Until your membership terminates, you remain a Senior Advantage Member and must continue to receive your medical care from us, except as described in the "Emergency Services and Urgent Care" section about Emergency Services, Post-Stabilization Care, and Out-of-Area Urgent Care and the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section about out-of-area dialysis care.

Note: If you enroll in another Medicare Health Plan or a prescription drug plan, your Senior Advantage membership will terminate as described under "Disenrolling from Senior Advantage" in this "Termination of Membership" section. Such a termination will not affect your enrollment in your Group's non-Medicare plan.

Termination Due to Loss of Eligibility

If you meet the eligibility requirements described under "Eligibility" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section on the first day of a month, but later in that month you no longer meet those eligibility requirements, your membership will end at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of that month. For example, if you become ineligible on December 5, 2016, your termination date is January 1, 2017, and your last minute of coverage is at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2016.

Also, we will terminate your Senior Advantage membership under this *Evidence of Coverage* on the last day of the month if you:

- Are temporarily absent from your Home Region Service Area for more than six months in a row
- Permanently move from your Home Region Service Area
- No longer have Medicare Part B
- Medicare becomes primary, for example, when you retire
- Enroll in another Medicare Health Plan (for example, a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Medicare prescription drug plan). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will automatically terminate your Senior Advantage membership when your enrollment in the other plan becomes effective

In addition, if you are required to pay the extra Part D amount because of your income and you do not pay it, Medicare will disenroll you from

our Senior Advantage Plan and you will lose prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you lose eligibility for Senior Advantage due to any of these circumstances, you will be able to continue membership under your Group's non-Medicare plan, or if you retire, you may be able to enroll in a different Senior Advantage plan either through your Group (if available) or as discussed under "Conversion to an Individual Plan" below. Please contact your Group's Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division) for information.

Termination of *Agreement*

If your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates for any reason, your membership ends on the same date. Your Group is required to notify Subscribers in writing if its *Agreement* with us terminates.

Disenrolling from Senior Advantage

Please check with the CalPERS Member Account Management Division) at the CalPERS Customer Service and Outreach Division at **888 CalPERS** (or **888**-225-7377) before you disenroll from Senior Advantage. Disenrolling from Senior Advantage so you can return to Original Medicare or at any time other than CalPERS open enrollment period may result in loss of CalPERS-sponsored health coverage.

If you request disenrollment during your Group's open enrollment, your disenrollment effective date is determined by the date your written request is received by us and the date your Group coverage ends. The effective date will not be earlier than the first day of the following month after we receive your written request, and no later than three months after we receive your request.

If you request disenrollment at a time other than your Group's open enrollment, your disenrollment effective date will be the first day of the month following our receipt of your disenrollment request.

You may request disenrollment by calling toll free 1-800-MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or sending written notice to the following address:

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

For Southern California Members:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
California Service Center
P.O. Box 232407
San Diego, CA 92193-2407

Other Medicare Health Plans. If you want to enroll in another Medicare Health Plan or a Medicare prescription drug plan, you should first confirm with the other plan and your Group that you are able to enroll. Your new plan or your Group will tell you the date when your membership in the new plan begins and your Senior Advantage membership will end on that same day (your disenrollment date).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will let us know if you enroll in another Medicare Health Plan, so you will not need to send us a disenrollment request.

Original Medicare. If you request disenrollment from Senior Advantage and you do not enroll in another Medicare Health Plan, you will automatically be enrolled in Original Medicare when your Senior Advantage membership terminates (your disenrollment date). On your disenrollment date, you can start using your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get services under Original Medicare. You will not get anything in writing that tells you that you have Original Medicare after you disenroll. If you choose Original Medicare and you want to continue to get Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, you will need to enroll in a prescription drug plan.

If you receive "Extra Help" from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs, and you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. ("Creditable" coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, as least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.) See "Medicare Premiums" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

Termination of Contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

If our contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to offer Senior Advantage terminates, your Senior Advantage membership will terminate on the same date. We will send you advance written notice and advise you of your health care options. However, you will still be enrolled under your Group's non-Medicare plan. Please contact the CalPERS Member Account Management Division for information.

Termination for Cause

We will ask CalPERS to approve termination of your membership in accord with Section 22841 of the California Government Code, if you commit one of the following acts:

- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive, to the extent that your continued enrollment seriously impairs our ability to arrange or provide medical care for you or for our other members. We cannot make you leave our Senior Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first
- If you let someone else use your Plan membership card to get medical care. We cannot make you leave our Senior Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first. If you are disenrolled for this reason, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may refer your case to the Inspector General for additional investigation
- You commit theft from Health Plan, from a Plan Provider, or at a Plan Facility
- You intentionally misrepresent membership status or commit fraud in connection with your obtaining membership. We cannot make you leave our Senior Advantage Plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison)
- You knowingly falsify or withhold information about other parties that provide reimbursement for your prescription drug coverage

If CalPERS approves termination of your membership, CalPERS will send written notice to the Subscriber.

If we terminate your membership for cause, you will not be allowed to enroll in Health Plan in the future until you have completed a Member Orientation and have signed a statement promising future compliance. We may report fraud and other illegal acts to the authorities for prosecution.

Termination of a Product or all Products

We may terminate a particular product or all products offered in the group market as permitted or required by law. If we discontinue offering a particular product in the group market, we will terminate just the particular product by sending you written notice at least 90 days before the product terminates. If we discontinue offering all products in the group market, we may terminate your Group's *Agreement* by sending you written notice at least 180 days before the *Agreement* terminates.

Payments after Termination

If we terminate your membership for cause, we will:

- Refund any amounts we owe your Group for Premiums paid after the termination date
- Pay you any amounts we have determined that we owe you for claims during your membership in accord with the "Requests for Payment" section. We will deduct any amounts you owe Health Plan or Plan Providers from any payment we make to you

Review of Membership Termination

If you believe that we terminated your Senior Advantage membership because of your ill health or your need for care, you may file a complaint as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Continuation of Group Coverage

COBRA

You may be able to continue your coverage under this Senior Advantage *Evidence of Coverage* for a limited time after you would otherwise lose eligibility, if required by the federal COBRA law (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act). COBRA applies to most employees (and most of their covered family Dependents) of most employers with 20 or more employees.

If your Group is subject to COBRA and you are eligible for COBRA coverage, in order to enroll, you must submit a COBRA election form to your Group within the COBRA election period. Please ask your Health Benefits Officer (or, if you are retired, the CalPERS Member Account Management Division) for details about COBRA coverage, such as how to elect coverage, how much you must pay for coverage, when coverage and Premiums may change, and where to send your Premium payments.

As described in "Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan" in this "Continuation of Membership" section, you may be able to convert to an individual (nongroup) plan if you don't apply for COBRA coverage, or if you enroll in COBRA and your COBRA coverage ends.

Coverage for a disabling condition

If you became Totally Disabled while you were a Member under your Group's *Agreement* with us and while the Subscriber was employed by your Group, and your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates and is not renewed, we will cover Services for your totally disabling condition until the earliest of the following events occurs:

- 12 months have elapsed since your Group's *Agreement* with us terminated
- You are no longer Totally Disabled
- Your Group's *Agreement* with us is replaced by another group health plan without limitation as to the disabling condition

Your coverage will be subject to the terms of this *Evidence of Coverage*, including Copayments and Coinsurance, but we will not cover Services for any condition other than your totally disabling condition.

For Subscribers and adult Dependents, "Totally Disabled" means that, in the judgment of a Medical Group physician, an illness or injury is expected to result in death or has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months, and makes the person unable to engage in any employment or occupation, even with training, education, and experience.

For Dependent children, "Totally Disabled" means that, in the judgment of a Medical Group physician, an illness or injury is expected to result in death or has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months

and the illness or injury makes the child unable to substantially engage in any of the normal activities of children in good health of like age.

To request continuation of coverage for your disabling condition, you must call our Member Service Contact Center within 30 days after your Group's *Agreement* with us terminates.

Conversion from Group Membership to an Individual Plan

After your Group notifies us to terminate your Group membership, we will send a termination letter to the Subscriber's address of record. The letter will include information about options that may be available to you to remain a Health Plan Member.

Kaiser Permanente Conversion Plan

If you want to remain a Health Plan Member, one option that may be available is our Senior Advantage Individual Plan. You may be eligible to enroll in our individual plan if you no longer meet the eligibility requirements described under "Eligibility" in the "Premiums, Eligibility, and Enrollment" section. Individual plan coverage begins when your Group coverage ends. The premiums and coverage under our individual plan are different from those under this *Evidence of Coverage* and will include Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

However, if you are no longer eligible for Senior Advantage and Group coverage, you may be eligible to convert to our non-Medicare individual plan, called "Kaiser Permanente Individual–Conversion Plan." You may be eligible to enroll in our Individual–Conversion Plan if we receive your enrollment application within 63 days of the date of our termination letter or of your membership termination date (whichever date is later).

You may not be eligible to convert if your membership ends for the reasons stated under "Termination for Cause" or "Termination of *Agreement*" in the "Termination of Membership" section.

For information about converting your membership or about other individual plans, call our Member Service Contact Center.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Administration of Agreement

We may adopt reasonable policies, procedures, and interpretations to promote orderly and efficient administration of your Group's *Agreement*, including this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Agreement binding on Members

By electing coverage or accepting benefits under this *Evidence of Coverage*, all Members legally capable of contracting, and the legal representatives of all Members incapable of contracting, agree to all provisions of this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Amendment of *Agreement*

Your Group's *Agreement* with us will change periodically. If these changes affect this *Evidence of Coverage*, your Group is required to inform you in accord with applicable law and your Group's *Agreement*.

Applications and statements

You must complete any applications, forms, or statements that we request in our normal course of business or as specified in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Assignment

You may not assign this *Evidence of Coverage* or any of the rights, interests, claims for money due, benefits, or obligations hereunder without our prior written consent.

Attorney and advocate fees and expenses

In any dispute between a Member and Health Plan, the Medical Group, or Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, each party will bear its own fees and expenses, including attorneys' fees, advocates' fees, and other expenses.

Claims review authority

We are responsible for determining whether you are entitled to benefits under this *Evidence of Coverage* and we have the discretionary authority to review and evaluate claims that arise under this *Evidence of Coverage*. We conduct this evaluation independently by interpreting the provisions of this *Evidence of Coverage*. We may use medical experts to help us review claims. If coverage under this *Evidence of Coverage* is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) claims procedure regulation (29 CFR 2560.503-1), then we are a "named claims fiduciary" to review claims under this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Governing law

Except as preempted by federal law, this *Evidence of Coverage* will be governed in accord with California law and any provision that is required to be in this *Evidence of Coverage* by state or federal law shall bind Members and Health Plan whether or not set forth in this *Evidence of Coverage*.

Group and Members not our agents

Neither your Group nor any Member is the agent or representative of Health Plan.

No waiver

Our failure to enforce any provision of this *Evidence of Coverage* will not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision, or impair our right thereafter to require your strict performance of any provision.

Notices

Our notices to you will be sent to the most recent address we have for the Subscriber. The Subscriber is responsible for notifying us of any change in address. Subscribers who move should call our Member Service Contact Center and Social Security toll free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778) as soon as possible to give us their new address. If a Member does not reside with the Subscriber, he or she should contact our Member Service Contact Center to discuss alternate delivery options.

Note: When we tell your Group about changes to this *Evidence of Coverage* or provide your Group other information that affects you, your Group is required to notify the Subscriber within 30 days after receiving the information from us.

Notice about Medicare Secondary Payer subrogation rights

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

Overpayment recovery

We may recover any overpayment we make for Services from anyone who receives such an overpayment or from any person or organization obligated to pay for the Services.

Public policy participation

The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Board of Directors establishes public policy for Health Plan. A list of the Board of Directors is available on our website at **kp.org** or from our Member Service Contact Center. If you would like to provide input about Health Plan public policy for consideration by the Board, please send written comments to:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Office of Board and Corporate Governance Services
One Kaiser Plaza, 19th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone access (TTY)

If you are hearing or speech impaired and use a text telephone device (TTY, also known as TDD) to communicate by phone, you can use the California Relay Service by calling 711 if a dedicated TTY number is not available for the telephone number that you want to call.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND RESOURCES

Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage

How to contact our plan's Member Services

For assistance, please call or write to our plan's Member Services. We will be happy to help you.

Member Services – contact information

Call **1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.

TTY **711**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Write Your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

Website kp.org

How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal or complaint about your Services

- A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your medical services
- An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made
- You can make a complaint about us or one of our network providers, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes

For more information about asking for coverage decisions or making appeals or complaints about your medical care, see the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

Coverage decisions, appeals, or complaints for Services – contact information

Call **1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, call the Expedited Review Unit at **1-888-987-7247**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. See the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section to find out if your issue qualifies for a fast decision.

TTY **711**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fax If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, fax your request to our Expedited Review Unit at **1-888-987-2252**.

Write For a **standard coverage decision or complaint**, write to your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

For a **standard appeal**, write to the address shown on the denial notice we send you.

If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, write to:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Expedited Review Unit
P.O. Box 23170
Oakland, CA 94623-0170

Medicare Website. You can submit a complaint about our Plan directly to Medicare. To submit an online complaint to Medicare, go to

www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx.

How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs

- A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your prescription drugs covered under the Part D benefit included in your plan
- An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made

For more information on asking for coverage decisions or making appeals about your Part D prescription drugs, see the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. You may call us if you have questions about our coverage decision or appeal processes.

Coverage decisions or appeals for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

Call **1-866-206-2973**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If your coverage decision, appeal, or complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, call the Expedited Review Unit at **1-888-987-7247**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. See the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section to find out if your issue qualifies for a fast decision.

TTY **711**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fax **1-866-206-2974**

Write Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Part D Unit
P.O. Box 23170
Oakland, CA 94623-0170

Website kp.org

How to contact us when you are making a complaint about your Part D prescription drugs

You can make a complaint about us or one of our network pharmacies, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes. (If your problem is about our plan's coverage or payment, you should look at the section above about requesting coverage decisions or making appeals.) For more information about making a complaint about your Part D prescription drugs, see the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section.

Complaints for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

Call **1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If your complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, call the Part D Unit at **1-866-206-2973**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. See the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section to find out if your issue qualifies for a fast decision.

TTY **711**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fax If your complaint qualifies for a fast review, fax your request to our Part D Unit at **1-866-206-2974**.

Write For a **standard complaint**, write to your local Member Services office (see the *Provider Directory* for locations).

If your complaint **qualifies for a fast decision**, write to:
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Part D Unit
P.O. Box 23170
Oakland, CA 94623-0170

Medicare Website. You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit an online complaint to Medicare, go to **www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx**.

Where to send a request asking us to pay for our share of the cost for Services or a Part D drug you have received

For more information about situations in which you may need to ask us for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have received from a provider, see the "Requests for Payment" section.

Note: If you send us a payment request and we deny any part of your request, you can appeal our decision. See the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section for more information.

Payment Requests – contact information

Call **1-800-443-0815**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Note: If you are requesting payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed by a Plan Provider and obtained from a Plan Pharmacy, call our Part D unit at **1-866-206-2973**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

TTY **711**

Calls to this number are free. Seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Write *For Northern California Members:*

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Claims Department
P.O. Box 24010
Oakland, CA 94623-1010

For Southern California Members:

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Claims Department
P.O. Box 7004
Downey, CA 90242-7004

If you are requesting payment of a Part D drug that was prescribed and provided by a Plan Provider, you can fax your request to **1-866-206-2974** or write us at P.O. Box 23170, Oakland, CA 94623-0170 (Attention: Part D Unit).

Website kp.org

Medicare

How to get help and information directly from the federal Medicare program

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant). The federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (sometimes called "CMS"). This agency contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations, including our plan.

Medicare – contact information

Call **1-800-MEDICARE** or **1-800-633-4227**

Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TTY **1-877-486-2048**

Calls to this number are free.

Website www.medicare.gov

This is the official government website for Medicare. It gives you up-to-date information about Medicare and current Medicare issues. It also has information about hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities. It includes booklets you can print directly from your computer.

You can also find Medicare contacts in your state.

The Medicare website also has detailed information about your Medicare eligibility and enrollment options with the following tools:

Medicare Eligibility Tool: Provides Medicare eligibility status information.

Medicare Plan Finder: Provides personalized information about available Medicare prescription drug plans, Medicare Health Plans, and Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policies in your area. These tools provide an *estimate* of what your out-of-pocket costs might be in different Medicare plans.

You can also use the website to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about our plan.

Tell Medicare about your complaint: You can submit a complaint about our plan directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to **www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx**. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program.

If you don't have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you visit this website using its computer. Or you can call Medicare and tell them what information you are looking for. They will find the information on the website, print it out, and send it to you. You can call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Free help, information, and answers to your questions about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. In California, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program is called the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP).

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program is independent (not connected with any insurance company or health plan). It is a state program that gets money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare rights, help you make complaints about your Services or treatment, and help you straighten out problems with your Medicare bills. The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program counselors can also help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (California's State Health Insurance Assistance Program) – contact information

Call **1-800-434-0222**

Calls to this number are free.

TTY **711**

Write **Your HICAP office for your county.**

Website www.aging.ca.gov

Quality Improvement Organization

Paid by Medicare to check on the quality of care for people with Medicare

There is a designated Quality Improvement Organization for serving Medicare beneficiaries in each state. For California, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Livanta.

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

You should contact Livanta in any of these situations:

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

Livanta (California's Quality Improvement Organization) – contact information

Call **1-877-588-1123**

Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TTY **1-855-887-6668**

Write Livanta
BFCC – QIO Program
9090 Junction Drive, Suite 10
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

Website www.BFCCQIOArea5.com

Social Security

Social Security is responsible for determining eligibility and handling enrollment for Medicare. U.S. citizens who are 65 or older, or who have a disability or end stage renal disease and meet certain conditions, are eligible for Medicare. If you are already getting Social Security checks, enrollment into Medicare is automatic. If you are not getting Social Security checks, you have to enroll in Medicare. Social Security handles the enrollment process for Medicare. To apply for Medicare, you can call Social Security or visit your local Social Security office.

Social Security is also responsible for determining who has to pay an extra amount for their Part D drug coverage because they have a higher income. If you got a letter from Social Security telling you that you have to pay the extra amount and have questions about the amount or if your income went down because of a life-changing event, you can call Social Security to ask for a reconsideration.

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

Social Security – contact information

Call **1-800-772-1213**

Calls to this number are free. Available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You can use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.

TTY **1-800-325-0778**

Calls to this number are free. Available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Website www.ssa.gov

Medicaid

A joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources

Medicaid is a joint federal and state government program that helps with medical costs for certain people with limited incomes and resources. Some people with Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid.

In addition, there are programs offered through Medicaid that help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These "Medicare Savings Programs" help people with limited income and resources save money each year:

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

To find out more about Medicaid and its programs, contact Medi-Cal.

Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) – contact information

Call **1-800-952-5253**

24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TTY **1-800-952-8349**

Write California Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 944243
Sacramento, CA 94244

Website cdss.ca.gov

Railroad Retirement Board

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent federal agency that administers comprehensive benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. If you have questions regarding your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

If you receive your Medicare through the Railroad Retirement Board, it is important that you let them know if you move or change your mailing address.

Railroad Retirement Board – contact information

Call **1-877-772-5772**

Calls to this number are free. Available 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have a touch-tone telephone, recorded information and automated services are available 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.

TTY **1-312-751-4701**

Calls to this number are *not* free.

Website www.rrb.gov

Group Insurance or Other Health Insurance from an Employer

If you have any questions about your employer-sponsored Group plan, please contact your Group's benefits administrator. You can ask about your employer or retiree health benefits, any contributions toward the Group's premium, eligibility, and enrollment periods.

If you have other prescription drug coverage through your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group, please contact **that group's benefits administrator.** The benefits administrator can help you determine how your current prescription drug coverage will work with our plan.

ASH PLANS COMBINED CHIROPRACTIC AND ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES

ASH Plans Customer Service Department:

Weekdays 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
1-800-678-9133 (TTY users call 711)
www.ashlink.com/ash/kp

Please refer to the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section for information about the chiropractic Services that we cover in accord with Medicare guidelines and acupuncture Services, which are separate from the services covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section. Medicare rules determine which coverage pays first, or is "primary," and which coverage pays second, or is "secondary." Medicare is the primary coverage except when federal law requires that your Group's health care coverage be primary and Medicare coverage be secondary.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., contracts with American Specialty Health Plans of California, Inc. (ASH Plans) to make the ASH Plans network of Participating Chiropractors and Participating Acupuncturists available to you. When you need chiropractic care or acupuncture, you have direct access to more than 3,400 licensed chiropractors and more than 2,000 licensed acupuncturists in California. You can obtain covered Services from any Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist without a referral from a Plan Physician. Copayments and Coinsurance are due when you receive covered Services.

Definitions

In addition to the terms defined in the earlier "Definitions" section, the following terms, when capitalized and used in any part of this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section have the following meanings:

Acupuncture Services: The stimulation of certain points on or near the surface of the body by the insertion of needles to prevent or modify the perception of pain or to normalize physiological functions (including adjunctive therapies, such as acupressure, cupping, moxibustion, or breathing techniques, when provided during the same course of treatment and in conjunction with acupuncture) when provided by an acupuncturist for the treatment of your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder, nausea (such as nausea related to chemotherapy, postsurgery pain, or pregnancy), or pain (such as lower back pain, shoulder pain, joint pain, or headaches).

ASH Plans: American Specialty Health Plans of California, Inc., a California corporation.

Chiropractic Services: Services provided or prescribed by a chiropractor (including laboratory tests, X-rays, and chiropractic appliances) for the treatment of your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder.

Emergency Acupuncture Services: Covered Acupuncture Services provided for the treatment of a Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder, nausea, or pain, which manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a reasonable person could expect the absence of immediate Acupuncture Services to result in serious jeopardy to your health or body functions or organs.

Emergency Chiropractic Services: Covered Chiropractic Services provided for the treatment of a Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder which manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a reasonable person could expect the absence of immediate Chiropractic Services to result in serious jeopardy to your health or body functions or organs.

Neuromusculoskeletal Disorders: Conditions with associated signs and symptoms related to the nervous, muscular, or skeletal systems. Neuromusculoskeletal Disorders are conditions typically categorized as structural, degenerative, or inflammatory disorders, or biomechanical dysfunction of the joints of the body or related components of the motor unit (muscles, tendons, fascia, nerves, ligaments/capsules, discs, and synovial structures), and related neurological manifestations or conditions.

Non–Participating Acupuncturist: An acupuncturist other than a Participating Acupuncturist.

Non–Participating Chiropractor: A chiropractor other than a Participating Chiropractor.

Non–Participating Provider: A provider other than a Participating Provider.

Participating Acupuncturist: An acupuncturist who is licensed to provide acupuncture services in California and who has a contract with ASH Plans to provide Medically Necessary Acupuncture Services to you. A list of Participating Acupuncturists is available on the ASH Plans website at **www.ashlink.com/ash/kp** or from the ASH Plans Customer Service Department toll free at **1-800-678-9133** (TTY users call **711**). The list of Participating Acupuncturists is subject to change at any time, without notice. If you have questions, please call the ASH Plans Customer Service Department.

Participating Chiropractor: A chiropractor who is licensed to provide chiropractic services in California and who has a contract with ASH Plans to provide Medically Necessary Chiropractic Services to you. A list of Participating Chiropractors is available on the ASH Plans website at **www.ashlink.com/ash/kp** or from the ASH Plans Customer Service Department toll free at 1-800-678-9133 (TTY users call 711). The list of Participating Chiropractors is subject to change at any time, without notice. If you have questions, please call the ASH Plans Customer Service Department.

Participating Provider: A Participating Chiropractor, Participating Acupuncturist, or any licensed provider with which ASH Plans contracts to provide covered care, including laboratory tests or X-rays that are covered Chiropractic Services.

Treatment Plan: One of the following, depending on whether the Treatment Plan is for Chiropractic Services or Acupuncture Services:

- A proposed course of treatment for your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder, which may include laboratory tests, X-rays, chiropractic appliances, and a specific number of visits for chiropractic manipulations, adjustments, and therapies that are Medically Necessary Chiropractic Services for you
- A proposed course of treatment for your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder, nausea, or pain, which will include a specific number of visits for acupuncture (including adjunctive therapies such as acupressure, cupping, moxibustion, or breathing techniques when provided during the same course of treatment and in conjunction with acupuncture) that are Medically Necessary Acupuncture Services for you

Urgent Acupuncture Services: Acupuncture Services that meet all of the following requirements:

- They are necessary to prevent serious deterioration of your health resulting from an unforeseen illness, injury, or complication of an existing condition, including pregnancy
- They cannot be delayed until you return to the Service Area

Urgent Chiropractic Services: Chiropractic Services that meet all of the following requirements:

- They are necessary to prevent serious deterioration of your health resulting from an

unforeseen illness, injury, or complication of an existing condition, including pregnancy

- They cannot be delayed until you return to the Service Area

Participating Providers

Please read the following information so you will know from whom or what group of providers you may receive covered Chiropractic Services and Acupuncture Services.

ASH Plans contracts with Participating Chiropractors, Participating Acupuncturists, and other Participating Providers to provide covered Chiropractic Services (including laboratory tests, X-rays, and chiropractic appliances) and covered Acupuncture Services. You must receive Services covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section from a Participating Provider, except for Emergency Chiropractic Services, Urgent Chiropractic Services, Emergency Acupuncture Services, Urgent Acupuncture Services, and Services that are not available from Participating Providers and that are authorized in advance by ASH Plans.

How to obtain Services

To obtain Services covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, call a Participating Chiropractor or a Participating Acupuncturist to schedule an initial examination. Your Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist will request any required medical necessity determinations. An ASH Plans' clinician in the same or similar specialty as the provider of Chiropractic Services or Acupuncture Services under review will determine whether the Chiropractic Services or Acupuncture Services are or were Medically Necessary Services.

Decision time frames

The ASH Plans' clinician will make the authorization decision within the time frame appropriate for your condition, but no later than five business days after receiving all of the information (including additional examination and test results) reasonably necessary to make the decision, except that decisions about urgent Services will be made no later than 72 hours after receipt of the information reasonably necessary to make the decision. If ASH Plans needs more time to make the decision because it doesn't have information reasonably necessary to make the decision, or because it has requested consultation by a particular specialist, you and your Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist will be informed in writing about the additional information, testing, or specialist that is needed, and the date that ASH Plans expects to make a decision.

Your Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist will be informed of the decision within 24 hours after the decision is made. If the Services are authorized, your Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist will be informed of the scope of the authorized Services. If ASH Plans does not authorize all of the Services, ASH Plans will send you a written decision and explanation, including the rationale for the decision and the criteria used to make the decision, within two business days after the decision is made. The letter will also include information about your appeal rights, which are described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section. Any written criteria that ASH Plans uses to make the decision to authorize, modify, delay, or deny the request for authorization will be made available to you upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact ASH Plans or Kaiser Permanente as described under "Member Services" in this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section.

Covered Services

We cover the Services listed in this "Covered Services" section, subject to exclusions described in the "Exclusions and Limitations" section, only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- You are a Member on the date that you receive the Services
- ASH Plans has determined that the Services are Medically Necessary, except for:
  - the initial examination described under "Office Visits" in this "Covered Services" section
  - Emergency Chiropractic Services, Urgent Chiropractic Services, Emergency Acupuncture Services, and Urgent Acupuncture Services described under "Emergency and urgent chiropractic and acupuncture Services" in this "Covered Services" section
- You receive the Services from Participating Providers, except for:
  - Emergency Chiropractic Services, Urgent Chiropractic Services, Emergency Acupuncture Services, and Urgent Acupuncture Services described under "Emergency and urgent chiropractic and acupuncture Services" in this "Covered Services" section
  - Services that are not available from Participating Providers and that are authorized in advance by ASH Plans

When you receive covered Services, you must pay the Copayment or Coinsurance listed in this "Covered Services" section. If you receive Services that are not covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section, you may be liable for the full price of those Services.

Note: If Charges for Services are less than the Copayment described in this "Covered Services" section, you will pay the lesser amount.

If you have questions about Copayments or Coinsurance for specific Services that you are scheduled to receive or that your provider orders during a visit or procedure, please call the ASH Plans Customer Service Department toll free at **1-800-678-9133** (TTY users call **711**) weekdays from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Coverage of Acupuncture Services under this "Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services Amendment" is different from the coverage of acupuncture Services under your Health Plan *Evidence of Coverage*. You do not need a referral to get covered Services under this "Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services Amendment," but covered Services and your Copayments or Coinsurance may differ from those under your Health Plan *Evidence of Coverage*. If you receive acupuncture Services for which you have a referral (as described under "Getting a Referral" in the "How to Obtain Services" section of the *Evidence of Coverage*), then unless you tell us otherwise, we will assume that you are using your coverage under your Health Plan *Evidence of Coverage*.

Please refer to the "Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" in the "Benefits, Copayments, and Coinsurance" section for information about the chiropractic Services that we cover in accord with Medicare guidelines, which are separate from the Services covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section.

Office visits

We cover up to a combined total of 20 of the following types of office visits per calendar year at **a $15 Copayment per visit**:

- **Chiropractic office visits.** Each office visit counts toward the calendar year visit limit even if an adjustment is not provided during the visit:
  - **Initial examination:** An examination performed by a Participating Chiropractor to determine the nature of your problem

(and, if appropriate, to prepare a Treatment Plan), and to provide Medically Necessary Chiropractic Services, which may include an adjustment and adjunctive therapy (such as ultrasound, hot packs, cold packs, or electrical muscle stimulation). We cover an initial examination only if you have not already received covered Services from a Participating Chiropractor in the same calendar year for your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder

- **Subsequent office visits:** Subsequent Participating Chiropractor office visits for Medically Necessary Chiropractic Services, which may include an adjustment, adjunctive therapy, and a re-examination to assess the need to continue, extend, or change a Treatment Plan

- **Acupuncture office visits.** Each office visit counts toward the calendar year visit limit even if acupuncture is not provided during the visit:
  - **Initial examination:** An examination performed by a Participating Acupuncturist to determine the nature of your problem (and, if appropriate, to prepare a Treatment Plan), and to provide Medically Necessary Acupuncture Services. We cover an initial examination only if you have not already received covered Services from a Participating Acupuncturist in the same calendar year for your Neuromusculoskeletal Disorder, nausea, or pain
  - **Subsequent office visits:** Subsequent Participating Acupuncturist office visits for Medically Necessary Acupuncture Services, and a re-examination to assess the need to continue, extend, or change a Treatment Plan

Laboratory tests and X-rays

We cover Medically Necessary laboratory tests and X-rays when prescribed as part of covered chiropractic care described under "Office visits" in this "Covered Services" section at **no charge** when a Participating Chiropractor provides the Services or refers you to a Participating Provider for the Services.

Chiropractic appliances

We provide a **$50 Allowance per calendar year** toward the ASH Plans fee schedule price for chiropractic appliances listed in this paragraph when the item is prescribed and provided to you by a Participating Chiropractor as part of covered chiropractic care described under "Office visits" in this "Covered Services" section. If the price of the item(s) in the ASH Plans fee schedule exceeds **$50** (the Allowance), you will pay the amount in excess of **$50**. Covered chiropractic appliances are limited to: elbow supports, back supports (thoracic), cervical collars, cervical pillows, heel lifts, hot or cold packs, lumbar braces and supports, lumbar cushions, orthotics, wrist supports, rib belts, home traction units (cervical or lumbar), ankle braces, knee braces, rib supports, and wrist braces.

Second opinions

You may request a second opinion in regard to covered Services by contacting another Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist (as applicable). Your visit to another Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist for a second opinion generally will count toward any calendar year visit limit. A Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist may also request a second opinion in regard to covered Services by referring you to another Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist in the same or similar specialty. When you are referred by a Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist to another Participating Chiropractor or

Participating Acupuncturist for a second opinion, your visit to the other Participating Chiropractor or Participating Acupuncturist will not count toward any calendar year visit limit. You have a right to a second opinion. If you have requested a second opinion and you have not received it or you believe it has not been authorized, you can file a grievance as described under "Grievances" in this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section.

Emergency and urgent chiropractic and acupuncture Services

Emergency and urgent chiropractic Services. We cover Emergency Chiropractic Services and Urgent Chiropractic Services provided by a Participating Chiropractor or a Non–Participating Chiropractor at **a $15 Copayment per visit**. We do not cover follow-up or continuing care from a Non-Participating Provider unless ASH Plans has authorized the Services in advance. Also, we do not cover Services from a Non-Participating Chiropractor that ASH Plans determines are not Emergency Chiropractic Services or Urgent Chiropractic Services.

Emergency and urgent acupuncture Services. We cover Emergency Acupuncture Services and Urgent Acupuncture Services provided by a Participating Acupuncturist or a Non–Participating Acupuncturist at **a $15 Copayment per visit.** We do not cover follow-up or continuing care from a Non–Participating Acupuncturist unless ASH Plans has authorized the Services in advance. Also, we do not cover Services from a Non-Participating Acupuncturist that ASH Plans determines are not Emergency Acupuncture Services or Urgent Acupuncture Services.

How to file a claim. As soon as possible after receiving Emergency Chiropractic Services or Urgent Chiropractic Services or Emergency Acupuncture Services or Urgent Acupuncture Services, you must file an ASH Plans claim form. To request a claim form or for more information, please call ASH Plans toll free at 1-800-678-9133 (TTY users call 711) or visit the ASH Plans website at **www.ashlink.com/ash/kp**. You must send the completed claim form to:

ASH Plans
P.O. Box 509002
San Diego, CA 92150-9002

Exclusions and Limitations

The items and services listed in this "Exclusions and Limitations" section are excluded from coverage. These exclusions apply to all Services that would otherwise be covered under this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section regardless of whether the services are within the scope of a provider's license or certificate:

- Acupuncture services for conditions other than Neuromusculoskeletal Disorders, nausea, and pain
- Services for asthma or addiction, such as nicotine addiction
- Hypnotherapy, behavior training, sleep therapy, and weight programs
- Thermography
- Experimental or investigational Services. If coverage for a Service is denied because it is experimental or investigational and you want to appeal the denial, refer to the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section for information about the appeal process
- CT scans, MRIs, PET scans, bone scans, nuclear medicine, and any other type of diagnostic imaging or radiology other than X-rays covered under the "Covered Services" section of this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section
- Ambulance and other transportation
- Education programs, non-medical self-care or self-help, any self-help physical exercise training, and any related diagnostic testing

- Services for pre-employment physicals or vocational rehabilitation
- Acupuncture performed with reusable needles
- Air conditioners, air purifiers, therapeutic mattresses, chiropractic appliances, durable medical equipment, supplies, devices, appliances, and any other item except those listed as covered under "Chiropractic appliances" in the "Covered Services" section of this "ASH Plans Combined Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services" section
- Drugs and medicines, including non-legend or proprietary drugs and medicines
- Services you receive outside the state of California, except for Emergency Chiropractic Services, Urgent Chiropractic Services, Emergency Acupuncture Services, or Urgent Acupuncture Services
- Hospital services, anesthesia, manipulation under anesthesia, and related services
- For Chiropractic Services, adjunctive therapy not associated with spinal, muscle, or joint manipulations
- For Acupuncture Services, adjunctive therapies unless provided during the same course of treatment and in conjunction with acupuncture
- Dietary and nutritional supplements, such as vitamins, minerals, herbs, herbal products, injectable supplements, and similar products
- Massage therapy
- Services provided by a chiropractor that are not within the scope of licensure for a chiropractor licensed in California
- Services provided by an acupuncturist that are not within the scope of licensure for a acupuncturists licensed in California
- Maintenance care (services provided to Members whose treatment records indicate that they have reached maximum therapeutic benefit)

Customer Service

If you have a question or concern regarding the Services you received from a Participating Provider, you may call the ASH Plans Customer Service Department toll free at **1-800-678-9133** (TTY users call **711**) weekdays from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., or write ASH Plans at:

ASH Plans
Customer Service Department
P.O. Box 509002
San Diego, CA 92150-9002

Grievances

You can file a grievance with Kaiser Permanente regarding any issue. Your grievance must explain your issue, such as the reasons why you believe a decision was in error or why you are dissatisfied about Services you received. You may submit your grievance orally or in writing to Kaiser Permanente as described in the "Coverage Decisions, Appeals, and Complaints" section

Multi-language Interpreter Services

English: We have free interpreter services to answer any questions you may have about our health or drug plan. To get an interpreter, just call us at 1-800-443-0815. Someone who speaks English/Language can help you. This is a free service.

Spanish: Tenemos servicios de intérprete sin costo alguno para responder cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre nuestro plan de salud o medicamentos. Para hablar con un intérprete, por favor llame al 1-800-443-0815. Alguien que hable español le podrá ayudar. Este es un servicio gratuito.

Chinese Mandarin: 我们提供免费的翻译服务，帮助您解答关于健康或药物保险的任何疑问。如果您需要此翻译服务，请致电 1-800-443-0815。我们的中文工作人员很乐意帮助您。这是一项免费服务。

Chinese Cantonese: 您對我們的健康或藥物保險可能存有疑問，為此我們提供免費的翻譯服務。如需翻譯服務，請致電 1-800-443-0815。我們講中文的人員將樂意為您提供幫助。這是一項免費服務。

Tagalog: Mayroon kaming libreng serbisyo sa pagsasaling-wika upang masagot ang anumang mga katanungan ninyo hinggil sa aming planong pangkalusugan o panggamot. Upang makakuha ng tagasaling-wika, tawagan lamang kami sa 1-800-443-0815. Maaari kayong tulungan ng isang nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog. Ito ay libreng serbisyo.

French: Nous proposons des services gratuits d'interprétation pour répondre à toutes vos questions relatives à notre régime de santé ou d'assurance-médicaments. Pour accéder au service d'interprétation, il vous suffit de nous appeler au 1-800-443-0815. Un interlocuteur parlant Français pourra vous aider. Ce service est gratuit.

Vietnamese: Chúng tôi có dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí để trả lời các câu hỏi về chương sức khỏe và chương trình thuốc men. Nếu quí vị cần thông dịch viên xin gọi 1-800-443-0815 sẽ có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt giúp đỡ quí vị. Đây là dịch vụ miễn phí.

German: Unser kostenloser Dolmetscherservice beantwortet Ihren Fragen zu unserem Gesundheits- und Arzneimittelplan. Unsere Dolmetscher erreichen Sie unter 1-800-443-0815. Man wird Ihnen dort auf Deutsch weiterhelfen. Dieser Service ist kostenlos.

Korean: 당사는 의료 보험 또는 약품 보험에 관한 질문에 답해 드리고자 무료 통역 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다. 통역 서비스를 이용하려면 전화 1-800-443-0815 번으로 문의해 주십시오. 한국어를 하는 담당자가 도와 드릴 것입니다. 이 서비스는 무료로 운영됩니다.

Y0043_N009556 accepted

Russian: Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно страхового или медикаментного плана, вы можете воспользоваться нашими бесплатными услугами переводчиков. Чтобы воспользоваться услугами переводчика, позвоните нам по телефону 1-800-443-0815. Вам окажет помощь сотрудник, который говорит по-русски. Данная услуга бесплатная.

Arabic:
إننا نقدم خدمات المترجم الفوري المجانية للإجابة عن أي أسئلة تتعلق بالصحة أو جدول الأدوية لدينا. للحصول على مترجم فوري، ليس عليك سوى الاتصال بنا على 1-800-344-5180. سيقوم شخص يتحدث العربية بمساعدتك. هذه خدمة مجانية.

Hindi: हमारे स्वास्थ्य या दवा की योजना के बारे में आपके किसी भी प्रश्न के जवाब देने के लिए हमारे पास मुफ्त दुभाषिया सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं. एक दुभाषिया प्राप्त करने के लिए, बस हमें 1-800-443-0815 पर फोन करें. कोई व्यक्ति जो हिन्दी बोलता है आपकी मदद कर सकता है. यह एक मुफ्त सेवा है.

Italian: È disponibile un servizio di interpretariato gratuito per rispondere a eventuali domande sul nostro piano sanitario e farmaceutico. Per un interprete, contattare il numero 1-800-443-0815. Un nostro incaricato che parla Italianovi fornirà l'assistenza necessaria. È un servizio gratuito.

Portugués: Dispomos de serviços de interpretação gratuitos para responder a qualquer questão que tenha acerca do nosso plano de saúde ou de medicação. Para obter um intérprete, contacte-nos através do número 1-800-443-0815. Irá encontrar alguém que fale o idioma Português para o ajudar. Este serviço é gratuito.

French Creole: Nou genyen sèvis entèprèt gratis pou reponn tout kesyon ou ta genyen konsènan plan medikal oswa dwòg nou an. Pou jwenn yon entèprèt, jis rele nou nan 1-800-443-0815. Yon moun ki pale Kreyòl kapab ede w. Sa a se yon sèvis ki gratis.

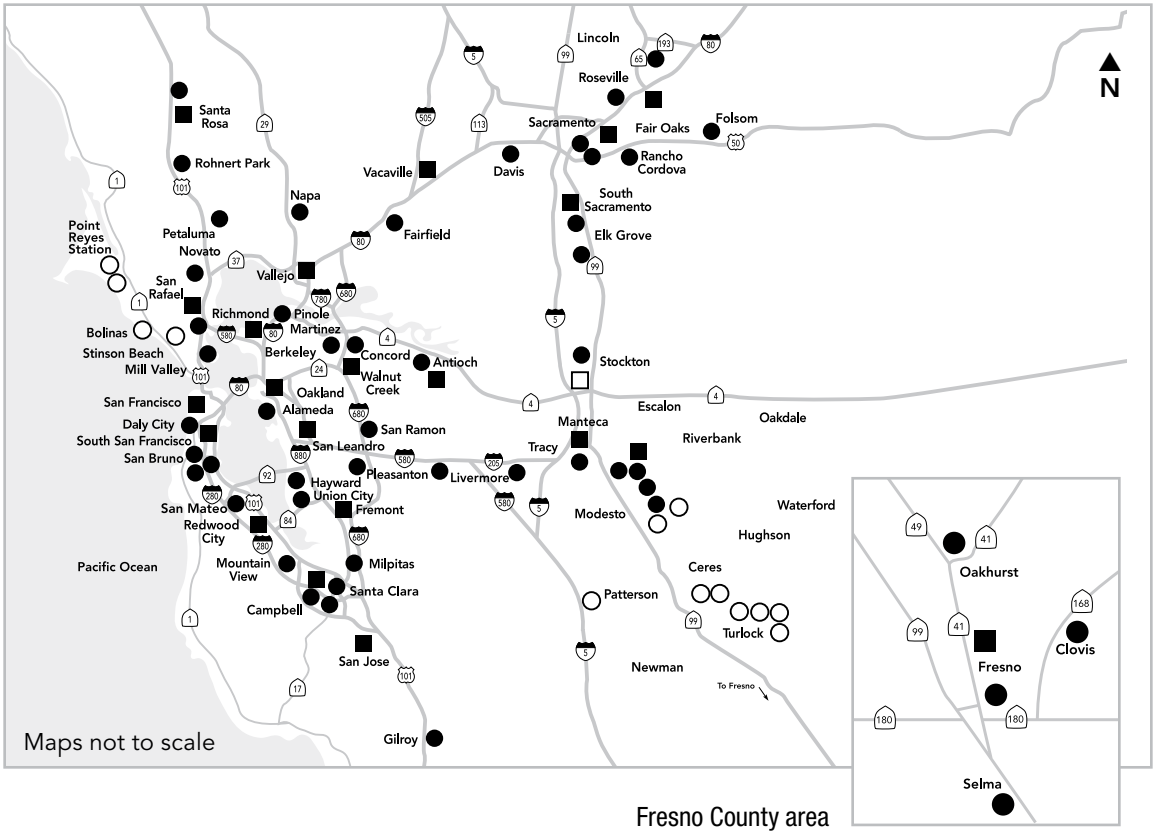
Polish: Umożliwiamy bezpłatne skorzystanie z usług tłumacza ustnego, który pomoże w uzyskaniu odpowiedzi na temat planu zdrowotnego lub dawkowania leków. Aby skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza znającego język polski, należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-800-443-0815. Ta usługa jest bezpłatna.

Japanese: 当社の健康 健康保険と薬品 処方薬プランに関するご質問にお答えするために、無料の通訳サービスがありますございます。通訳をご用命になるには、1-800-443-0815 にお電話ください。日本語を話す人 者 が支援いたします。これは無料のサービスです。

Northern California

Legend:

- ■ Kaiser Permanente medical centers (hospital and medical offices)
- ● Kaiser Permanente medical offices
- □ Affiliated plan hospitals
- ○ Affiliated medical offices



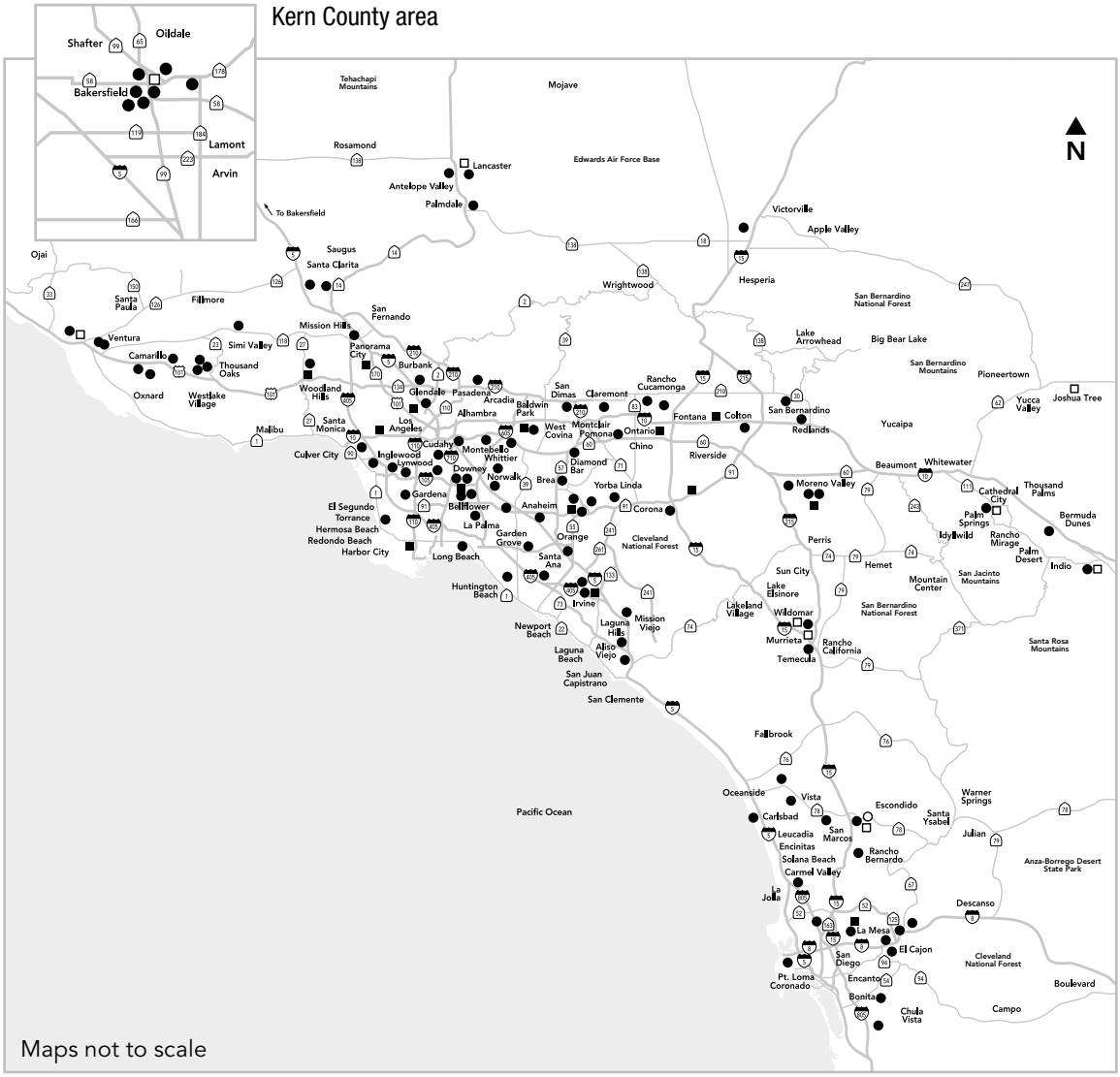
Fresno County area

Southern California

Legend:

- ■ Kaiser Permanente medical centers (hospital and medical offices)
- ● Kaiser Permanente medical offices
- □ Affiliated plan hospitals
- ○ Affiliated medical offices

Kern County area



60321814