



BlueCross BlueShield
of Georgia

Evidence of Coverage

BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)
Offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.



This booklet gives you the details about your Medicare prescription drug coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2018.

1-800-928-6201, TTY 711

It's important we treat you fairly

That's why we follow Federal civil rights laws in our health programs and activities. We don't discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For people with disabilities, we offer free aids and services. For people whose primary language isn't English, we offer free language assistance services through interpreters and other written languages. Interested in these services? Call Customer Service for help (TTY: 711).

If you think we failed to offer these services or discriminated based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a complaint, also known as a grievance. You can file a complaint with our Compliance Coordinator in writing to Compliance Coordinator, 4361 Irwin Simpson Rd, Mailstop: OH0205-A537; Mason, Ohio 45040-9498. Or you can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at 200 Independence Avenue, SW; Room 509F, HHH Building; Washington, D.C. 20201 or by calling 1-800-368-1019 (TTY: 1- 800-537-7697) or online at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>. Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

Get help in your language

Separate from our language assistance program, we make documents available in alternate formats. If you need a copy of this document in an alternate format, please call Customer Service.

English: You have the right to get this information and help in your language for free. Call Customer Service for help.

Spanish: Tiene el derecho de obtener esta información y ayuda en su idioma de forma gratuita. Llame al número de Servicios para Miembros para obtener ayuda.

Amharic: ይህንን መረጃ የማግኘትና በቋንቋዎ እርዳታ የማግኘት መብት አለዎት። እርዳታ ለማግኘት የደንበኞች አገልግሎት ይደውሉ።

Arabic:

يحق لك الحصول على هذه المعلومات والمساعدة بلغتك مجاناً. اتصل بخدمة العملاء للمساعدة.

Chinese: 您有權使用您的語言免費獲得該資訊和協助。請致電客戶服務部尋求協助。

Farsi:

شما این حق را دارید که این اطلاعات و کمکها را به صورت رایگان به زبان خودتان دریافت کنید. برای دریافت کمک با مرکز خدمات مشتریان تماس بگیرید.

French: Vous avez le droit d'accéder gratuitement à ces informations et à une aide dans votre langue. Pour obtenir de l'aide, veuillez appeler le service client.

German: Sie haben das Recht, diese Informationen und Unterstützung kostenfrei in Ihrer eigenen Sprache zu erhalten. Bitte rufen Sie den Kundendienst an, um Hilfe anzufordern.

Greek: Έχετε το δικαίωμα να λάβετε αυτές τις πληροφορίες και αυτή τη βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας δωρεάν. Καλέστε το Τμήμα Υπηρεσιών Πελατών (Customer Service) για βοήθεια.

Gujarati: તમને તમારી ભાષામાં આ જાણકારી અને મદદ મફત મેળવવાનો હક છે. મદદ માટે ગ્રાહક સેવા નંબર પર કોલ કરો.

Haitian: Ou gen dwa resevwa enfòmasyon sa a ak asistans nan lang ou pale a pou gratis. Rele nimewo Sèvis Kliyan an pou jwenn èd.

Hindi: आपके पास इस जानकारी और सहायता को अपनी भाषा में निःशुल्क प्राप्त करने का अधिकार है। सहायता के लिए सदस्य सेवा पर कॉल करें।

Indonesian: Anda berhak untuk mendapatkan informasi ini dan bantuan dalam bahasa Anda secara gratis. Hubungi Layanan Pelanggan untuk mendapat bantuan.

Japanese: この情報と支援を希望する言語で無料で受けることができます。サポートが必要な場合はカスタマー サービスにお電話ください。

Kirundi: Ufise uburenganzira bwo kuronswa aya makuru no gufashwa mu rurimi rwawe nta kiguzi. Hamagara ushinzwe kwakira abantu kugira ngo ufashwe.

Korean: 귀하께서는 본 정보와 도움을 비용없이 귀하의 언어로 받으실 권리가 있습니다. 도움을 받으시려면 고객 서비스부로 연락해 주십시오.

Nepali: यो जानकारी तथा सहयोग तपाईंले आफ्नो भाषामा निःशुल्क प्राप्त गर्ने तपाईंको अधिकार हो। सहायताको लागि ग्राहक सेवामा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Polish: Masz prawo do bezpłatnego otrzymania niniejszych informacji oraz uzyskania pomocy w swoim języku. Zadzwoń pod numer Działu Obsługi Klienta w celu uzyskania pomocy.

Portuguese: Você tem o direito de receber gratuitamente estas informações e ajuda no seu idioma. Ligue para o Atendimento ao Cliente para obter ajuda.

Russian: Вы имеете право получить данную информацию и помощь на вашем языке бесплатно. Для получения помощи звоните в отдел обслуживания клиентов.

Serbian: I mate pravo da ove informacije i pomoć dobijete besplatno na svom jeziku. Za pomoć pozovite službu za korisnike.

Vietnamese: Bạn có quyền được biết về thông tin này và được hỗ trợ bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn miễn phí. Hãy liên hệ với Dịch vụ khách hàng để được hỗ trợ.



BlueCross BlueShield
of Georgia

January 1 – December 31, 2018

Evidence of Coverage

Your Medicare prescription drug coverage as a member of BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)

This booklet gives you the details about your Medicare prescription drug coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2018. It explains how to get coverage for the prescription drugs you need. **This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.**

This plan, BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP), is offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.. (When this *Evidence of Coverage* says “we,” “us” or “our,” it means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP).)

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. is a PDP plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. depends on contract renewal.

Please contact our Customer Service number at 1-800-928-6201 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.

This document is available to order in large print, Braille and audio tape. To request this document in an alternate format, please call Customer Service at the phone number printed on the back of this booklet.

Benefits, premium, deductible and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2019.

The formulary and/or pharmacy network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary.

2018 Evidence of Coverage

Table of contents

This list of chapters and page numbers is your starting point. For more help in finding information you need, go to the first page of a chapter. You will find a detailed list of topics at the beginning of each chapter.

- Chapter 1. Getting started as a member 3**
- Explains what it means to be in a Medicare prescription drug plan and how to use this booklet. Tells about materials we will send you, your plan premium, the Part D late enrollment penalty, your plan membership card and keeping your membership record up to date.
- Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources 17**
- Tells you how to get in touch with our plan (BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)) and with other organizations, including Medicare, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), the Quality Improvement Organization, Social Security, Medicaid (the state health insurance program for people with low incomes), programs that help people pay for their prescription drugs and the Railroad Retirement Board.
- Chapter 3. Using the plan’s coverage for your Part D prescription drugs .. 29**
- Explains rules you need to follow when you get your Part D drugs. Tells how to use the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* to find out which drugs are covered. Tells which kinds of drugs are *not* covered. Explains several kinds of restrictions that apply to coverage for certain drugs. Explains where to get your prescriptions filled. Tells about the plan's programs for drug safety and managing medications.
- Chapter 4. What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs 47**
- Tells about the three stages of drug coverage (initial coverage stage, coverage gap stage, catastrophic coverage stage) and how these stages affect what you pay for your drugs. Explains the six cost-sharing tiers for your Part D drugs and tells what you must pay for a drug in each cost-sharing tier.
- Chapter 5. Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs 63**
- Explains when and how to send a bill to us when you want to ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost for your covered drugs.

Chapter 6. Your rights and responsibilities 68

Explains the rights and responsibilities you have as a member of our plan. Tells what you can do if you think your rights are not being respected.

Chapter 7. What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints) 80

Tells you step-by-step what to do if you are having problems or concerns as a member of our plan.

- Explains how to ask for coverage decisions and make appeals if you are having trouble getting the prescription drugs you think are covered by our plan. This includes asking us to make exceptions to the rules and/or extra restrictions on your coverage.
- Explains how to make complaints about quality of care, waiting times, customer service and other concerns.

Chapter 8. Ending your membership in the plan 99

Explains when and how you can end your membership in the plan. Explains situations in which our plan is required to end your membership.

Chapter 9. Legal notices 108

Includes notices about governing law and about nondiscrimination.

Chapter 10. Definitions of important words 114

Explains key terms used in this booklet.

Chapter 1

Getting started as a member

Chapter 1. Getting started as a member

Section 1.	Introduction	6
Section 1.1	You are enrolled in BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP), which is a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan	6
Section 1.2	What is the <i>Evidence of Coverage</i> booklet about?	6
Section 1.3	Legal information about the <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>	6
Section 2.	What makes you eligible to be a plan member?	6
Section 2.1	Your eligibility requirements	6
Section 2.2	What are Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B?	7
Section 2.3	Here is the plan service area for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)	7
Section 2.4	U.S. Citizen or Lawful Presence	7
Section 3.	What other materials will you get from us?	7
Section 3.1	Your plan membership card – use it to get all covered prescription drugs	7
Section 3.2	The <i>Pharmacy Directory</i> : Your guide to pharmacies in our network	8
Section 3.3	The plan’s <i>List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)</i>	8
Section 3.4	The <i>Part D Explanation of Benefits</i> (the “ <i>Part D EOB</i> ”): reports with a summary of payments made for your Part D prescription drugs	9
Section 4.	Your monthly premium for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)	9
Section 4.1	How much is your plan premium?	9
Section 5.	Do you have to pay the Part D “late enrollment penalty”?	10
Section 5.1	What is the Part D “late enrollment penalty”?	10
Section 5.2	How much is the Part D late enrollment penalty?	10
Section 5.3	In some situations, you can enroll late and not have to pay the penalty	11
Section 5.4	What can you do if you disagree about your Part D late enrollment penalty?	11
Section 6.	Do you have to pay an extra Part D amount because of your income?	12
Section 6.1	Who pays an extra Part D amount because of income?	12
Section 6.2	How much is the extra Part D amount?	12

Section 6.3 What can you do if you disagree about paying an extra Part D amount? 13

Section 6.4 What happens if you do not pay the extra Part D amount? 13

Section 7. More information about your monthly premium 13

Section 7.1 There are several ways you can pay your plan premium 13

Section 7.2 Can we change your monthly plan premium during the year? 15

Section 8. Please keep your plan membership record up to date 15

Section 8.1 How to help make sure that we have accurate information about you 15

Section 9. We protect the privacy of your personal health information 16

Section 9.1 We make sure that your health information is protected 16

Section 10. How other insurance works with our plan 16

Section 10.1 Which plan pays first when you have other insurance? 16

Section 1. Introduction

Section 1.3

Section 1.1

You are enrolled in BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP), which is a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

You are covered by Original Medicare for your health care coverage, and you have chosen to get your Medicare prescription drug coverage through our plan, BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP).

There are different types of Medicare plans. BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) is a Medicare prescription drug plan (PDP). Like all Medicare plans, this Medicare prescription drug plan is approved by Medicare and run by a private company.

Section 1.2

What is the Evidence of Coverage booklet about?

This *Evidence of Coverage* booklet tells you how to get your Medicare prescription drug coverage through our plan. This booklet explains your rights and responsibilities, what is covered, and what you pay as a member of the plan.

The words “coverage” and “covered drugs” refer to the prescription drug coverage available to you as a member of our plan.

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

If you are confused or concerned or just have a question, please contact our plan's Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Legal information about the Evidence of Coverage

It's part of our contract with you

This *Evidence of Coverage* is part of our contract with you about how the plan covers your care. Other parts of this contract include your enrollment form, the *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* and any notices you receive from us about changes to your coverage or conditions that affect your coverage. These notices are sometimes called “riders” or “amendments.”

The contract is in effect for the months in which you are enrolled in the plan between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

Each calendar year, Medicare allows us to make changes to the plans that we offer. This means we can change the costs and benefits of BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) after December 31, 2018. We can also choose to stop offering the plan, or to offer it in a different service area, after December 31, 2018.

Medicare must approve our plan each year

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

Section 2. What makes you eligible to be a plan member?

Section 2.1

Your eligibility requirements

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

- You have Medicare Part A *or*, Medicare Part B (or, you have both Part A and Part B). (Section 2.2)

Chapter 1. Getting started as a member

tells you about Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B.)

- *And* you are a United States citizen or are lawfully present in the United States.
- *And* you live in our geographic service area. (Section 2.3 below describes our service area.)

Section 2.2

What are Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B?

As discussed in Section 1.1 above, you have chosen to get your prescription drug coverage (sometimes called Medicare Part D) through our plan. Our plan has contracted with Medicare to provide you with most of these Medicare benefits. We describe the drug coverage you receive under your Medicare Part D coverage in Chapter 3.

When you first signed up for Medicare, you received information about what services are covered under Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Remember:

- Medicare Part A generally helps cover services provided by hospitals for inpatient services, skilled nursing facilities or home health agencies.
- Medicare Part B is for most other medical services (such as physician's services and other outpatient services) and certain items (such as durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies).

Section 2.3

Here is the plan service area for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)

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

Our service area includes this state: Georgia.

If you plan to move out of the service area, please contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). When you move, you will have a Special Enrollment Period that will allow you to enroll in a Medicare health or drug plan that is available in your new location.

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

Section 2.4

U.S. Citizen or Lawful Presence

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

Section 3. What other materials will you get from us?

Section 3.1

Your plan membership card – use it to get all covered prescription drugs

While you are a member of our plan, you must use your membership card for our plan for prescription drugs you get at network pharmacies. You should also show the provider your Medicaid card, if applicable.

Chapter 1. Getting started as a member

Here's a sample membership card to show you what yours will look like:

BlueCross BlueShield of Georgia

John Q. Member
Identification Number
MEMBER ID

Group Number: XXXXXXXXXXXX
RX BIN: XXXXXX
Issuer ID: XXXXX
Effective Date: 01/01/2010

841

<Plan Name> (PDP) **MedicareRx**
Prescription Drug Coverage

BlueCross BlueShield of Georgia bcbgsa.com

Possession or use of this card does not guarantee benefits.

Members: This is your MedicareRx benefit Prescription Identification Card. Present it at the pharmacy when you receive eligible drugs or supplies. See your Evidence of Coverage for a complete description of coverage.

Customer Service: 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX
Provider Line: 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX
TTY/TDD Line: 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Claims:
P.O. Box XXXXXX
Cincinnati, OH 45250-5613

Please carry your card with you at all times and remember to show your card when you get covered drugs.

If your plan membership card is damaged, lost or stolen, call Customer Service right away and we will send you a new card. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

You may need to use your red, white and blue Medicare card to get covered medical care and services under Original Medicare.

Section 3.2

The *Pharmacy Directory*: Your guide to pharmacies in our network

What are network pharmacies?

Network pharmacies are all of the pharmacies that have agreed to fill covered prescriptions for our plan members.

Why do you need to know about network pharmacies?

You can use the *Pharmacy Directory* to find the network pharmacy you want to use. There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. An updated *Pharmacy Directory* is located on our website at <https://shop.bcbgsa.com/medicare>. You may also call Customer Service for updated provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Pharmacy Directory*. Please review the *2018 Pharmacy Directory* to see which pharmacies are in our network.

The *Pharmacy Directory* will also tell you which of the pharmacies in our network have preferred cost sharing, which may be lower than the standard cost sharing offered by other network pharmacies for some drugs.

If you don't have the *Pharmacy Directory*, you can get a copy from Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). At any time, you can call Customer Service to get up-to-date information about changes in the pharmacy network. You can also find this information on our website at <https://shop.bcbgsa.com/medicare>.

Section 3.3

The plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*

The plan has a *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. We call it the "*Drug List*" for short. It tells which Part D prescription drugs are covered by the plan. The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of a

team of doctors and pharmacists. The list must meet requirements set by Medicare. Medicare has approved the plan's *Drug List*. The *Drug List* also tells you if there are any rules that restrict coverage for your drugs.

We will send you a copy of the *Drug List*. To get the most complete and current information about which drugs are covered, you can visit the plan's website (<https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>) or call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 3.4

The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (the “*Part D EOB*”): Reports with a summary of payments made for your Part D prescription drugs

When you use your Part D prescription drug benefits, we will send you a summary report to help you understand and keep track of payments for your Part D prescription drugs. This summary report is called the *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (or the “*Part D EOB*”).

The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* tells you the total amount you, or others on your behalf, have spent on your Part D prescription drugs and the total amount we have paid for each of your Part D prescription drugs during the month. Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*), gives more information about the *Part D Explanation of Benefits* and how it can help you keep track of your drug coverage.

A *Part D Explanation of Benefits* summary is also available upon request. To get a copy, please contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 4. Your monthly premium for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)

Section 4.1

How much is your plan premium?

As a member of our plan, you pay a monthly plan premium.

For 2018, the monthly premium for our plan is \$181.20. In addition, you must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium (unless your Part B premium is paid for you by Medicaid or another third party).

In some situations, your plan premium could be *less*

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. Chapter 2, Section 7 tells more about these programs. If you qualify, enrolling in the program might lower your monthly plan premium.

If you are *already enrolled* and getting help from one of these programs, **the information about premiums in this Evidence of Coverage may not apply to you.**

We sent you a separate insert called the “*Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs*” (also known as the “*Low-Income Subsidy Rider*” or the “*LIS Rider*”), which tells you about your drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call Customer Service and ask for the “*LIS Rider*.” (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

In some situations, your plan premium could be *more*

In some situations, your plan premium could be more than the amount listed above in Section 4.1. Some members are required to pay a **Part D late-enrollment penalty** because they did not join a

Medicare drug plan when they first became eligible or because they had a continuous period of 63 days or more when they didn't have "creditable" prescription drug coverage. ("Creditable" means the drug coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.) For these members, the Part D late-enrollment penalty is added to the plan's monthly premium. Their premium amount will be the monthly plan premium, plus the amount of their Part D late-enrollment penalty.

- If you are required to pay the Part D late-enrollment penalty, the amount of your penalty depends on how long you waited before you enrolled in drug coverage or how many months you were without drug coverage after you became eligible. Chapter 1, Section 5 explains the Part D late-enrollment penalty.
- If you have a Part D late-enrollment penalty and do not pay it, you could be disenrolled from the plan.

Section 5. Do you have to pay the Part D "late enrollment penalty"?

Section 5.1

What is the Part D "late enrollment penalty"?

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

The late enrollment penalty is an amount that is added to your Part D premium. You may owe a Part D 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. You will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Part D coverage.

The Part D late enrollment penalty is added to your monthly premium. When you first enroll in the plan, we let you know the amount of the penalty.

Your Part D late enrollment penalty is considered part of your plan premium. If you do not pay your late-enrollment penalty, you could be disenrolled for failure to pay your plan premium.

Section 5.2

How much is the Part D late enrollment penalty?

Medicare determines the amount of the penalty. Here is how it works:

- First, count the number of full months that you delayed enrolling in a Medicare drug plan, after you were eligible to enroll. Or, count the number of full months in which you did not have creditable prescription drug coverage, if the break in coverage was 63 days or more. The penalty is 1% for every month that you didn't have creditable coverage. For example, if you go 14 months without coverage, the penalty will be 14%.
- Then, Medicare determines the amount of the average monthly premium for Medicare drug plans in the nation from the previous year. For 2018, this average premium amount is \$35.02.
- To calculate your monthly penalty, you multiply the penalty percentage and the average monthly premium and then round it to the nearest 10 cents. In the example here, it would be 14% times \$35.02, which equals \$4.903. This rounds to \$4.90. This amount would be added **to the**

monthly premium for someone with a Part D late enrollment penalty.

There are three important things to note about this monthly Part D late enrollment penalty:

- First, **the penalty may change each year**, because the average monthly premium can change each year. If the national average premium (as determined by Medicare) increases, your penalty will increase.
- Second, **you will continue to pay a penalty** every month for as long as you are enrolled in a plan that has Medicare Part D drug benefits.
- Third, if you are *under 65* and currently receiving Medicare benefits, the Part D late enrollment penalty will reset when you turn 65. After age 65, your Part D late enrollment penalty will be based only on the months that you don't have coverage after your initial enrollment period for aging into Medicare.

Section 5.3

In some situations, you can enroll late and not have to pay the penalty

Even if you have delayed enrolling in a plan offering Medicare Part D coverage when you were first eligible, sometimes you do not have to pay the Part D late enrollment penalty.

You will not have to pay a penalty for late enrollment if you are in any of these situations:

- If you already have prescription drug coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. Medicare calls this “**creditable drug coverage.**”

Please note:

- Creditable coverage could include drug coverage from a former employer or union, TRICARE or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Your insurer or your human resources department will tell you each year if your drug coverage is creditable coverage. This information may be sent to you in a letter or

included in a newsletter from the plan. Keep this information, because you may need it if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

- ***Please note:*** If you receive a “certificate of creditable coverage” when your health coverage ends, it may not mean your prescription drug coverage was “creditable.” The notice must state that you had “creditable” prescription drug coverage that expected to pay as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug plan pays.
 - The following are *not* creditable prescription drug coverage: prescription drug discount cards, free clinics and drug discount websites.
 - For additional information about creditable coverage, please look in your *Medicare & You 2018 Handbook* or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- If you were without creditable coverage, but you were without it for less than 63 days in a row.
 - If you are receiving “Extra Help” from Medicare.

Section 5.4

What can you do if you disagree about your Part D late enrollment penalty?

If you disagree about your Part D late enrollment penalty, you or your representative can ask for a review of the decision about your late enrollment penalty. Generally, you must request this review **within 60 days** from the date on the letter you receive stating you have to pay a late enrollment penalty. Call Customer Service to find out more about how to do this. Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.

Important: Do not stop paying your Part D late enrollment penalty while you're waiting for a review of the decision about your late enrollment penalty. If

you do, you could be disenrolled for failure to pay your plan premiums.

Section 6. Do you have to pay an extra Part D amount because of your income?

Section 6.1

Who pays an extra Part D amount because of income?

Most people pay a standard monthly Part D premium. However, some people pay an extra amount 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 directly to the government 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. You must pay the extra amount to the government. It cannot be paid with your monthly plan premium.

Section 6.2

How much is the extra Part D amount?

If your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) as reported on your IRS tax return is above a certain amount, you will pay an extra amount in addition to your monthly plan premium.

The chart below shows the extra amount based on your income.

If you filed an individual tax return and your income in 2016 was:	If you were married but filed a separate tax return and your income in 2016 was:	If you filed a joint tax return and your income in 2016 was:	This is the monthly cost of your extra Part D amount (to be paid in addition to your plan premium)
Equal to or less than \$85,000	Equal to or less than \$85,000	Equal to or less than \$170,000	\$0
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000		Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$13.00
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$133,500		Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$267,000	\$33.60
Greater than \$133,500 and less than or equal to \$160,000		Greater than \$267,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$54.20
Greater than \$160,000	Greater than \$85,000	Greater than \$320,000	\$74.80

Section 6.3

What can you do if you disagree about paying an extra Part D amount?

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).

Section 6.4

What happens if you do not pay the extra Part D amount?

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 the plan and lose prescription drug coverage.

Section 7. More information about your monthly premium

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums

In addition to paying the monthly plan premium, many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums. Some plan members (those who aren't eligible for premium-free Part A) pay a premium for Medicare Part A. And most plan members pay a premium for Medicare Part B.

Some people pay an extra amount for Part D because of their yearly income, this is known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts, also known as IRMAA. If your income is greater than \$85,000 for an individual (or married individuals filing separately) or greater than \$170,000 for married couples, **you must pay an extra amount directly to**

the government (not the 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 the plan and lose prescription drug 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.
- For more information about Part D premiums based on income, go to Chapter 1, Section 6 of this booklet. You can also visit <https://www.medicare.gov> on the web 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. Or you may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

Your copy of *Medicare & You 2018* gives information about the Medicare premiums in the section called "2018 Medicare Costs." This explains how the Medicare Part B and Part D premiums differ for people with different incomes.

Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each year in the fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up. You can also download a copy of *Medicare & You 2018* from the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>). Or, you can order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 7.1

There are several ways you can pay your plan premium

There are three ways you can pay your plan premium. You chose your premium payment option at the time you completed your enrollment form. If you would like to change to a different premium payment option, call Customer Service.

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

Option 1: You can pay by check

If you chose to pay your monthly plan premium directly to our plan, you will receive a billing statement each month.

Please send your payment as soon as possible after you receive the bill. We need to receive the payment no later than the date shown on your invoice. If there is no due date on your invoice, we need to receive the payment no later than the first of the next month. If you did not receive a return envelope, the address for sending your payment is:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia
P.O. Box 5283
Carol Stream, IL 60197-5283

Please make your check payable to the plan. Checks should *not* be made out to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and should *not* be sent to these agencies.

Option 2: You can pay by automatic withdrawal

Instead of paying by check, you can have your monthly plan premium automatically withdrawn from your bank account. If you have chosen to pay by automatic withdrawal from your bank account, your premium payment usually will be withdrawn between the 3rd and the 9th day of each month.

Option 3: You can have the plan premium taken out of your monthly Social Security check

You can have the plan premium taken out of your monthly Social Security check. Contact Customer Service for more information on how to pay your monthly plan premium this way. We will be happy to help you set this up. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

What to do if you are having trouble paying your plan premium

Your plan premium is due in our office by the first of the month. If we have not received your premium by the 15th, we will send you a notice telling you that your plan membership will end if we do not receive your premium payment within 60 days.

If you are having trouble paying your premium on time, please contact Customer Service to see if we can direct you to programs that will help with your plan premium. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

If we end your membership because you did not pay your premiums, you will still have health coverage under Original Medicare.

If we end your membership with the plan because you did not pay your premiums, and you don't currently have prescription drug coverage, then you may not be able to receive Part D coverage until the following year if you enroll in a new plan during the annual enrollment period. During the annual enrollment period, you may either join a stand-alone prescription drug plan or a health plan that also provides drug coverage. (If you go without "creditable" drug coverage for more than 63 days, you may have to pay a Part D late-enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part D coverage.)

At the time we end your membership, you may still owe us for premiums you have not paid. We have the right to pursue collection of the premiums you owe. In the future, if you want to enroll again in our plan (or another plan that we offer), you will need to pay the amount you owe before you can enroll.

If you think we have wrongfully ended your membership, you have a right to ask us to reconsider this decision by making a complaint. Chapter 7, Section 7 of this booklet tells how to make a complaint. If you had an emergency circumstance that was out of your control and it caused you to not be able to pay your premiums within our grace period, you can ask us to reconsider this decision by calling 1-800-928-6201 between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days

a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30. TTY users should call 711. You must make your request no later than 60 days after the date your membership ends.

Section 7.2

Can we change your monthly plan premium during the year?

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

However, in some cases the part of the premium that you have to pay can change during the year. This happens if you become eligible for the “Extra Help” program or if you lose your eligibility for the “Extra Help” program during the year.

If a member qualifies for “Extra Help” with their prescription drug costs, the “Extra Help” program will pay part of the member's monthly plan premium. A member who loses their eligibility during the year will need to start paying their full monthly premium. You can find out more about the “Extra Help” program in Chapter 2, Section 7.

Section 8. Please keep your plan membership record up to date

Section 8.1

How to help make sure that we have accurate information about you

Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and

telephone number. It shows your specific plan coverage.

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

Let us know about these changes

- Changes to your name, your address or your phone number
- Changes in any other medical or drug insurance coverage you have (such as from your employer, your spouse's employer, Workers' Compensation or Medicaid)
- If you have any liability claims, such as claims from an automobile accident
- If you have been admitted to a nursing home
- If your designated responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes

If any of this information changes, please let us know by calling Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

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

Read over the information we send you about any other insurance coverage you have

Medicare requires that we collect information from you about any other medical or drug insurance coverage that you have. That's because we must coordinate any other coverage you have with your benefits under our plan. For more information about how our coverage works when you have other insurance, see Section 10 in this chapter.

Once each year, we will send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug insurance coverage that we know about. Please read over this information

carefully. If it is correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information is incorrect, or if you have other coverage that is not listed, please call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 9. We protect the privacy of your personal health information

Section 9.1

We make sure that your health information is protected

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.

For more information about how we protect your personal health information, please go to Chapter 6, Section 1.4 of this booklet.

Section 10. How other insurance works with our plan

Section 10.1

Which plan pays first when you have other insurance?

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

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

- If you have retiree coverage, Medicare pays first.
- If your group health plan coverage is based on your or a family member's current employment, who pays first depends on your age, the number of people employed by your employer, and whether you have Medicare based on age, disability or end-stage renal disease (ESRD):
 - If you're under 65 and disabled and you or your family member is still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 100 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan that has more than 100 employees.
 - If you're over 65 and you or your spouse is still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 20 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan that has more than 20 employees.
- If you have Medicare because of ESRD, your group health plan will pay first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare.

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

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

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

If you have other insurance, tell your doctor, hospital and pharmacy. If you have questions about who pays first, or you need to update your other insurance information, call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). You may need to give your plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you have confirmed their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

Chapter 2

Important phone numbers and
resources

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

Section 1. BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)’s contacts (how to contact us, including how to reach Customer Service at the plan) 19

Section 2. Medicare (how to get help and information directly from the Federal Medicare program) 22

Section 3. State Health Insurance Assistance Program (free help, information and answers to your questions about Medicare) 22

Section 4. Quality Improvement Organization (paid by Medicare to check on the quality of care for people with Medicare) 23

Section 5. Social Security 23

Section 6. Medicaid (a joint Federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources) 24

Section 7. Information about programs to help people pay for their prescription drugs 24

Section 8. How to contact the Railroad Retirement Board 27

Section 9. Do you have “group insurance” or other health insurance from an employer? 27

Section 1. BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)'s contacts (how to contact us, including how to reach Customer Service at the plan)

How to contact our plan's Customer Service

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

Customer Service – contact information

Call: 1-800-928-6201. Calls to this number are free. From October 1 through February 14, Customer Service representatives will be available to answer your call directly from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Beginning February 15, Customer Service representatives will be available to answer your call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Our automated system is available any time for self-service options. You can also leave a message after hours and on weekends and holidays. Please leave your phone number and the other information requested by our automated system. A representative will return your call by the end of the next business day.

Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.

TTY: 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.

Fax: 1-805-713-5986

Write: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. Customer Service
P.O. Box 9282
Oxnard, CA 93031-9282

Website: <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision 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. For more information on asking for coverage decisions about your Part D prescription drugs, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*).

You may call us if you have questions about our coverage decision process.

Coverage decisions for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

- Call:** 1-800-928-6201. Calls to this number are free.
Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.
- TTY:** 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.
- Fax:** 1-805-713-5986
- Write:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.
P.O. Box 9282
Oxnard, CA 93031-9282
- Website:** <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

How to contact us when you are making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs

An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made. For more information on making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*).

Appeals for Part D prescription drugs – contact information

- Call:** 1-800-928-6201. Calls to this number are free. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.
- TTY:** 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.
- Fax:** 1-888-458-1407
- Write:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia - Medicare Advantage Appeals and Grievances
Mailstop: OH0205-A537
4361 Irwin Simpson Rd
Mason, OH 45040
- Website:** <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

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 the plan's coverage or payment, you should look at the section above about making an appeal.) For more

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

information on making a complaint about your Part D prescription drugs, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*).

Complaints about Part D prescription drugs – contact information

- Call:** 1-800-928-6201. Calls to this number are free. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.
- TTY:** 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.
- Write:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia - Medicare Advantage Appeals and Grievances
Mailstop: OH0205-A537
4361 Irwin Simpson Rd
Mason, OH 45040
- Medicare Website:** You can submit a complaint about BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) directly to Medicare. To submit an online complaint to Medicare, go to <https://www.medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx>

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

The coverage determination process includes determining requests to pay for our share of the costs of a drug that you have received. For more information on situations in which you may need to ask the plan for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have received from a provider, see Chapter 5 (*Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs*).

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

Payment requests – contact information

- Write:** Express Scripts
ATTN: Medicare Part D
P.O. Box 14718
Lexington, KY 40512-4718
- Website:** <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

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

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

The Federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (sometimes called “CMS”). This agency contracts with Medicare prescription drug plans, including us.

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.

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.

Website: <https://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 BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP):

- **Tell Medicare about your complaint:** You can submit a complaint about BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to <https://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, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

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

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. *The SHIP for your state is listed below.*

SHIPs are independent (not connected with any insurance company or health plan). They are state programs that get money from the Federal Government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

SHIP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

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

In Georgia:

GeorgiaCares – contact information

Call: 1-866-552-4464

TTY: 711
This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

Write: GeorgiaCares
2 Peachtree Street NW
33rd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Website: <http://www.mygeorgiacares.org>

Organization in your state if you were given the wrong medication or if you were given medications that interact in a negative way.

In Georgia:

KEPRO - Area 2 – contact information

Call: 1-844-455-8708 Monday through Friday:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Local Time)
Weekends and Holidays: 11:00 a.m. -
3:00 p.m. (Local Time)

TTY: 1-855-843-4776
This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

Write: KEPRO - Area 2
5201 W. Kennedy Blvd
Suite 900
Tampa, FL 33609

Website: www.keproqio.com/default.aspx

Section 4. 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. The Quality Improvement Organization for your state is listed below.

Quality Improvement Organizations have a group of doctors and other health care professionals who are paid by the Federal Government. These organizations are paid by Medicare to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. Quality Improvement Organizations are independent organizations. They are not connected with our plan.

You should contact the Quality Improvement Organization in your state if you have a complaint about the quality of care you have received. For example, you can contact the Quality Improvement

Section 5. Social Security

Social Security is responsible for determining eligibility and handling enrollment for Medicare. U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who are 65 or older, or who have a disability or end-stage renal disease and meet certain conditions, are eligible for Medicare.

If you are already getting Social Security checks, enrollment into Medicare is automatic. If you are not getting Social Security checks, you have to enroll in Medicare. 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

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

because of a life-changing event, you can call Social Security to ask for 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

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Website: <https://www.ssa.gov>

Section 6. 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 cost sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance and copayments). Some people with QMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (QMB+).

- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB):** Helps pay Part B premiums. Some people with SLMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (SLMB+).
- **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 the Medicaid agency in your state (listed below).

In Georgia:

Georgia Medicaid – contact information

Call: 1-866-211-0950 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

TTY: 711

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

Write: Georgia Medicaid
2 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Website: <http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid>

Section 7. Information about programs to help people pay for their prescription drugs

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 or coinsurance. This “Extra Help” also counts toward your out-of-pocket costs.

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

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 Section 6 of this chapter for contact information.)

If you believe you have qualified for “Extra Help” and you believe that you are paying an incorrect cost-sharing amount when you get your prescription at a pharmacy, our plan has established a process that allows you to either request assistance in obtaining evidence of your proper copayment level, or, if you already have the evidence, to provide this evidence to us. Please fax or mail a copy of your paperwork showing you qualify for a subsidy using the fax number or address shown on the back cover of this booklet. Below are examples of the paperwork you can provide:

- A copy of your Medicaid card if it includes your eligibility date during the period of time in question;
- A copy of a letter from the state or SSA showing Medicare Low-Income Subsidy status;
- A copy of a state document that confirms active Medicaid status during the period of time in question;
- A screen print from the state’s Medicaid systems showing Medicaid status during the period of time in question;
- Evidence of recent point-of-sale Medicaid billing and payment in the pharmacy’s patient profile,

backed up by one of the above indicators after the point-of-sale.

If you have been a resident of a long-term-care facility (like a nursing home), instead of providing one of the items above, you should provide one of the items listed below. If you do, you may be eligible for the highest level of subsidy.

- A remittance from the facility showing Medicaid payment for a full calendar month for you during the period of time in question;
- A copy of a state document that confirms Medicaid payment to the facility for a full calendar month on your behalf; or
- A screen print from the state’s Medicaid systems showing your institutional status based on at least a full calendar month stay for Medicaid payment purposes during the period of time in question.

Once we have received your paperwork and verified your status, we will call you so you can begin filling your prescriptions at the low-income copayment.

When we receive the evidence showing your copayment level, we will update our system so that you can pay the correct copayment when you get your next prescription at the pharmacy. If you overpay your copayment, we will reimburse you. Either we will forward a check to you in the amount of your overpayment or we will offset future copayments. If the pharmacy hasn’t collected a copayment from you and is carrying your copayment as a debt owed by you, we may make the payment directly to the pharmacy. If a state paid on your behalf, we may make payment directly to the state. Please contact Customer Service if you have questions (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program

The Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program provides manufacturer discounts on brand name drugs to Part D members who have reached the coverage gap and are not receiving “Extra Help.” For brand name drugs, the 50% discount provided by

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

manufacturers excludes any dispensing fee for costs in the gap. Members pay 35% of the negotiated price and a portion of the dispensing fee for brand name drugs.

If you reach the coverage gap, we will automatically apply the discount when your pharmacy bills you for your prescription and your *Part D Explanation of Benefits (EOB)* will show any discount provided. Both the amount you pay and the amount discounted by the manufacturer count toward your out-of-pocket costs as if you had paid them and move you through the coverage gap. The amount paid by the plan (15%) does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs.

You also receive some coverage for generic drugs. If you reach the coverage gap, the plan pays 56% of the price for generic drugs and you pay the remaining 44% of the price. For generic drugs, the amount paid by the plan (56%) does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Only the amount you pay counts and moves you through the coverage gap. Also, the dispensing fee is included as part of the cost of the drug.

The Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program is available nationwide. Because our plan offers additional gap coverage during the coverage gap stage, your out-of-pocket costs will sometimes be lower than the costs described here. Please go to Chapter 4, Section 6 for more information about your coverage during the coverage gap stage.

If you have any questions about the availability of discounts for the drugs you are taking or about the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program in general, please contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

What if you have coverage from a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP)?

If you are enrolled in a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP) or any other program that provides coverage for Part D drugs (other than “Extra Help”), you still get the 50% discount on covered brand-name drugs. Also, the plan pays 15% of the costs of brand drugs in the coverage gap. The 50% discount and the

15% paid by the plan are both applied to the price of the drug before any SPAP or other coverage.

What if you have coverage from an AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)? What is the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)?

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance.

Note: To be eligible for the ADAP operating in your state, individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of state residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the state, and uninsured/under-insured status.

If you are currently enrolled in an ADAP, it can continue to provide you with Medicare Part D prescription cost-sharing assistance for drugs on the ADAP formulary. In order to be sure you continue receiving this assistance, please notify your local ADAP enrollment worker of any changes in your Medicare Part D plan name or policy number.

For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs or how to enroll in the program, please call:

In Georgia:

Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program – contact information

Call: 1-404-657-2700 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

TTY: 711

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

Write: Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program
2 Peachtree Street NW
15th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-3186

Website: <http://dph.georgia.gov/hiv-care-services>

What if you get “Extra Help” from Medicare to help pay your prescription drug costs? Can you get the discounts?

No. If you get “Extra Help,” you already get coverage for your prescription drug costs during the coverage gap.

What if you don’t get a discount and you think you should have?

If you think that you have reached the coverage gap and did not get a discount when you paid for your brand-name drug, you should review your next *Part D Explanation of Benefits (Part D EOB)* notice. If the discount doesn’t appear on your *Part D Explanation of Benefits*, you should contact us to make sure that your prescription records are correct and up to date. If we don’t agree that you are owed a discount, you can appeal. You can get help filing an appeal from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) (telephone numbers are in Section 3 of this chapter) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs

Many states have State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs that help some people pay for prescription drugs based on financial need, age, medical condition or disabilities. Each state has different rules to provide drug coverage to its members.

The State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program in your state is shown below.

In Georgia:

A full-service SPAP is not available in this state.

Section 8. How to contact the Railroad Retirement Board

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent Federal agency that administers comprehensive benefit programs for the nation’s railroad workers and their families. If you 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 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

This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are *not* free.

Website: <https://secure.rrb.gov>

Section 9. Do you have “group insurance” or other health insurance from an employer?

If you (or your spouse) get benefits from your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group as part of this plan, you may call the employer/union benefits administrator or Customer Service if you have any questions.

You can ask about your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree health benefits, premiums or the enrollment period. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.) You may

Chapter 2. Important phone numbers and resources

also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY: 1-877-486-2048) with questions related to your Medicare coverage under this plan.

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.

Chapter 3

Using the plan's coverage for your
Part D prescription drugs

Chapter 3. Using the plan’s coverage for your Part D prescription drugs

Section 1.	Introduction	32
Section 1.1	This chapter describes your coverage for Part D drugs	32
Section 1.2	Basic rules for the plan’s Part D drug coverage	32
Section 2.	Fill your prescription at a network pharmacy or through the plan’s mail-order service	33
Section 2.1	To have your prescription covered, use a network pharmacy	33
Section 2.2	Finding network pharmacies	33
Section 2.3	Using the plan’s mail-order services	34
Section 2.4	How can you get a long-term supply of drugs?	35
Section 2.5	When can you use a pharmacy that is not in the plan’s network?	35
Section 3.	Your drugs need to be on the plan’s <i>Drug List</i>	36
Section 3.1	The “ <i>Drug List</i> ” tells which Part D drugs are covered	36
Section 3.2	There are six “cost-sharing tiers” for drugs on the <i>Drug List</i>	36
Section 3.3	How can you find out if a specific drug is on the <i>Drug List</i> ?	37
Section 4.	There are restrictions on coverage for some drugs	37
Section 4.1	Why do some drugs have restrictions?	37
Section 4.2	What kinds of restrictions?	37
Section 4.3	Do any of these restrictions apply to your drugs?	38
Section 5.	What if one of your drugs is not covered in the way you’d like it to be covered?	38
Section 5.1	There are things you can do if your drug is not covered in the way you’d like it to be covered	38
Section 5.2	What can you do if your drug is not on the <i>Drug List</i> or if the drug is restricted in some way?	39
Section 5.3	What can you do if your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high?	40
Section 6.	What if your coverage changes for one of your drugs?	41
Section 6.1	The <i>Drug List</i> can change during the year	41
Section 6.2	What happens if coverage changes for a drug you are taking?	41

Section 7.	What types of drugs are <i>not</i> covered by the plan?	42
Section 7.1	Types of drugs we do not cover	42
Section 8.	Show your plan membership card when you fill a prescription	43
Section 8.1	Show your membership card	43
Section 8.2	What if you don't have your membership card with you?	43
Section 9.	Part D drug coverage in special situations	43
Section 9.1	What if you're in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility for a stay that is covered by Original Medicare?	43
Section 9.2	What if you're a resident in a long-term-care (LTC) facility?	43
Section 9.3	What if you are taking drugs covered by Original Medicare?	44
Section 9.4	What if you have a Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) policy with prescription drug coverage?	44
Section 9.5	What if you're also getting drug coverage from an employer or retiree group plan?	45
Section 9.6	What if you are in Medicare-certified hospice?	45
Section 10.	Programs on drug safety and managing medications	45
Section 10.1	Programs to help members use drugs safely	45
Section 10.2	Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program to help members manage their medications	46

Did you know there are programs to help people pay for their drugs?

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. For more information, see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Are you currently getting help to pay for your drugs?

If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs, **some information in this *Evidence of Coverage* about the costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate insert, called the “*Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs*” (also known as the “*Low-Income Subsidy Rider*” or the “*LIS Rider*”), which tells you about your drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call Customer Service and ask for the *LIS Rider*. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

Section 1. Introduction

Section 1.2

Section 1.1

This chapter describes your coverage for Part D drugs

This chapter **explains rules for using your coverage for Part D drugs.** The next chapter tells what you pay for Part D drugs (Chapter 4, *What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

In addition to your coverage for Part D drugs through our plan, Original Medicare (Medicare Part A and Part B) also covers some drugs:

- Medicare Part A covers drugs you are given during Medicare-covered stays in the hospital or in a skilled nursing facility.
- Medicare Part B also provides benefits for some drugs. Part B drugs include certain chemotherapy drugs, certain drug injections you are given during an office visit and drugs you are given at a dialysis facility.

The two examples of drugs described above are covered by Original Medicare. (To find out more about this coverage, see your *Medicare & You* handbook.) Your Part D prescription drugs are covered under our plan.

Basic rules for the plan's Part D drug coverage

The plan will generally cover your drugs as long as you follow these basic rules:

- You must have a provider (a doctor, dentist or other prescriber) write your prescription.
- Your prescriber must either accept Medicare or file documentation with CMS showing that he or she is qualified to write prescriptions, or your Part D claim will be denied. You should ask your prescribers the next time you call or visit if they meet this condition. If not, please be aware it takes time for your prescriber to submit the necessary paperwork to be processed.
- You generally must use a network pharmacy to fill your prescription. (See Section 2, *Fill your prescription at a network pharmacy or through the plan's mail-order service.*)
- Your drug must be on the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* (we call it the “*Drug List*” for short). (See Section 3, *Your drugs need to be on the plan's “Drug List.”*)
- Your 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 Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books. (See Section 3 for more

information about a medically accepted indication.)

Section 2. Fill your prescription at a network pharmacy or through the plan's mail-order service

Section 2.1

To have your prescription covered, use a network pharmacy

In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at the plan's network pharmacies. (See Section 2.5 for information about when we would cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies.)

A network pharmacy is a pharmacy that has a contract with the plan to provide your covered prescription drugs. The term "covered drugs" means all of the Part D prescription drugs that are covered on the plan's *Drug List*.

Our network includes pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing and pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing. You may go to either type of network pharmacy to receive your covered prescription drugs. Your cost sharing may be less at pharmacies with preferred cost sharing.

Section 2.2

Finding network pharmacies

How do you find a network pharmacy in your area?

To find a network pharmacy, you can look in your *Pharmacy Directory*, visit our website (<https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>) or call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

You may go to any of our network pharmacies. However, your costs may be even less for your covered drugs if you use a network pharmacy that offers preferred cost sharing rather than a network pharmacy that offers standard cost sharing. The *Pharmacy Directory* will tell you which of the network pharmacies offer preferred cost sharing. You can find out more about how your out-of-pocket costs could be different for different drugs by contacting us.

If you switch from one network pharmacy to another, and you need a refill of a drug you have been taking, you can ask either to have a new prescription written by a provider or to have your prescription transferred to your new network pharmacy.

What if the pharmacy you have been using leaves the network?

If the pharmacy you have been using leaves the plan's network, you will have to find a new pharmacy that is in the network. Or if the pharmacy you have been using stays within the network but is no longer offering preferred cost sharing, you may want to switch to a different pharmacy. To find another network pharmacy in your area, you can get help from Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) or use the *Pharmacy Directory*. You can also find information on our website at <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

What if you need a specialized pharmacy?

Sometimes prescriptions must be filled at a specialized pharmacy. Specialized pharmacies include:

- Pharmacies that supply drugs for home infusion therapy. Our plan will cover home infusion therapy if:
 - Your prescription drug is on our plan's formulary, or a formulary exception has been granted for your prescription drug.
 - Our plan has approved your prescription for home infusion therapy.
 - Your prescription is written by an authorized prescriber.

Please refer to your *Pharmacy Directory* to find a home infusion pharmacy provider in your area. For more information, call Customer Service.

- Pharmacies that supply drugs for residents of a long-term-care (LTC) facility. Usually, a long-term-care facility (such as a nursing home) has its own pharmacy. If you are in an LTC facility, we must ensure that you are able to routinely receive your Part D benefits through our network of LTC pharmacies, which is typically the pharmacy that the LTC facility uses. If you have any difficulty accessing your Part D benefits in an LTC facility, please contact Customer Service. Please refer to your *Pharmacy Directory* to find out if your long-term-care pharmacy is part of our network.
- Pharmacies that serve the Indian Health Service/ Tribal/Urban Indian Health Program (not available in Puerto Rico). Except in emergencies, only Native Americans or Alaska Natives have access to these pharmacies in our network. Please refer to your *Pharmacy Directory* to find an I/T/U pharmacy in your area. For more information, contact Customer Service.
- Pharmacies that dispense drugs that are restricted by the FDA to certain locations or that require special handling, provider coordination or education on their use.
(**Note:** This scenario should rarely happen.)

To locate a specialized pharmacy, look in your *Pharmacy Directory* or call Customer Service. Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.

Section 2.3

Using the plan's mail-order services

For certain kinds of drugs, you can use the plan's network mail-order services. Generally, the drugs available through mail order are drugs that you take on a regular basis, for a chronic or long-term medical condition. The drugs available through our plan's mail-order service are marked as “**mail-order**” drugs in our *Drug List*.

Our plan's mail-order service requires you to order **at least a 30-day supply of the drug and no more than a 90-day supply**.

To get order forms and information about filling your prescriptions by mail (if not included with this Evidence of Coverage), call our mail-order Customer Service at 1-888-565-8361. TTY users should call 711. Hours are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Usually a mail-order pharmacy order will get to you in no more than 14 days. However, sometimes your mail order may be delayed. If your prescription is delayed within the facility, you will be notified. If there is a delay, you can call Customer Service and the representative can help you decide whether to wait for the drug or cancel the mail order and fill the prescription at a local network pharmacy.

New prescriptions the pharmacy receives directly from your doctor's office:

- The pharmacy will automatically fill and deliver new prescriptions it receives from health care providers, without checking with you first, if either: You used mail-order services with this plan in the past or you sign up for automatic delivery of all new prescriptions received directly from health care providers. You may request automatic delivery of all new prescriptions now or at any time by **providing consent on your first new home delivery prescription, sent in by your physician**.
- If you receive a prescription automatically by mail that you do not want, and you were not contacted to see if you wanted it before it shipped, you may be eligible for a refund.
- If you used mail order in the past and do not want the pharmacy to automatically fill and ship each new prescription, please contact us by calling the Customer Service phone number on your ID card.
- If you have never used our mail-order delivery and/or decide to stop automatic fills of new prescriptions, the pharmacy will contact you each time it gets a new prescription from a health care

provider to see if you want the medication filled and shipped immediately. This will give you an opportunity to make sure that the pharmacy is delivering the correct drug (including strength, amount, and form) and, if necessary, allow you to cancel or delay the order before you are billed and it is shipped. It is important that you respond each time you are contacted by the pharmacy, to let them know what to do with the new prescription and to prevent any delays in shipping.

- To opt out of automatic deliveries of new prescriptions received directly from your health care provider's office, please contact us by calling the Customer Service phone number on your ID card.

Refills on mail-order prescriptions:

- For refills, please contact your pharmacy 30 days before you think the drugs you have on hand will run out to make sure your next order is shipped to you in time.

So the pharmacy can reach you to confirm your order before shipping, please make sure to let the pharmacy know the best ways to contact you by calling the Customer Service phone number on your ID card.

Section 2.4

How can you get a long-term supply of drugs?

When you get a long-term supply of drugs, your cost sharing may be lower. The plan offers two ways to get a long-term supply (also called an "extended supply") of "maintenance" drugs on our plan's *Drug List*. (Maintenance drugs are drugs that you take on a regular basis, for a chronic or long-term medical condition.) You may order this supply through mail order (see Section 2.3) or you may go to a retail pharmacy.

1. **Some retail pharmacies** in our network allow you to get a long-term supply of maintenance drugs. Your *Pharmacy Directory* tells you which pharmacies in our network can give you a

long-term supply of maintenance drugs. You can also call Customer Service for more information (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

2. For certain kinds of drugs, you can use the plan's network mail-order services. The drugs available through our plan's mail-order service are marked as "**mail-order**" drugs in our *Drug List*. Our plan's mail-order service requires you to order at least a 30-day supply of the drug and no more than a 90-day supply. See Section 2.3 for more information about using our mail-order services.

Section 2.5

When can you use a pharmacy that is not in the plan's network?

Your prescription may be covered in certain situations

Generally, we cover drugs filled at an out-of-network pharmacy *only* when you are not able to use a network pharmacy. To help you, we have network pharmacies outside of our service area where you can get your prescriptions filled as a member of our plan.

If you cannot use a network pharmacy, here are the circumstances when we would cover prescriptions filled at an out-of-network pharmacy:

- You are traveling within the United States and become ill, or lose or run out of your prescription drugs.
- The prescription is for a medical emergency or urgent care.
- You are unable to obtain a covered drug in a timely manner within our service area because a network pharmacy that provides 24-hour service is not available within a 25-mile driving distance.
- You are filling a prescription for a covered drug that is not regularly stocked at an accessible network retail or pharmacy. (For example, an orphan drug or other specialty pharmaceutical.)

In these situations, **please check first with Customer Service** to see if there is a network pharmacy nearby. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.) You may be required to pay the difference between what you pay for the drug at the out-of-network pharmacy and the cost that we would cover at an in-network pharmacy.

How do you ask for reimbursement from the plan?

If you must use an out-of-network pharmacy, you will generally have to pay the full cost (rather than paying your normal share of the cost) at the time you fill your prescription. You can ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost. (Chapter 5, Section 2.1 explains how to ask the plan to pay you back.)

Section 3. Your drugs need to be on the plan's "Drug List"

Section 3.1

The "Drug List" tells which Part D drugs are covered

The plan has a *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. In this *Evidence of Coverage*, we call it the "**Drug List**" for short.

The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of a team of doctors and pharmacists.

The list must meet requirements set by Medicare. Medicare has approved the plan's *Drug List*.

The drugs on the *Drug List* are only those covered under Medicare Part D. Earlier in this chapter, Section 1.1 explains about Part D drugs.

We will generally cover a drug on the plan's *Drug List* as long as you follow the other coverage rules explained in this chapter and the use of the drug is a medically accepted indication. A "medically accepted indication" is a use of the drug that is *either*:

- Approved by the Food and Drug Administration. (That is, the Food and Drug Administration has

approved the drug for the diagnosis or condition for which it is being prescribed.)

- -- *Or* -- supported by certain reference books. (These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System; and the USPDI or its successor, and, for cancer, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and Clinical Pharmacology or their successors.)

The *Drug List* includes both brand-name and generic drugs

A generic drug is a prescription drug that has the same active ingredients as the brand-name drug. Generally, it works just as well as the brand-name drug and usually costs less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand-name drugs.

What is *not* on the *Drug List*?

The plan does not cover all prescription drugs.

- In some cases, the law does not allow any Medicare plan to cover certain types of drugs. (For more about this, see Section 7.1 in this chapter.)
- In other cases, we have decided not to include a particular drug on our *Drug List*.

Section 3.2

There are six "cost-sharing tiers" for drugs on the *Drug List*

Every drug on the plan's *Drug List* is in one of six cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Tier 1 includes preferred generic drugs. This is a cost-sharing tier with low copays.
- Tier 2 includes generic drugs.
- Tier 3 includes preferred brand-name drugs. It may also include some generic drugs that are priced similarly to the original brand drug. We will cover the generic drug on the brand-name drug tier until

many manufacturers make the drug, which will lower the price.

- Tier 4 includes nonpreferred generic and brand-name drugs.
- Tier 5 includes specialty drugs. Drugs in this cost-sharing tier generally cost you more than drugs in the other cost-sharing tiers.
- Tier 6 includes select care drugs at no or a low cost on drugs for diabetic, high blood pressure, cholesterol conditions and osteoporosis.

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in the plan's *Drug List*.

The amount you pay for drugs in each cost-sharing tier is shown in Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*.)

Section 3.3

How can you find out if a specific drug is on the *Drug List*?

You have three ways to find out:

1. Check the most recent *Drug List* we sent you in the mail.
2. Visit the plan's website (<https://shop.bcbgsa.com/medicare>). The *Drug List* on the website is always the most current.
3. Call Customer Service to find out if a particular drug is on the plan's *Drug List* or to ask for a copy of the list. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

Section 4. There are restrictions on coverage for some drugs

Section 4.1

Why do some drugs have restrictions?

For certain prescription drugs, special rules restrict how and when the plan covers them. A team of

doctors and pharmacists developed these rules to help our members use drugs in the most effective ways. These special rules also help control overall drug costs, which keeps your drug coverage more affordable.

In general, our rules encourage you to get a drug that works for your medical condition and is safe and effective. Whenever a safe, lower-cost drug will work just as well medically as a higher-cost drug, the plan's rules are designed to encourage you and your provider to use that lower-cost option. We also need to comply with Medicare's rules and regulations for drug coverage and cost sharing.

If there is a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider will have to take extra steps in order for us to cover the drug. If you want us to waive the restriction for you, you will need to use the coverage decision process and ask us to make an exception. We may or may not agree to waive the restriction for you. (See Chapter 7, Section 5.2 for information about asking for exceptions.)

Please note that sometimes a drug may appear more than once in our *Drug List*. 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.)

Section 4.2

What kinds of restrictions?

Our plan uses different types of restrictions to help our members use drugs in the most effective ways. The sections below tell you more about the types of restrictions we use for certain drugs.

Restricting brand-name drugs when a generic version is available

Generally, a "generic" drug works the same as a brand-name drug and usually costs less. **When a generic version of a brand-name drug is available, our network pharmacies will provide you the**

generic version. We usually will not cover the brand-name drug when a generic version is available. However, if your provider has told us the medical reason that the generic drug will not work for you or has written “no substitutions” on your prescription for a brand-name drug, then we will cover the brand-name drug. (Your share of the cost may be greater for the brand-name drug than for the generic drug.)

Getting plan approval in advance

For certain drugs, you or your provider need to get approval from the plan before we will agree to cover the drug for you. This is called “**prior authorization.**” Sometimes the requirement for getting approval in advance helps guide appropriate use of certain drugs. If you do not get this approval, your drug might not be covered by the plan.

Trying a different drug first

This requirement encourages you to try less costly, but just as effective drugs before the plan covers another drug. For example, if Drug A and Drug B treat the same medical condition, the plan may require you to try Drug A first. If Drug A does not work for you, the plan will then cover Drug B. This requirement to try a different drug first is called “**step therapy.**”

Quantity limits

For certain drugs, we limit the amount of the drug that you can have by limiting how much of a drug you can get each time you fill your prescription. For example, if it is normally considered safe to take only one pill per day for a certain drug, we may limit coverage for your prescription to no more than one pill per day.

Section 4.3

Do any of these restrictions apply to your drugs?

The plan's *Drug List* includes information about the restrictions described above. To find out if any of these restrictions apply to a drug you take or want to take, check the *Drug List*. For the most up-to-date information, call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). Or, check our website (<https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>).

If there is a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider will have to take extra steps in order for us to cover the drug. If there is a restriction on the drug you want to take, you should contact Customer Service to learn what you or your provider would need to do to get coverage for the drug. If you want us to waive the restriction for you, you will need to use the coverage decision process and ask us to make an exception. We may or may not agree to waive the restriction for you. (See Chapter 7, Section 5.2 for information about asking for exceptions.)

Section 5. What if one of your drugs is not covered in the way you'd like it to be covered?

Section 5.1

There are things you can do if your drug is not covered in the way you'd like it to be covered

We hope that your drug coverage will work well for you. But it's possible that there could be a prescription drug you are currently taking, or one that you and your provider think you should be taking that is not on our formulary or is on our formulary with restrictions.

For example:

- The drug might not be covered at all. Or, maybe a generic version of the drug is covered but the brand-name version you want to take is not covered.
- The drug is covered, but there are extra rules or restrictions on coverage for that drug. As explained in Section 4, some of the drugs covered by the plan have extra rules to restrict their use. For example, you might be required to try a different drug first, to see if it will work, before the drug you want to take will be covered for you. Or, there might be limits on what amount of the drug (number of pills, etc.) is covered during a particular time period. In some cases, you may want us to waive the restriction for you.
- The drug is covered, but it is in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost sharing more expensive than you think it should be. The plan puts each covered drug into one of six different cost-sharing tiers. How much you pay for your prescription depends in part on which cost-sharing tier your drug is in.

There are things you can do if your drug is not covered in the way that you'd like it to be covered.

Your options depend on what type of problem you have:

- If your drug is not on the *Drug List* or if your drug is restricted, go to Section 5.2 to learn what you can do.
- If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost more expensive than you think it should be, go to Section 5.3 to learn what you can do.

Section 5.2

What can you do if your drug is not on the *Drug List* or if the drug is restricted in some way?

If your drug is not on the *Drug List* or is restricted, here are things you can do:

- You may be able to get a temporary supply of the drug (only members in certain situations can get

a temporary supply). This will give you and your provider time to change to another drug or to file a request to have the drug covered.

- You can change to another drug.
- You can request an exception and ask the plan to cover the drug or remove restrictions from the drug.

You may be able to get a temporary supply

Under certain circumstances, the plan can offer a temporary supply of a drug to you when your drug is not on the *Drug List* or when it is restricted in some way. Doing this gives you time to talk with your provider about the change in coverage and figure out what to do.

To be eligible for a temporary supply, you must meet the two requirements below:

1. The change to your drug coverage must be one of the following types of changes:

- The drug you have been taking is **no longer on the plan's *Drug List***.
- Or, the drug you have been taking is **now restricted in some way**. (Section 4 in this chapter tells about restrictions.)

2. You must be in one of the situations described below:

- **For those members who are new or who were in the plan last year and aren't in a long-term care (LTC) facility:** We will cover a temporary supply of your drug **during the first 90 days of your membership in the plan if you were new and during the first 90 days of the calendar year if you were in the plan last year**. This temporary supply will be for a maximum of 30 days. If your prescription is written for fewer days, we will allow multiple fills to provide up to a maximum of 30 days of medication. The prescription must be filled at a network pharmacy.
- **For those members who are new or who were in the plan last year and reside in a long-term-care (LTC) facility:** We will cover a temporary supply of your drug **during the first**

90 days of your membership in the plan if you are new and during the first 90 days of the calendar year if you were in the plan last year.

The total supply will be for a maximum of 98 days. If your prescription is written for fewer days, we allow multiple fills to provide up to a maximum of 98 days of medication. (Please note that the long-term-care pharmacy may provide the drug in smaller amounts at a time to prevent waste.)

- **For those members who have been in the plan for more than 90 days and reside in a long-term-care (LTC) facility and need a supply right away:** We will cover one 34-day supply of a particular drug, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. This is in addition to the above long-term-care transition supply.

To ask for a temporary supply, call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

During the time when you are getting a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your provider to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. You can either switch to a different drug covered by the plan or ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover your current drug. The sections below tell you more about these options.

You can change to another drug

Start by talking with your provider. Perhaps there is a different drug covered by the plan that might work just as well for you. You can call Customer Service to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition. This list can help your provider find a covered drug that might work for you. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

You can ask for an exception

You and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover the drug in the way you would like it to be covered. If your provider says that you have medical reasons that justify asking us for an

exception, your provider can help you request an exception to the rule.

For example, you can ask the plan to cover a drug even though it is not on the plan's *Drug List*. Or, you can ask the plan to make an exception and cover the drug without restrictions.

If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7, Section 5.4 tells what to do. It explains the procedures and deadlines that have been set by Medicare to make sure your request is handled promptly and fairly.

Section 5.3

What can you do if your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high?

If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high, here are things you can do:

You can change to another drug

If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high, start by talking with your provider. Perhaps there is a different drug in a lower cost-sharing tier that might work just as well for you. You can call Customer Service to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition. This list can help your provider to find a covered drug that might work for you. Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.

You can ask for an exception

For drugs in the Nonpreferred Drug tier you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception in the cost-sharing tier for the drug so that you pay less for it. If your provider says that you have medical reasons that justify asking us for an exception, your provider can help you request an exception to the rule.

If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7, Section 5.4 tells what to do. It explains the procedures and deadlines that have been set by

Medicare to make sure your request is handled promptly and fairly.

Drugs in our Preferred Generic, Generic, Preferred Brand, Specialty and Select Care tiers are not eligible for this type of exception. We do not lower the cost-sharing amount for drugs in these tiers.

Section 6. What if your coverage changes for one of your drugs?

Section 6.1

The *Drug List* can change during the year

Most of the changes in drug coverage happen at the beginning of each year (January 1). However, during the year, the plan might make changes to the *Drug List*.

For example, the plan might:

- **Add or remove drugs from the *Drug List*.** New drugs become available, including new generic drugs. Perhaps the government has given approval to a new use for an existing drug. Sometimes, a drug gets recalled and we decide not to cover it. Or, we might remove a drug from the list because it has been found to be ineffective.
- **Move a drug to a higher or lower cost-sharing tier.**
- **Add or remove a restriction on coverage for a drug** (for more information about restrictions to coverage, see Section 4 in this chapter).
- **Replace a brand-name drug with a generic drug.**

In almost all cases, we must get approval from Medicare for changes we make to the plan's *Drug List*.

Section 6.2

What happens if coverage changes for a drug you are taking?

How will you find out if your drug's coverage has been changed?

If there is a change to coverage *for a drug you are taking*, the plan will send you a notice to tell you. Normally, we will **let you know at least 60 days ahead of time**.

Once in a while, a drug is **suddenly recalled** because it's been found to be unsafe or for other reasons. If this happens, the plan will immediately remove the drug from the *Drug List*. We will let you know of this change right away. Your provider will also know about this change, and can work with you to find another drug for your condition.

Do changes to your drug coverage affect you right away?

If any of the following types of changes affect a drug you are taking, the change will not affect you until January 1 of the next year if you stay in the plan:

- If we move your drug into a higher cost-sharing tier.
- If we put a new restriction on your use of the drug.
- If we remove your drug from the *Drug List*, but not because of a sudden recall or because a new generic drug has replaced it.

If any of these changes happens for a drug you are taking, then the change won't affect your use or what you pay as your share of the cost until January 1 of the next year. Until that date, you probably won't see any increase in your payments or any added restriction to your use of the drug. However, on January 1 of the next year, the changes will affect you.

In some cases, you will be affected by the coverage change before January 1:

- **If a brand-name drug you are taking is replaced by a new generic drug**, the plan must give you at

least 60 days' notice or give you a 60-day refill of your brand-name drug at a network pharmacy.

- During this 60-day period, you should be working with your provider to switch to the generic or to a different drug that we cover.
- Or, you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception and continue to cover the brand-name drug for you. For information on how to ask for an exception, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*).
- Again, if a drug is **suddenly recalled** because it's been found to be unsafe or for other reasons, the plan will immediately remove the drug from the *Drug List*. We will let you know of this change right away.
 - Your provider will also know about this change, and can work with you to find another drug for your condition.

Section 7. What types of drugs are *not* covered by the plan?

Section 7.1

Types of drugs we do not cover

This section tells you what kinds of prescription drugs are “excluded.” This means Medicare does not pay for these drugs.

If you get drugs that are excluded, you must pay for them yourself. We won't pay for the drugs that are listed in this section. The only exception: If the requested drug is found upon appeal to be a drug that is not excluded under Part D and we should have paid for or covered it because of your specific situation. (For information about appealing a decision we have made to not cover a drug, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.5 in this booklet.)

Here are three general rules about drugs that Medicare drug plans will not cover under Part D:

- Our plan's Part D drug coverage cannot cover a drug that would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B.
- Our plan cannot cover a drug purchased outside the United States and its territories.
- Our plan usually cannot cover off-label use. “Off-label use” is any use of the drug other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the Food and Drug Administration.
 - Generally, coverage for “off-label use” is allowed only when the use is supported by certain reference books. These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System, for cancer, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and Clinical Pharmacology, or their successors. If the use is not supported by any of these reference books, then our plan cannot cover its “off-label use.”

Also, by law, these categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare drug plans:

- 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

If you receive “Extra Help” paying for your drugs, your state Medicaid program may cover some prescription drugs not normally covered in a Medicare drug plan. Please contact your state Medicaid program to determine what drug coverage may be available to you. (You can find phone numbers and contact information for Medicaid in Chapter 2, Section 6.)

Section 8. Show your plan membership card when you fill a prescription

Section 8.1

Show your membership card

To fill your prescription, show your plan membership card at the network pharmacy you choose.

When you show your plan membership card, the network pharmacy will automatically bill the plan for our share of your covered prescription drug cost. You will need to pay the pharmacy *your* share of the cost when you pick up your prescription.

Section 8.2

What if you don't have your membership card with you?

If you don't have your plan membership card with you when you fill your prescription, ask the pharmacy to call the plan to get the necessary information.

If the pharmacy is not able to get the necessary information, **you may have to pay the full cost of the prescription when you pick it up.** (You can then ask us to reimburse you for our share. See Chapter 5, Section 2.1 for information about how to ask the plan for reimbursement.)

Section 9. Part D drug coverage in special situations

Section 9.1

What if you're in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility for a stay that is covered by Original Medicare?

If you are **admitted to a hospital** for a stay covered by Original Medicare, Medicare Part A will generally cover the cost of your prescription drugs during your stay. Once you leave the hospital, our plan will cover your drugs as long as the drugs meet all of our rules for coverage. *See the previous parts of this chapter that tell about the rules for getting drug coverage.*

If you are **admitted to a skilled nursing facility** for a stay covered by Original Medicare, Medicare Part A will generally cover your prescription drugs during all or part of your stay. If you are still in the skilled nursing facility, and Part A is no longer covering your drugs, our plan will cover your drugs as long as the drugs meet all of our rules for coverage. *See the previous parts of this chapter that tell about the rules for getting drug coverage.*

Please Note: When you enter, live in or leave a skilled nursing facility, you are entitled to a Special Enrollment Period. During this time period, you can switch plans or change your coverage. (Chapter 8, *Ending your membership in the plan*, tells when you can leave our plan and join a different Medicare plan.)

Section 9.2

What if you're a resident in a long-term-care (LTC) facility?

Usually, a long-term-care (LTC) facility (such as a nursing home) has its own pharmacy, or a pharmacy that supplies drugs for all of its residents. If you are a resident of a long-term-care facility, you may get your

prescription drugs through the facility's pharmacy as long as it is part of our network.

Check your *Pharmacy Directory* to find out if your long-term-care facility's pharmacy is part of our network. If it isn't, or if you need more information, please contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

What if you're a resident in a long-term-care (LTC) facility and become a new member of the plan?

If you need a drug that is not on our *Drug List* or is restricted in some way, the plan will cover a **temporary supply** of your drug during the first 90 days of your membership. The total supply will be for a maximum of 98 days, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. (Please note that the long-term care pharmacy may provide the drug in smaller amounts at a time to prevent waste.)

If you have been a member of the plan for more than 90 days and need a drug that is not on our *Drug List* or if the plan has any restriction on the drug's coverage, we will cover one 34-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days.

During the time when you are getting a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your provider to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. Perhaps there is a different drug covered by the plan that might work just as well for you. Or, you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover the drug in the way you would like it to be covered. If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7, Section 5.4 tells what to do.

Section 9.3

What if you are taking drugs covered by Original Medicare?

Your enrollment in our plan doesn't affect your coverage for drugs covered under Medicare Part A or Part B. If you meet Medicare's coverage requirements,

your drug will still be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B, even though you are enrolled in this plan. In addition, if your drug would be covered by Medicare Part A or Part B, our plan can't cover it, even if you choose not to enroll in Part A or Part B.

Some drugs may be covered under Medicare Part B in some situations and through our plan in other situations. But drugs are never covered by both Part B and our plan at the same time. In general, your pharmacist or provider will determine whether to bill Medicare Part B or our plan for the drug.

Section 9.4

What if you have a Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) policy with prescription drug coverage?

If you currently have a Medigap policy that includes coverage for prescription drugs, you must contact your Medigap issuer and tell them you have enrolled in our plan. If you decide to keep your current Medigap policy, your Medigap issuer will remove the prescription drug coverage portion of your Medigap policy and lower your premium.

Each year your Medigap insurance company should send you a notice that tells if your prescription drug coverage is "**creditable**," and the choices you have for drug coverage. (If the coverage from the Medigap policy is "creditable," it means that it is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.)

The notice will also explain how much your premium would be lowered if you remove the prescription drug coverage portion of your Medigap policy. If you didn't get this notice, or if you can't find it, contact your Medigap insurance company and ask for another copy.

Section 9.5

What if you're also getting drug coverage from an employer or retiree group plan?

Do you currently have other prescription drug coverage through your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group? If so, please contact **that group's benefits administrator**. He or she can help you determine how your current prescription drug coverage will work with our plan.

In general, if you are currently employed, the prescription drug coverage you get from us will be *secondary* to your employer or retiree group coverage. That means your group coverage would pay first.

Special note about creditable coverage

Each year your employer or retiree group should send you a notice that tells if your prescription drug coverage for the next calendar year is creditable and the choices you have for drug coverage.

If the coverage from the group plan is "**creditable**," it means that the plan has drug coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.

Keep these notices about creditable coverage, because you may need them later. If you enroll in a Medicare plan that includes Part D drug coverage, you may need these notices to show that you have maintained creditable coverage.

If you didn't get a notice about creditable coverage from your employer or retiree group plan, you can get a copy from your employer or retiree group's benefits administrator or the employer or union.

Section 9.6

What if you are in Medicare-certified hospice?

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. See the previous parts of this section that tell about the rules for getting drug coverage under Part D. Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*) gives more information about drug coverage and what you pay.

Section 10. Programs on drug safety and managing medications

Section 10.1

Programs to help members use drugs safely

We conduct drug use reviews for our members to help make sure that they are getting safe and appropriate care. These reviews are especially important for

members who have more than one provider who prescribes their drugs.

We do a review each time you fill a prescription. We also review our records on a regular basis.

During these reviews, we look for potential problems such as:

- Possible medication errors
- Drugs that may not be necessary because you are taking another drug to treat the same medical condition
- Drugs that may not be safe or appropriate because of your age or gender
- Certain combinations of drugs that could harm you if taken at the same time
- Prescriptions written for drugs that have ingredients you are allergic to
- Possible errors in the amount (dosage) of a drug you are taking

If we see a possible problem in your use of medications, we will work with your provider to correct the problem.

Section 10.2

Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program to help members manage their medications

We have a program that can help our members with complex health needs. For example, some members have several medical conditions, take different drugs at the same time, and have high drug costs.

This program is voluntary and free to members. A team of pharmacists and doctors developed the program for us. This program can help make sure that

our members get the most benefit from the drugs they take.

Our program is called a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program. Some members who take medications for different medical conditions may be able to get services through an MTM program. A pharmacist or other health professional will give you a comprehensive review of all your medications. You can talk about how best to take your medications, your costs and any problems or questions you have about your prescription and over-the-counter medications. You'll get a written summary of this discussion. The summary has a medication action plan that recommends what you can do to make the best use of your medications, with space for you to take notes or write down any follow-up questions. You'll also get a personal medication list that will include all the medications you're taking and why you take them.

It's a good idea to have your medication review before your yearly "Wellness" visit so you can talk to your doctor about your action plan and medication list. Bring your action plan and medication list with you to your visit or anytime you talk with your doctors, pharmacists and other health care providers. Also, keep your medication list with you (for example, with your ID) in case you go to the hospital or emergency room.

If we have a program that fits your needs, we will automatically enroll you in the program and send you information. If you decide not to participate, please notify us and we will withdraw you from the program.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Chapter 4

What you pay for your Part D
prescription drugs

Chapter 4. What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs

Section 1.	Introduction	50
Section 1.1	Use this chapter together with other materials that explain your drug coverage	50
Section 1.2	Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered drugs	50
Section 2.	What you pay for a drug depends on which “drug payment stage” you are in when you get the drug	51
Section 2.1	What are the drug payment stages for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) members?	51
Section 3.	We send you reports that explain payments for your drugs and which payment stage you are in	53
Section 3.1	We send you a monthly report called the <i>Part D Explanation of Benefits</i> (the “ <i>Part D EOB</i> ”)	53
Section 3.2	Help us keep our information about your drug payments up to date	53
Section 4.	There is no deductible for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)	54
Section 4.1	You do not pay a deductible for your Part D drugs	54
Section 5.	During the initial coverage stage, the plan pays its share of your drug costs and you pay your share	54
Section 5.1	What you pay for a drug depends on the drug and where you fill your prescription	54
Section 5.2	A table that shows your costs for a one-month supply of a drug	55
Section 5.3	If your doctor prescribes less than a full month's supply, you may not have to pay the cost of the entire month's supply	56
Section 5.4	A table that shows your costs for a long-term (up to a 90-day) supply of a drug	57
Section 5.5	You stay in the initial coverage stage until your total drug costs for the year reach \$3,750	58

Section 6. During the coverage gap stage, the plan provides some drug coverage 58

Section 6.1 You stay in the coverage gap stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach \$5,000 58

Section 6.2 How Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs 59

Section 7. During the catastrophic coverage stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your drugs 60

Section 7.1 Once you are in the catastrophic coverage stage, you will stay in this stage for the rest of the year 60

Section 8. What you pay for vaccinations covered by Part D depends on how and where you get them 61

Section 8.1 Our plan may have separate coverage for the Part D vaccine medication itself and for the cost of giving you the vaccine 61

Section 8.2 You may want to call us at Customer Service before you get a vaccination 62

Did you know there are programs to help people pay for their drugs?

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. For more information, see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Are you currently getting help to pay for your drugs?

If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs, **some information in this *Evidence of Coverage* about the costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate insert called the “*Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs*” (also known as the “*Low-Income Subsidy Rider*” or the “*LIS Rider*”), which tells you about your drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call Customer Service and ask for the *LIS Rider*. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

Section 1. Introduction

Section 1.1

Use this chapter together with other materials that explain your drug coverage

This chapter focuses on what you pay for your Part D prescription drugs. To keep things simple, we use “drug” in this chapter to mean a Part D prescription drug. As explained in Chapter 3, not all drugs are Part D drugs – some drugs are covered under Medicare Part A or Part B and other drugs are excluded from Medicare coverage by law.

To understand the payment information we give you in this chapter, you need to know the basics of what drugs are covered, where to fill your prescriptions and what rules to follow when you get your covered drugs.

Here are materials that explain these basics:

- **The plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*:** To keep things simple, we call this the “*Drug List*.”
 - This *Drug List* tells which drugs are covered for you.
 - It also tells which of the six “cost-sharing tiers” the drug is in and whether there are any restrictions on your coverage for the drug.
 - If you need a copy of the *Drug List*, call Customer Service. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.) You can also

find the *Drug List* on our website at <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>. The *Drug List* on the website is always the most current.

- **Chapter 3 of this booklet:** Chapter 3 gives the details about your prescription drug coverage, including rules you need to follow when you get your covered drugs. Chapter 3 also tells which types of prescription drugs are not covered by our plan.
- **The plan's *Pharmacy Directory*:** In most situations, you must use a network pharmacy to get your covered drugs. (See Chapter 3 for the details.) The *Pharmacy Directory* has a list of pharmacies in the plan's network. It also tells you which pharmacies in our network can give you a long-term supply of a drug (such as filling a prescription for a three-month's supply).

Section 1.2

Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered drugs

To understand the payment information we give you in this chapter, you need to know about the types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for your covered services. The amount that you pay for a drug is called “cost sharing,” and there are three ways you may be asked to pay.

- The “**deductible**” is the amount you must pay for drugs before our plan begins to pay its share.

- **“Copayment”** means that you pay a fixed amount each time you fill a prescription.
- **“Coinsurance”** means that you pay a percent of the total cost of the drug each time you fill a prescription.

Section 2. What you pay for a drug depends on which “drug payment stage” you are in when you get the drug

Section 2.1

What are the drug payment stages for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) members?

As shown in the table below, there are “drug payment stages” for your prescription drug coverage under BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP). How much you pay for a drug depends on which of these stages you are in at the time you get a prescription filled or refilled. Keep in mind you are always responsible for the plan’s monthly premium regardless of the drug payment stage.

Stage 1 Yearly deductible stage	Stage 2 Initial coverage stage	Stage 3 Coverage gap stage	Stage 4 Catastrophic coverage stage
Because there is no deductible for the plan, this payment stage does not apply to you.	You begin in this stage when you fill your first prescription of the year. During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs and you pay your share of the cost. You stay in this stage until your year-to-date “total drug costs” (your payments plus any Part D plan’s payments) total \$3,750. (Details are in Section 5 of this chapter.)	During the coverage gap stage, for a 30-day supply of Tier 1 Preferred Generic drugs, you pay either \$1.00 at network retail pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing/ \$10.00 at network retail pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower. For a 30-day supply of Tier 2 Generic drugs, you pay either \$3.00 at network retail pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing/ \$17.00 at network retail	During this stage, the plan will pay most of the cost of your drugs for the rest of the calendar year (through December 31, 2018). (Details are in Section 7 of this chapter.)

Stage 1 Yearly deductible stage	Stage 2 Initial coverage stage	Stage 3 Coverage gap stage	Stage 4 Catastrophic coverage stage
		<p>pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower. For a 30-day supply of Tier 6 Select Care drugs, you pay either \$0.00 at network retail pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing/ \$9.00 at network retail pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower. For all other generic drugs, you pay 44% of the cost. For certain Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs, you pay 27% of the costs at network retail pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing and 27.5% of the cost at other network pharmacies. A 50% discount is included in your coinsurance amounts. You will also pay a portion of the dispensing fee.</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your year-to-date “out-of-pocket costs” (your payments) reach a total of \$5,000. This amount and rules for counting costs toward this amount have been set by Medicare.</p> <p>(Details are in Section 6 of this chapter.)</p>	

Section 3. We send you reports that explain payments for your drugs and which payment stage you are in

Section 3.1

We send you a monthly report called the *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (the “*Part D EOB*”)

Our plan keeps track of the costs of your prescription drugs and the payments you have made when you get your prescriptions filled or refilled at the pharmacy. This way, we can tell you when you have moved from one drug payment stage to the next.

In particular, there are two types of costs we keep track of:

- We keep track of how much you have paid. This is called your “**out-of-pocket**” cost.
- We keep track of your “**total drug costs.**” This is the amount you pay out-of-pocket, or others pay on your behalf, plus the amount paid by the plan.

Our plan will prepare a written report called the *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (it is sometimes called the “EOB”) when you have had one or more prescriptions filled through the plan during the previous month.

It includes:

- **Information for that month.** This report gives the payment details about the prescriptions you have filled during the previous month. It shows the total drug costs, what the plan paid and what you and others on your behalf paid.
- **Totals for the year since January 1.** This is called “year-to-date” information. It shows you the total drug costs and total payments for your drugs since the year began.

Section 3.2

Help us keep our information about your drug payments up to date

To keep track of your drug costs and the payments you make for drugs, we use records we get from pharmacies.

Here is how you can help us keep your information correct and up to date:

- **Show your membership card when you get a prescription filled.** To make sure we know about the prescriptions you are filling and what you are paying, show your plan membership card every time you get a prescription filled.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** There are times you may pay for prescription drugs when we will not automatically get the information we need to keep track of your out-of-pocket costs. To help us keep track of your out-of-pocket costs, you may give us copies of receipts for drugs that you have purchased. (If you are billed for a covered drug, you can ask our plan to pay our share of the cost. For instructions on how to do this, go to Chapter 5, Section 2.1 of this booklet.) Here are some types of situations when you may want to give us copies of your drug receipts to be sure we have a complete record of what you have spent for your drugs:
 - When you purchase a covered drug at a network pharmacy at a special price or using a discount card that is not part of our plan's benefit.
 - When you made a copayment for drugs that are provided under a drug manufacturer patient assistance program.
 - Any time you have purchased covered drugs at out-of-network pharmacies or other times you have paid the full price for a covered drug under special circumstances.
- **Send us information about the payments others have made for you.** Payments made by certain

other individuals and organizations also count toward your out-of-pocket costs and help qualify you for catastrophic coverage. For example, payments made by a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, an AIDS drug assistance program (ADAP), the Indian Health Service and most charities count toward your out-of-pocket costs. You should keep a record of these payments and send them to us so we can track your costs.

- **Check the written report we send you.** When you receive a *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (an EOB) in the mail, please look it over to be sure the information is complete and correct. If you think something is missing from the report, or you have any questions, please call us at Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). Be sure to keep these reports. They are an important record of your drug expenses.

Section 4. There is no deductible for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP)

Section 4.1

You do not pay a deductible for your Part D drugs

There is no deductible for BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP). You begin in the initial coverage stage when you fill your first prescription of the year. See Section 5 for more information about your coverage in the initial coverage stage.

Section 5. During the initial coverage stage, the plan pays its share of your drug costs and you pay your share

Section 5.1

What you pay for a drug depends on the drug and where you fill your prescription

During the initial coverage stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your share (your copayment or coinsurance amount). Your share of the cost will vary depending on the drug and where you fill your prescription.

The plan has six cost-sharing tiers

Every drug on the plan's *Drug List* is in one of six cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Tier 1 includes preferred generic drugs. This is a cost-sharing tier with low copays.
- Tier 2 includes generic drugs.
- Tier 3 includes preferred brand-name drugs. It may also include some generic drugs that are priced similarly to the original brand drug. We will cover the generic drug on the brand-name drug tier until many manufacturers make the drug, which will lower the price.
- Tier 4 includes nonpreferred generic and brand-name drugs.
- Tier 5 includes specialty drugs. Drugs in this cost-sharing tier generally cost you more than drugs in the other cost-sharing tiers.
- Tier 6 includes select care drugs at no or a low cost on drugs for diabetic, high blood pressure, cholesterol conditions and osteoporosis.

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in the plan's *Drug List*.

Your pharmacy choices

How much you pay for a drug depends on whether you get the drug from:

- A network retail pharmacy that offers standard cost sharing
- A network retail pharmacy that offers preferred cost sharing
- A pharmacy that is not in the plan's network
- The plan's mail-order pharmacy

For more information about these pharmacy choices and filling your prescriptions, see Chapter 3 in this booklet and the plan's *Pharmacy Directory*.

Generally, we will cover your prescriptions *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies. Some of our network pharmacies also offer preferred cost sharing. You may go to either network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing or other network pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing to receive your covered prescription drugs. Your costs may be less at pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing.

Section 5.2

A table that shows your costs for a one-month supply of a drug

During the initial coverage stage, your share of the cost of a covered drug will be either a copayment or coinsurance.

- **“Copayment”** means that you pay a fixed amount each time you fill a prescription.
- **“Coinsurance”** means that you pay a percent of the total cost of the drug each time you fill a prescription.

As shown in the table below, the amount of the copayment or coinsurance depends on which tier your drug is in.

Please note:

- If your covered drug costs less than the copayment amount listed in the chart, you will pay that lower price for the drug. You pay *either* the full price of the drug *or* the copayment amount, *whichever is lower*.
- We cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies in only limited situations. Please see Chapter 3, Section 2.5 for information about when we will cover a prescription filled at an out-of-network pharmacy.

Your share of the cost when you get a one-month supply of a covered Part D prescription drug:			
Tier	Standard retail cost sharing (in-network) (30-day supply from network retail pharmacies or a 34-day supply at long-term-care pharmacies)	Preferred retail cost sharing (in-network) or mail-order cost sharing (30-day supply)	Out-of-network cost sharing¹ (Coverage is limited to certain situations; see Chapter 3 for details.) (30-day supply)
Tier 1: Preferred Generic	\$10.00 ²	\$1.00 ²	\$10.00 ²
Tier 2: Generic	\$17.00 ²	\$3.00 ²	\$17.00 ²
Tier 3: Preferred Brand	\$47.00 ²	\$28.00 ²	\$47.00 ²
Tier 4: Nonpreferred Drugs	40% ²	35% ²	40% ²
Tier 5: Specialty Tier	33% ²	33% ²	33% ²
Tier 6: Select Care Drugs	\$9.00 ²	\$0.00 ²	\$9.00 ²

¹ Generally, we only cover drugs filled at out-of-network pharmacies in limited, nonroutine circumstances, when a network pharmacy is not available. If your cost sharing is a set copayment amount rather than a coinsurance (a percentage of the costs), in addition to your copayment at an out-of-network pharmacy, you pay the difference between the actual charge and what we would have paid at a network pharmacy. So, amounts you pay may vary at out-of-network pharmacies.

² The amount you pay will depend on if you qualify for low-income subsidy (LIS), also known as Medicare's "Extra Help" program. For more information about the "Extra Help" program, please see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Section 5.3

If your doctor prescribes less than a full month's supply, you may not have to pay the cost of the entire month's supply

Typically, the amount you pay for a prescription drug covers a full month's supply of a covered drug. However your doctor can prescribe less than a month's supply of drugs. There may be times when you want to ask your doctor about prescribing less than a month's supply of a drug (for example, when you are trying a medication for the first time that is known to have serious side effects). If your doctor prescribes

less than a full month's supply, you will not have to pay for the full month's supply for certain drugs.

The amount you pay when you get less than a full month's supply will depend on whether you are responsible for paying coinsurance (a percentage of the total cost) or a copayment (a flat dollar amount).

- If you are responsible for coinsurance, you pay a percentage of the total cost of the drug. You pay the same percentage regardless of whether the prescription is for a full month's supply or for fewer days. However, because the entire drug cost will be lower if you get less than a full month's supply, the amount you pay will be less.
- If you are responsible for a copayment for the drug, your copay will be based on the number of days of the drug that you receive. We will calculate the

Section 5.4

amount you pay per day for your drug (the “daily cost-sharing rate”) and multiply it by the number of days of the drug you receive.

- Here’s an example: Let’s say the copay for your drug for a full month’s supply (a 30-day supply) is \$30. This means that the amount you pay per day for your drug is \$1. If you receive a seven days’ supply of the drug, your payment will be \$1 per day multiplied by seven days, for a total payment of \$7.

Daily cost sharing allows you to make sure a drug works for you before you have to pay for an entire month’s supply. You can also ask your doctor to prescribe, and your pharmacist to dispense, less than a full month’s supply of a drug or drugs, if this will help you better plan refill dates for different prescriptions so that you can take fewer trips to the pharmacy. The amount you pay will depend upon the days’ supply you receive.

A table that shows your costs for a long-term (up to a 90-day) supply of a drug

For some drugs, you can get a long-term supply (also called an “extended supply”) when you fill your prescription.

A long-term supply is up to a 90-day supply. (For details on where and how to get a longer-term supply of a drug, see Chapter 3, Section 2.4.)

The table below shows what you pay when you get a long-term (up to a 90-day) supply of a drug.

Please note: If your covered drug costs less than the copayment amount listed in the chart, you will pay that lower price for the drug. You pay *either* the full price of the drug or the copayment amount, *whichever is lower*.

Your share of the cost when you get a long-term supply of a covered Part D prescription drug:			
Tier	Standard retail cost sharing (in-network)¹ (90-day supply)	Preferred retail cost sharing (in-network)¹ (90-day supply)	Mail-order cost sharing (up to a 90-day supply)
Tier 1: Preferred Generic	\$30.00 ²	\$3.00 ²	\$3.00 ²
Tier 2: Generic	\$51.00 ²	\$9.00 ²	\$9.00 ²
Tier 3: Preferred Brand	\$141.00 ²	\$84.00 ²	\$84.00 ²
Tier 4: Nonpreferred Drugs	40% ²	35% ²	35% ²
Tier 5: Specialty Tier	A long-term supply is not available for drugs in the Tier 5: Specialty Tier.	A long-term supply is not available for drugs in the Tier 5: Specialty Tier.	A long-term supply is not available for drugs in the Tier 5: Specialty Tier.
Tier 6: Select Care Drugs	\$27.00 ²	\$0.00 ²	\$0.00 ²

¹These select pharmacies that offer 90-day supplies are indicated in your pharmacy directory by an asterisk.

²The amount you pay will depend on if you qualify for low-income subsidy (LIS), also known as Medicare’s “Extra Help” program. For more information about the “Extra Help” program, please see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Section 5.5

You stay in the initial coverage stage until your total drug costs for the year reach \$3,750

You stay in the initial coverage stage until the total amount for the prescription drugs you have filled and refilled reaches the **\$3,750 limit for the initial coverage stage**.

Your total drug cost is based on adding together what you have paid and what any Part D plan has paid:

- **What you have paid** for all the covered drugs you have gotten since you started with your first drug purchase of the year. (See Section 6.2 for more information about how Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs.) This includes:
 - The total you paid as your share of the cost for your drugs during the initial coverage stage.
- **What the plan has paid** as its share of the cost for your drugs during the initial coverage stage. (If you were enrolled in a different Part D plan at any time during 2018, the amount that the plan paid during the initial coverage stage also counts toward your total drug costs.)

The *Explanation of Benefits* (EOB) that we send to you will help you keep track of how much you and the plan, as well as any third parties, have spent on your behalf during the year. Many people do not reach the \$3,750 limit in a year.

We will let you know if you reach this \$3,750 amount. If you do reach this amount, you will leave the initial coverage stage and move on to the coverage gap stage.

Section 6. During the coverage gap stage, the plan provides some drug coverage

Section 6.1

You stay in the coverage gap stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach \$5,000

When you are in the coverage gap stage, the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program provides manufacturer discounts on brand-name drugs. You pay 35% of the negotiated price and a portion of the dispensing fee for brand-name drugs.

For certain Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs, you pay 27% of the costs at network retail pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing and 27.5% of the cost at other network pharmacies. A 50% discount is included in your coinsurance amounts. You will also pay a portion of the dispensing fee.

Both the amount you pay and the amount discounted by the manufacturer count toward your out-of-pocket costs as if you had paid them and moves you through the coverage gap.

You also receive some coverage for generic drugs.

- For Tier 1 Preferred Generic drugs, you pay \$1.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing, \$10.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing and \$3.00 for a 90-day supply at our mail-order pharmacy or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower.
- For Tier 2 Generic drugs, you pay \$3.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing, \$17.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing and \$9.00 for a 90-day supply at our mail-order pharmacy or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower.

- For Tier 6 Select Care drugs, you pay \$0.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing, \$9.00 for a 30-day supply at network pharmacies that offer standard cost sharing and \$0.00 for a 90-day supply at our mail-order pharmacy or 44% of the costs, whichever is lower.
- For all other generic drugs, you pay no more than 44% of the cost and the plan pays the rest.

For generic drugs, the amount paid by the plan (56%) does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Only the amount you pay counts and moves you through the coverage gap.

You continue paying the cost sharing detailed above until your yearly out-of-pocket payments reach a maximum amount that Medicare has set. In 2018, that amount is \$5,000.

Medicare has rules about what counts and what does *not* count as your out-of-pocket costs. When you reach an out-of-pocket limit of \$5,000, you leave the coverage gap stage and move on to the catastrophic coverage stage.

Section 6.2

How Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs

Here are Medicare's rules that we must follow when we keep track of your out-of-pocket costs for your drugs.

These payments *are* included in your out-of-pocket costs

When you add up your out-of-pocket costs, **you can include** the payments listed below (as long as they are for Part D covered drugs and you followed the rules

for drug coverage that are explained in Chapter 3 of this booklet):

- The amount you pay for drugs when you are in any of the following drug payment stages:
 - The initial coverage stage.
 - The coverage gap stage.
- Any payments you made during this calendar year as a member of a different Medicare prescription drug plan before you joined our plan.

It matters who pays

- If you make these payments **yourself**, they are included in your out-of-pocket costs.
- These payments are *also included* if they are made on your behalf by **certain other individuals or organizations**. This includes payments for your drugs made by a friend or relative, by most charities, by AIDS drug assistance programs, by a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program that is qualified by Medicare or by the Indian Health Service. Payments made by Medicare's "Extra Help" program are also included.
- Some of the payments made by the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount program are included. The amount the manufacturer pays for your brand-name drug is included. But the amount the plan pays for your generic drugs is not included.

Moving on to the catastrophic coverage stage

When you (or those paying on your behalf) have spent a total of \$5,000 in out-of-pocket costs within the calendar year, you will move from the coverage gap stage to the catastrophic coverage stage.

These payments are *not* included in your out-of-pocket costs

When you add up your out-of-pocket costs, you are **not allowed to include** any of these types of payments for prescription drugs:

- The amount you pay for your monthly premium.

- Drugs you buy outside the United States and its territories.
- Drugs that are not covered by our plan.
- Drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy that do not meet the plan's requirements for out-of-network coverage.
- Non-Part D drugs, including prescription drugs covered by Part A or Part B and other drugs excluded from coverage by Medicare.
- Payments made by the plan for your brand or generic drugs while in the coverage gap.
- Payments for your drugs that are made by group health plans including employer health plans.
- Payments for your drugs that are made by certain insurance plans and government-funded health programs such as TRICARE and the Veterans Affairs.
- Payments for your drugs made by a third-party with a legal obligation to pay for prescription costs (for example, Workers' Compensation).

Reminder: If any other organization such as the ones listed above pays part or all of your out-of-pocket costs for drugs, you are required to tell our plan. Call Customer Service to let us know. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

How can you keep track of your out-of-pocket total?

- **We will help you.** The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (Part D EOB) report we send to you includes the current amount of your out-of-pocket costs. (*Section 3 in this chapter tells about this report.*) When you reach a total of \$5,000 in out-of-pocket costs for the year, this report will tell you that you have left the coverage gap stage and have moved on to the catastrophic coverage stage.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** Section 3.2 tells what you can do to help make sure that our records of what you have spent are complete and up to date.

Section 7. During the catastrophic coverage stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your drugs

Section 7.1

Once you are in the catastrophic coverage stage, you will stay in this stage for the rest of the year

You qualify for the catastrophic coverage stage when your out-of-pocket costs have reached the \$5,000 limit for the calendar year. Once you are in the catastrophic coverage stage, you will stay in this payment stage until the end of the calendar year.

During this stage, the plan will pay most of the cost for your drugs.

- **Your share** of the cost for a covered drug will be either coinsurance or a copayment, whichever is the *larger* amount:
 - *Either* coinsurance of 5% of the cost of the drug
 - *Or*, \$3.35 for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic and \$8.35 for all other drugs.
- **Our plan pays the rest** of the cost.

Section 8. What you pay for vaccinations covered by Part D depends on how and where you get them

Section 8.1

Our plan may have separate coverage for the Part D vaccine medication itself and for the cost of giving you the vaccine

Our plan provides coverage of a number of Part D vaccines. There are two parts to our coverage of vaccinations:

- The first part of coverage is the cost of **the vaccine medication itself**. The vaccine is a prescription medication.
- The second part of coverage is for the cost of **giving you the vaccine**. (This is sometimes called the “administration” of the vaccine.)

What do you pay for a Part D vaccination?

What you pay for a Part D vaccination depends on three things:

- 1. The type of vaccine** (what you are being vaccinated for).
 - Some vaccines are considered Part D drugs. You can find these vaccines listed in the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*.
 - Other vaccines are considered medical benefits. They are covered under Original Medicare.
- 2. Where you get the vaccine medication.**
- 3. Who gives you the vaccine.**

What you pay at the time you get the Part D vaccination can vary depending on the circumstances.

For example:

- Sometimes when you get your vaccine, you will have to pay the entire cost for both the vaccine medication and for getting the vaccine. You can

ask our plan to pay you back for our share of the cost.

- Other times, when you get the vaccine medication or the vaccine, you will pay only your share of the cost.

To show how this works, here are three common ways you might get a Part D vaccine. Remember you are responsible for all of the costs associated with vaccines (including their administration) during the coverage gap stage of your benefit.

Situation 1: You buy the Part D vaccine at the pharmacy and you get your vaccine at the network pharmacy. (Whether you have this choice depends on where you live. Some states do not allow pharmacies to administer a vaccination.)

- You will have to pay the pharmacy the amount of your copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine and the cost of giving you the vaccination shot.
- Our plan will pay the remainder of the costs.

Situation 2: You get the Part D vaccination at your doctor's office.

- When you get the vaccination, you will pay for the entire cost of the vaccine and its administration.
- You can then ask our plan to pay our share of the cost by using the procedures that are described in Chapter 5 of this booklet (*Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs.*)
- You will be reimbursed the amount you paid less your normal copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine (including administration) less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get “Extra Help”, we will reimburse you for this difference.)

Situation 3: You buy the Part D vaccine at your pharmacy, and then take it to your doctor's office where they give you the vaccine.

- You will have to pay the pharmacy the amount of your copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine itself.

- When your doctor gives you the vaccine, you will pay the entire cost for this service. You can then ask our plan to pay our share of the cost by using the procedures described in Chapter 5 of this booklet.
- You will be reimbursed the amount charged by the doctor for administering the vaccine less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get “Extra Help”, we will reimburse you for this difference.)

first at Customer Service whenever you are planning to get a vaccination. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

- We can tell you about how your vaccination is covered by our plan and explain your share of the cost.
- We can tell you how to keep your own cost down by using providers and pharmacies in our network.
- If you are not able to use a network provider and pharmacy, we can tell you what you need to do to get payment from us for our share of the cost.

Section 8.2

You may want to call us at Customer Service before you get a vaccination

The rules for coverage of vaccinations are complicated. We are here to help. We recommend that you call us

Chapter 5

Asking us to pay our share of the
costs for covered drugs

Chapter 5. Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs

Section 1. Situations in which you should ask us to pay our share of the cost of your covered drugs 65

Section 1.1 If you pay our plan’s share of the cost of your covered drugs, you can ask us for payment 65

Section 2. How to ask us to pay you back 66

Section 2.1 How and where to send us your request for payment 66

Section 3. We will consider your request for payment and say yes or no 66

Section 3.1 We check to see whether we should cover the drug and how much we owe 66

Section 3.2 If we tell you that we will not pay for all or part of the drug, you can make an appeal 66

Section 4. Other situations in which you should save your receipts and send copies to us 67

Section 4.1 In some cases, you should send copies of your receipts to us to help us track your out-of-pocket drug costs 67

Section 1. Situations in which you should ask us to pay our share of the cost of your covered drugs

Section 1.1

If you pay our plan's share of the cost of your covered drugs, you can ask us for payment

Sometimes when you get a prescription 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 the plan.

In either case, you can ask our plan to pay you back (paying you back is often called “reimbursing” you).

Here are examples of situations in which you may need to ask our plan to pay you back. All of these examples are types of coverage decisions. For more information about coverage decisions, go to Chapter 7 of this booklet.

1. When you use an out-of-network pharmacy to get a prescription filled

If you go to an out-of-network 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 out-of-network pharmacies only in a few special situations. Please go to Chapter 3, Section 2.5 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.

2. 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 the plan or look

up your 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.

3. 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 the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (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.

4. If you are retroactively enrolled in our plan

Sometimes a person's enrollment in the 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 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 Customer Service for additional information about how to ask us to pay you back and deadlines for making your request. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

All of the examples above are types of coverage decisions. This means that if we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. Chapter 7 of this booklet (*What to do if you have a*

problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)) has information about how to make an appeal.

Section 2. How to ask us to pay you back

Section 2.1

How and where to send us your request for payment

Send us your request for payment, along with your receipt documenting the payment you have made. It's a good idea to make a copy of your receipts for your records.

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

- You don't have to use the form, but it will help us process the information faster.
- Either download a copy of the form from our website (to access the form, sign up at <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>, log in, and locate the form under "Customer Support") or call Customer Service and ask for the form. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

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

Express Scripts
ATTN: Medicare Part D
P.O. Box 14718
Lexington, KY 40512-4718

Contact Customer Service if you have any questions (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). If you don't know what you should have paid, 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.

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

Section 3.1

We check to see whether we should cover the 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 drug is covered and you followed all the rules for getting the drug, we will pay for our share of the cost. We will mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. (Chapter 3 explains the rules you need to follow for getting your Part D prescription drugs covered.) We will send payment within 30 days after your request was received.
- If we decide that the 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.

Section 3.2

If we tell you that we will not pay for all or part of the 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 on how to make this appeal, go to Chapter 7 of this booklet (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*). 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 Section 4 of Chapter 7.

Section 4 is an introductory section that explains the process for coverage decisions and appeals and gives definitions of terms such as “appeal.” Then after you have read Section 4, you can go to Section 5.5 in Chapter 7 for a step-by-step explanation of how to file an appeal.

Section 4. Other situations in which you should save your receipts and send copies to us

Section 4.1

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 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 are two situations when you should send us copies of receipts to let us know about payments you have made for your drugs:

1. When you buy the drug for a price that is lower than our price

Sometimes when you are in the coverage gap stage, you can buy your drug at a network pharmacy for a price that is lower than our price.

- For example, a pharmacy might offer a special price on the drug. Or, you may have a discount card that is outside our benefit that offers a lower price.
- Unless special conditions apply, you must use a network pharmacy in these situations and your drug must be on our *Drug List*.
- 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.
- **Please note:** If you are in the coverage gap stage, 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.

2. 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 the 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.
- **Please note:** Because you are getting your drug through the patient assistance program and not through the 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 two cases described above, these situations are not considered coverage decisions. Therefore you cannot make an appeal if you disagree with our decision.

Chapter 6

Your rights and responsibilities

Chapter 6. Your rights and responsibilities

Section 1.	Our plan must honor your rights as a member of the plan	70
Section 1.1	We must provide information in a way that works for you (in languages other than English, in Braille, in large print, or other alternate formats, etc.)	70
Section 1.2	We must treat you with fairness and respect at all times	70
Section 1.3	We must ensure that you get timely access to your covered drugs	70
Section 1.4	We must protect the privacy of your personal health information	71
Section 1.5	We must give you information about the plan, its network of pharmacies and your covered drugs	75
Section 1.6	We must support your right to make decisions about your care	76
Section 1.7	You have the right to make complaints and to ask us to reconsider decisions we have made	77
Section 1.8	What can you do if you believe you are being treated unfairly or your rights are not being respected?	77
Section 1.9	How to get more information about your rights	78
Section 2.	You have some responsibilities as a member of the plan	78
Section 2.1	What are your responsibilities?	78

Section 1. Our plan must honor your rights as a member of the plan

Section 1.1

We must provide information in a way that works for you (in languages other than English, in Braille, in large print, or other alternate formats, etc.)

To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call Customer Service. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)

Our plan has people and free interpreter services available to answer questions from disabled and non-English speaking members. We can also give you information in Braille, in large print, or other alternate formats at no cost if you need it. We are required to give you information about the plan's benefits in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) or contact our Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that is accessible and appropriate for you, please call to file a grievance with us at 1-866-755-2776 (TTY 711), or by writing us at: Civil Rights Coordinator, 4361 Irwin Simpson Rd, Mailstop: OH0205-A537; Mason, Ohio 45040. You may also file a complaint with Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or directly with the Office for Civil Rights. Contact information is included in this Evidence of Coverage or with this mailing, or you may contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) for additional information.

Section 1.2

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** based on a person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, age, mental or physical 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 us at Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, Customer Service can help.

Section 1.3

We must ensure that you get timely access to your covered drugs

As a member of our plan, you 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 Part D drugs within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7, Section 7 of this booklet tells what you can do. (If we have denied coverage for your prescription drugs and you don't agree with our decision, Chapter 7, Section 4 tells what you can do.)

Section 1.4

We must protect the privacy of your personal health information

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

- Your “personal health information” includes the personal information you gave us when you enrolled in this plan as well as your medical records and other medical and health information.
- 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 Practice,” that tells about these rights and explains how we protect the privacy of your health information.

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records.
- 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.
- 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 at the plan, and to get a copy of your records. We are allowed to charge you a fee for making copies. You also have the right to ask us to make additions or corrections to your medical records. If you ask us to do this, we will work with your 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 Customer Service. Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.

Below is the Notice of Privacy Practices as of March 1, 2016. This Notice can change so make sure you're viewing the most recent version. You can request the current version from Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) or view it on our website at <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>.

Notices of privacy practices

Every year, we're required to send you specific information about your rights, your benefits and more. This can use up a lot of trees, so we've combined a couple of these required annual notices. Please take a few minutes to read about:

- State notice of privacy practices
- HIPAA notice of privacy practices
- Breast reconstruction surgery benefits

State notice of privacy practices

As mentioned in our Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) notice, we must follow

state laws that are stricter than the Federal HIPAA privacy law. This notice explains your rights and our legal duties under state law. This applies to life insurance benefits in addition to health, dental and vision benefits that you may have.

Your personal information

We may collect, use and share your nonpublic personal information (PI) as described in this notice. PI identifies a person and is often gathered in an insurance matter. We may collect PI about you from other persons or entities, such as doctors, hospitals or other carriers.

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

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

You have the right to access and correct your PI.

Because PI is defined as any information that can be used to make judgments about your health, finances, character, habits, hobbies, reputation, career and credit, we take reasonable safety measures to protect the PI we have about you.

A more detailed state notice is available upon request. Please call the phone number printed on your ID card. Customer Service is available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.

HIPAA notice of privacy practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH, VISION AND DENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

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

Your protected health information

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

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

For health care operations: We use and share PHI for our health care operations. For example, we may use PHI to review the quality of care and services you get.

For treatment activities: We do not provide treatment. This is the role of a health care provider, such as your doctor or a hospital.

Examples of ways we use your information for payment, treatment and health care operations:

- We keep information about your premium and deductible payments.
- We may give information to a doctor's office to confirm your benefits.
- We may share your explanation of benefits (EOB) with the subscriber of your plan for payment purposes.
- We may share PHI with your health care provider so that the provider may treat you.
- We may use PHI to review the quality of care and services you get.
- We may use PHI to provide you with case management or care coordination services for

conditions like asthma, diabetes or traumatic injury.

We may also use and share PHI directly or indirectly with health information exchanges for payment, health care operations and treatment. If you do not want your PHI to be shared for payment, health care operations, or treatment purposes in health information exchanges, please visit www.bcbsga.com/privacy for more information.

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

To others: In most cases, if we use or disclose your PHI outside of treatment, payment, operations or research activities, we must get your OK in writing first. We must receive your written OK before we can use your PHI for certain marketing activities. We must get your written OK before we sell your PHI. If we have them, we must get your OK before we disclose your provider's psychotherapy notes. Other uses and disclosures of your PHI not mentioned in this notice may also require your written OK. You always have the right to revoke any written OK you provide. You may tell us in writing that it is OK for us to give your PHI to someone else for any reason. Also, if you are present and tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person. We would do this if it has to do with your current treatment or payment for your treatment. If you are not present, if it is an emergency or you are not able to tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person if sharing your PHI is in your best interest.

As Allowed or Required by Law: We may also share your PHI for other types of activities including:

- Health oversight activities;
- Judicial or administrative proceedings, with public health authorities, for law enforcement reasons,

and with coroners, funeral directors or medical examiners (about decedents);

- Organ donation groups for certain reasons, for research, and to avoid a serious threat to health or safety;
- Special government functions, for Workers' Compensation, to respond to requests from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and to alert proper authorities if we reasonably believe that you may be a victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence or other crimes; and
- As required by law.

If you are enrolled with us through an employer-sponsored group health plan, we may share PHI with your group health plan. If your employer pays your premium or part of your premium, but does not pay your health insurance claims, your employer is not allowed to receive your PHI — unless your employer promises to protect your PHI and makes sure the PHI will be used for legal reasons only.

If you submit an online enrollment application for a Medicare Advantage, Medicare Advantage Part D or Part D Prescription Drug Plan, or if an agent/broker submits it on your behalf, we record the Internet Protocol (IP) address the application is submitted from. We use this information in our efforts to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare program.

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

Genetic information: We cannot use or disclose PHI that is an individual's genetic information for underwriting.

Race, Ethnicity and Language: We may receive race, ethnicity and language information about you and protect this information as described in this Notice.

We may use this information for various health care operations which include identifying health care disparities, developing care management programs and educational materials, and providing interpretation services. We do not use race, ethnicity and language information to perform underwriting, rate setting or benefit determinations, and we do not disclose this information to unauthorized persons.

Your rights

Under Federal law, you have the right to:

- Send us a written request to see or get a copy of certain PHI, including a request to receive a copy of your PHI through email. It is important to note that there is some level of risk that your PHI could be read or accessed by a third party when it is sent by unencrypted email. We will confirm that you want to receive PHI by unencrypted email before sending it to you.
- Ask that we correct your PHI that you believe is missing or incorrect. If someone else (such as your doctor) gave us the PHI, we will let you know so you can ask him or her to correct it.
- Send us a written request to ask us not to use your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations activities. We are not required to agree to these requests.
- Give us a verbal or written request to ask us to send your PHI using other means that are reasonable. Also, let us know if you want us to send your PHI to an address other than your home if sending it to your home could place you in danger.
- Send us a written request to ask us for a list of certain disclosures of your PHI. Call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your identification (ID) card to use any of these rights. Customer Service is available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30. Customer Service representatives can give you the address to

send the request. They can also give you any forms we have that may help you with this process.

- Right to a restriction for services you pay for out of your own pocket: If you pay in full for any medical services out of your own pocket, you have the right to ask for a restriction. The restriction would prevent the use or disclosure of that PHI for treatment, payment or operations reasons. If you or your provider submits a claim to us, we do not have to agree to a restriction (see Your Rights section above). If a law requires the disclosure, we do not have to agree to your restriction.

How we protect information

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

We have to keep your PHI private. If we believe your PHI has been breached, we must let you know.

We keep your oral, written and electronic PHI safe using physical, electronic and procedural means. These safeguards follow Federal and state laws. Some of the ways we keep your PHI safe include securing offices that hold PHI, password-protecting computers and locking storage areas and filing cabinets. We require our employees to protect PHI through written policies and procedures. These policies limit access to PHI to only those employees who need the data to do their job.

Employees are also required to wear ID badges to help keep people who do not belong out of areas where sensitive data is kept. Also, where required by law, our affiliates and nonaffiliates must protect the privacy of data we share in the normal course of business. They are not allowed to give PHI to others without your written OK, except as allowed by law and outlined in this notice.

Potential impact of other applicable laws

HIPAA (the Federal privacy law) generally does not preempt or override other laws that give people greater privacy protections. As a result, if any state or Federal privacy law requires us to provide you with more

privacy protections, then we must also follow that law in addition to HIPAA.

Contacting You

We, including our affiliates or vendors, may call or text any telephone numbers provided by you using an automated telephone dialing system and/or a prerecorded message. Without limitation, these calls may concern treatment options, other health-related benefits and services, enrollment, payment or billing.

Complaints

If you think we have not protected your privacy, you can file a complaint with us.

You may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will not take action against you for filing a complaint.

Contact information

Please call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your ID card. Customer Service is available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30. Representatives can help you apply your rights, file a complaint or talk with you about privacy issues.

Copies and changes

You have the right to get a new copy of this notice at any time. We reserve the right to change this notice. A revised notice will apply to PHI we already have about you as well as any PHI we may get in the future. We are required by law to follow the privacy notice that is in effect at this time.

We may tell you about any changes to our notice in a number of ways. We may tell you about the changes in a member newsletter or post them on our website. We may also mail you a letter that tells you about any changes.

Effective date of this notice

The original effective date of this notice was April 14, 2003. The most recent revision date of this notice is March 1, 2016.

Breast reconstruction surgery benefits

If you ever need a benefit-covered mastectomy, we hope it will give you some peace of mind to know that your Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. benefits comply with the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, which provides for:

- Reconstruction of the breast(s) that underwent a covered mastectomy.
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to restore a symmetrical appearance.
- Prostheses and coverage for physical complications related to all stages of a covered mastectomy, including lymphedema.

All applicable benefit provisions will apply, including existing deductibles, copayments and/or coinsurance. Contact Customer Service for more information.

For more information about the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act, you can go to the Federal Department of Labor website at: dol.gov/ebsa/publications/whcra.html.

Section 1.5

We must give you information about the plan, its network of pharmacies and your covered drugs

As a member of BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP), you have the right to get several kinds of information from us. (As explained above in Section 1.1, you have the right to get information from us in a way that works for you. This includes getting the information in languages other than English and in large print.)

If you want any of the following kinds of information, please call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about the plan’s financial condition. It also includes information about the number of appeals made by members and the plan’s performance ratings, including how it has been rated by plan members and how it compares to other Medicare prescription drug plans.
- **Information about our network pharmacies.**
 - For example, you have the right to get information from us about the pharmacies in our network.
 - For a list of the pharmacies in the plan’s network, see the *Pharmacy Directory*.
 - For more detailed information about our pharmacies, you can call Customer Service. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.) Or visit our website at <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>.
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage.**
 - To get the details on your Part D prescription drug coverage see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of this booklet, plus the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. These chapters, together with the *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*, 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 Customer Service. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it.**
 - If a 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 drug from an out-of-network pharmacy.

- If you are not happy or if you disagree with a decision we make about what 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 Chapter 7 of this booklet. It gives you the details about how to make an appeal if you want us to change our decision. (Chapter 7 also tells about how to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times and other concerns.)
- If you want to ask our plan to pay our share of the cost for a Part D prescription drug, see Chapter 5 of this booklet.

Section 1.6

We must support your right to make decisions about your care

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 Georgia Department of Community Health.

Section 1.7

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, Chapter 7 of this booklet tells what you can do. It gives 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 on the situation. You might need to ask our plan 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 Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 1.8

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 **Customer Service** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can call **the State Health Insurance Assistance Program**. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to Chapter 2, Section 3.
- Or, **you can call Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 1.9

How to get more information about your rights

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

- You can call **Customer Service** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can **call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program**. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to Chapter 2, Section 3.
- 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: <https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11534.pdf>.)
 - Or, 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.

Section 2. You have some responsibilities as a member of the plan

Section 2.1

What are your responsibilities?

Things you need to do as a member of the plan are listed below. If you have any questions, please call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet). We're here to help.

- **Get familiar with your covered drugs and the rules you must follow to get these covered drugs.** Use this Evidence of Coverage booklet to learn what is covered for you and the rules you need to follow to get your covered drugs.
 - Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 give the details about your coverage for Part D prescription drugs.
- **If you have any other prescription drug coverage in addition to our plan, you are required to tell us.** Please call Customer Service to let us know. Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.
 - 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 drugs from our plan. This is called “coordination of benefits” because it involves coordinating the drug benefits you get from our plan with any other drug benefits available to you. We'll help you coordinate your benefits. For more information about coordination of benefits, go to Chapter 1, Section 10.
- **Tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are enrolled in our plan.** Show your plan membership card whenever you get your Part D prescription 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 providers give you the best care, learn as much as you are

Chapter 6. Your rights and responsibilities

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.
- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you are responsible for these payments:
 - You must pay your plan premiums to continue being a member of our plan.
 - For most of your drugs covered by the plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the drug. This will be a copayment (a fixed amount) or coinsurance (a percentage of the total cost). Chapter 4 tells what you must pay for your Part D prescription drugs.
 - If you get any 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 drug, you can make an appeal. Please see Chapter 7 of this booklet for information about how to make an appeal.
 - If you are required to pay a late-enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty to remain a member of the plan.
- 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 the plan.
- **Tell us if you move.** If you are going to move, it's important to tell us right away. Call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
 - **If you move *outside* of our plan service area, you cannot remain a member of our plan.** (Chapter 1 tells about our service area.) We can help you figure out whether you are moving outside our service area. If you are leaving our service area, you will have a Special Enrollment Period when you can join any Medicare plan available in your new area. We can let you know if we have a plan in your new 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 Chapter 2.
- **Call Customer Service 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 Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.
 - For more information on how to reach us, including our mailing address, please see Chapter 2.

Chapter 7

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

Chapter 7. What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

Background

Section 1.	Introduction	83
Section 1.1	What to do if you have a problem or concern	83
Section 1.2	What about the legal terms?	83
Section 2.	You can get help from government organizations that are not connected with us	83
Section 2.1	Where to get more information and personalized assistance	83
Section 3.	To deal with your problem, which process should you use?	84
Section 3.1	Should you use the process for coverage decisions and appeals? or, should you use the process for making complaints?	84

Coverage decisions and appeals

Section 4.	A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals	85
Section 4.1	Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals: the big picture	85
Section 4.2	How to get help when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal	85
Section 5.	Your Part D prescription drugs: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal	86
Section 5.1	This section tells you 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	86
Section 5.2	What is an exception?	87
Section 5.3	Important things to know about asking for exceptions	88
Section 5.4	Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including an exception	89
Section 5.5	Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal (how to ask for a review of a coverage decision made by our plan)	91
Section 5.6	Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 Appeal	93

Section 6. Taking your appeal to level 3 and beyond 95
 Section 6.1 Levels of appeal 3, 4 and 5 for Part D drug appeals 95

Making complaints

Section 7. How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns 96

Section 7.1 What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process? 96
 Section 7.2 The formal name for “making a complaint” is “filing a grievance” 97
 Section 7.3 Step-by-step: Making a complaint 97
 Section 7.4 You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization 98
 Section 7.5 You can also tell Medicare about your complaint 98

Background

Section 1. Introduction

Section 1.1

What to do if you have a problem or concern

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

- For some 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 us and by you.

Which one do you use? That depends on the type of problem you are having. The guide in Section 3 will help you identify the right process to use.

Section 1.2

What about the legal terms?

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

To keep things simple, this chapter explains the legal rules and procedures using simpler words in place of certain legal terms. For example, this chapter generally says “making a complaint” rather than “filing a grievance,” “coverage decision” rather than “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. To help you know which terms to use, we include legal terms when we give the details for handling specific types of situations.

Section 2. You can get help from government organizations that are not connected with us

Section 2.1

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 to us. You can always contact your **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).**

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 SHIP counselors are free. You will find phone numbers in Chapter 2, Section 3 of this booklet.

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 (<https://www.medicare.gov>).

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

Section 3.1

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 chapter that apply to your situation. The guide that follows will help.

<p>To figure out which part of this chapter will help with your specific problem or concern, start here</p> <p>Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage? (This includes problems about whether particular prescription drugs are covered or not, the way in which they are covered and problems related to payment for prescription drugs.)</p>	
<p>Yes.</p> <p>My problem is about benefits or coverage.</p> <p>Go on to the next section of this chapter, Section 4, “A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals.”</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>My problem is not about benefits or coverage.</p> <p>Skip ahead to Section 7 at the end of this chapter: “How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns.”</p>

Coverage decisions and appeals

Section 4. A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals

Section 4.1

Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals: The big picture

The process for coverage decisions and appeals deals with problems related to your benefits and coverage for prescription drugs, including problems related to payment. This is the process you use for issues such as whether a drug is covered or not and the way in which the drug 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 prescription drugs. 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 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 ask for a Level 2 Appeal. The Level 2 Appeal is conducted by an independent organization that is not connected to us. If you are not satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 Appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal.

Section 4.2

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 us at Customer Service** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- **To get free help from an independent organization** that is not connected with our plan, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program. (See Section 2 of this chapter.)
- **Your doctor or other prescriber can make a request for you.** 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 prescriber, or other person to be your representative, call Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this

booklet) and ask for the “Appointment of Representative” form. (The form is also available on Medicare’s website at <https://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.

Section 5. Your Part D prescription drugs: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal

Have you read Section 4 of this chapter (*A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals*)? If not, you may want to read it before you start this section.

Section 5.1

This section tells you 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 plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. To be covered, the 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 Food and Drug Administration or supported

by certain reference books. See Chapter 3, Section 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.)

- **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 *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*, rules and restrictions on coverage and cost information, see Chapter 3 (*Using our plan’s coverage for your Part D prescription drugs*) and Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

Part D coverage decisions and appeals

As discussed in Section 4 of this chapter, a coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your drugs.

Legal Terms 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 the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*
 - Asking us to waive a restriction on the plan’s coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get)
 - Asking to pay a lower cost-sharing amount for a covered drug on a higher cost-sharing tier
- 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 the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* but we require you to get approval from us before we will cover it for you.)

Chapter 7. What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

- **Please 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.

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

Which of these situations are you in?	
If you are in this situation:	This is what you can do:
Do you need a drug that isn't on our <i>Drug List</i> 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 Section 5.2 of this chapter.
Do you want us to cover a drug on our <i>Drug List</i> and you believe you meet any plan rules or restrictions (such as getting approval in advance) for the drug you need?	You can ask us for a coverage decision. Skip ahead to Section 5.4 of this chapter.
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 Section 5.4 of this chapter
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 Section 5.5 of this chapter.

Section 5.2

What is an exception?

If a 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 three examples of

exceptions that you or your doctor or other prescriber can ask us to make:

1. **Covering a Part D drug for you that is not on our *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*.** We call it the "*Drug List*" for short.

Legal Terms 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 cost-sharing amount that applies to Tier 4: Nonpreferred Drugs. You cannot ask for an

exception to the copayment or coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the drug.

- 2. Removing a restriction on our coverage for a covered drug.** There are extra rules or restrictions that apply to certain drugs on our *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* (for more information, go to Chapter 3).

Legal Terms Asking for 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:
 - *Being required to use the generic version* of a drug instead of the brand-name drug.
 - *Getting plan approval in advance* before we will agree to cover the drug for you. (This is sometimes called “prior authorization.”)
 - *Being required to try a different drug first* before we will agree to cover the drug you are asking for. (This is sometimes called “step therapy.”)
 - *Quantity limits.* 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 drug.

- 3. Changing coverage of a drug to a lower cost-sharing tier.** Every drug on our *Drug List* is in one of six cost-sharing tiers. In general, the lower the cost-sharing tier number, the less you will pay as your share of the cost of the drug.

Legal Terms Asking to pay a lower price for a covered nonpreferred drug is sometimes called asking for a **“tiering exception.”**

- You cannot ask us to change the cost-sharing tier for any drug in the Tier 1: Preferred Generic, Tier

2: Generic, Tier 3: Preferred Brand, Tier 5: Specialty and Tier 6: Select Care tiers.

Section 5.3

Important things to know about asking for exceptions

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 an 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. If you ask us for a tiering exception, we will generally *not* approve your request for an exception unless all the alternative drugs in the lower cost-sharing tier(s) won’t work as well for you.

We can say yes or no to your request

- If we approve your request for an 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 an exception, you can ask for a review of our decision by making an appeal. Section 5.5 tells you how to make an appeal if we say no.

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

Section 5.4

Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including an 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 our plan 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 Chapter 2, Section 1 and look for the section called, *How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision about your Part D prescription drugs*. Or, if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug, go to the topic, *Where to send a request that asks us to pay for our share of the cost of a drug you have received*.

- **You or your doctor or someone else who is acting on your behalf** can ask for a coverage decision. Section 4 of this chapter tells 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 Chapter 5 of this booklet, *Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs*. Chapter 5 describes the situations in which

you may need to ask for reimbursement. It also tells 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 an 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 Section 5.2 and Section 5.3 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”

Legal Terms 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 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 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 Section 7 of this chapter.)

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 an 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 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 an 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 tell 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.

Section 5.5

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

Legal Terms An appeal to the 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, your doctor or other prescriber) must contact us.**
 - For details on how to reach us by phone, fax or mail, or on our website, for any purpose related to your appeal, go to Chapter 2, Section 1, and look for the section, *How to contact us when you are making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs.*
- **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 in Chapter 2, Section 1** (*How to contact us when you are making an appeal about your Part D prescription drugs*).
- **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”

Legal Terms 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 Section 5.4 of this chapter.

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 “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 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 seven 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*).

Section 5.6

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.

Legal Terms 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 on how to make a Level 2 Appeal** with the Independent Review Organization. These instructions will tell 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 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 a “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 a “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 on 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. Section 6 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4 and 5 of the appeals process.

Section 6. Taking your appeal to level 3 and beyond

no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal.

Section 6.1

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 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 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

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 in the appeals process.

Making complaints

Section 7.1

Section 7. 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 Section 4 of this chapter.

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 used for certain types of problems *only*. 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	
Respecting your privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has someone been rude or disrespectful to you? Are you unhappy with how our Customer Service has treated you? Do you feel you are being encouraged to leave the plan?
Waiting times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you been kept waiting too long by pharmacists? Or by our Customer Service or other staff at the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples include waiting too long on the phone or when getting a prescription.
Cleanliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you unhappy with the cleanliness or condition of a pharmacy?
Information you get from us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<p>The process of asking for a coverage decision and making appeals is explained in Sections 4-6 of this chapter. If you are asking for a decision or making an appeal, you use that process, not the complaint process.</p> <p>However, if you have already asked us 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 we are not meeting the deadlines for giving you a coverage decision or an answer to an appeal you have made, you can make a complaint.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When a coverage decision we made is reviewed and we are told that we must cover or reimburse you for certain 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.
--	---

Section 7.2

The formal name for “making a complaint” is “filing a grievance”

Legal Terms 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.**”

Section 7.3

Step-by-step: Making a complaint

Step 1:

**Contact us promptly –
either by phone or in writing.**

- **Usually, calling Customer Service is the first step.** If there is anything else you need to do, Customer Service will let you know. Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.
- **If you do not wish to call (or you called and were not satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us.** If you put your complaint in writing, we will respond to your complaint in writing.
 - You or someone you name may file a grievance. The person you name would be your

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

- If you want someone to act for you who is not already authorized by the court or under state law, then you and that person must sign and date a statement that gives the person legal permission to be your representative. To learn how to name your representative, you may call Customer Service.
- A grievance must be filed either verbally or in writing within 60 days of the event or incident. We must address your grievance as quickly as your case requires based on your health status, but no later than 30 days after receiving your complaint. We may extend the time frame by up to 14 days if you ask for the extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest.
- A fast grievance can be filed concerning a plan decision not to conduct a fast response to a coverage decision or appeal, or if we take an extension on a coverage decision or appeal. We must respond to your expedited grievance within 24 hours.
- **Whether you call or write, you should contact Customer Service 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.**

Legal Terms 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 decide to take extra days, we will tell you in writing.
- **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.

Section 7.4

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 Chapter 2, Section 4 of this booklet. 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.

Section 7.5

You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

You can submit a complaint about BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to <https://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 the plan is not addressing your issue, please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY/TDD users can call 1-877-486-2048.

Chapter 8

Ending your membership in the plan

Chapter 8. Ending your membership in the plan

Section 1. Introduction 101
 Section 1.1 This chapter focuses on ending your membership in our plan 101

Section 2. When can you end your membership in our plan? 101
 Section 2.1 Usually, you can end your membership during the Annual Enrollment Period 101
 Section 2.2 In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period 102
 Section 2.3 Where can you get more information about when you can end your membership? 103

Section 3. How do you end your membership in our plan? 103
 Section 3.1 Usually, you end your membership by enrolling in another plan 103

Section 4. Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your drugs through our plan 106
 Section 4.1 Until your membership ends, you are still a member of our plan 106

Section 5. BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) must end your membership in the plan in certain situations 106
 Section 5.1 When must we end your membership in the plan? 106
 Section 5.2 We *cannot* ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health 107
 Section 5.3 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan 107

Section 1. Introduction

Section 1.1

This chapter focuses on ending your membership in our plan

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

- You might leave our plan because you have decided that you *want* to leave.
 - There are only certain times during the year, or certain situations, when you may voluntarily end your membership in the plan. Section 2 tells you *when* you can end your membership in the plan.
 - The process for *voluntarily* ending your membership varies depending on what type of new coverage you are choosing. Section 3 tells you *how* to end your membership in each situation.
- There are also limited situations where you do not choose to leave, but we are required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

If you are leaving our plan, you must continue to *get* your Part D prescription drugs through our plan until your membership ends.

Section 2. When can you end your membership in our plan?

You may end your membership in our plan only during certain times of the year, known as enrollment periods. All members have the opportunity to leave the plan during the Annual Enrollment Period. In certain situations, you may also be eligible to leave the plan at other times of the year.

Section 2.1

Usually, you can end your membership during the Annual Enrollment Period

You can end your membership during the **Annual Enrollment Period** (also known as the “Annual Coordinated Election Period”). This is the time when you should review your health and drug coverage and make a decision about your coverage for the upcoming year.

- **When is the Annual Enrollment Period?** This happens from October 15 to December 7.
- **What type of plan can you switch to during the Annual Enrollment Period?** You can choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the upcoming year. If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.
 - *Or*, a Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.
- If you enroll in most Medicare health plans, you will be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan's coverage begins. However, if you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that plan and keep our plan for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can

choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

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, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the Part D late-enrollment penalty.

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will end when your new plan’s coverage begins on January 1.

Section 2.2

In certain situations, you can end your membership during a special enrollment period

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

- **Who is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period?**

If any of the following situations apply to you, you are eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period. These are just examples. For the full list, you can contact the plan, call Medicare or visit the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>).

- If you have moved out of your plan’s service area.
- If you have Medicaid.
- If you are eligible for “Extra Help” with paying for your Medicare prescriptions.
- If we violate our contract with you.
- If you are getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term-care (LTC) hospital.

- **When are Special Enrollment Periods?** The enrollment periods vary depending on your situation.
- **What can you do?** To find out if you are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. If you are eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. This means you can choose any of the following types of plans:

- Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.
- *Or*, a Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.

- If you enroll in most Medicare health plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan’s coverage begins. However, if you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan or a Medicare Cost plan, you can enroll in that plan and keep our plan for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for a continuous period of 63 days or more, you may need to pay a Part D

late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the Part D late-enrollment penalty.

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after we receive your request to change your plan.

Section 2.3

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

If you have any questions or would like more information on when you can end your membership:

- You can **call Customer Service** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can find the information in the *Medicare & You 2018* handbook.
 - Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up.
 - You can also download a copy from the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>). Or, you can order a printed copy by calling Medicare at the number below.
- You can contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 3. How do you end your membership in our plan?

Section 3.1

Usually, you end your membership by enrolling in another plan

Usually, to end your membership in our plan, you simply enroll in another Medicare plan during one of the enrollment periods. See Section 2 in this chapter for information about the enrollment periods.

However, there are two situations in which you will need to end your membership in a different way:

- If you want to switch from our plan to Original Medicare *without* a Medicare prescription drug plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from our plan.
- If you join a Private-Fee-for-Service plan without prescription drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan or a Medicare Cost plan, enrollment in the new plan will not end your membership in our plan. In this case, you can enroll in that plan and keep our plan for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or ask to be disenrolled from our plan.

If you are in one of these two situations and want to leave our plan, there are two ways you can ask to be disenrolled:

- You can make a request in writing to us. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- -- *or* -- You can contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a Part D late-enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1 Section 5 for more information about the Part D late-enrollment penalty.

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

If you would like to switch from our plan to:	This is what you should do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Another Medicare prescription drug plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enroll in the new Medicare prescription drug plan between October 15 and December 7. ▪ You will automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan's coverage begins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Medicare health plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enroll in the Medicare health plan by December 7. With most Medicare health plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from our plan when your new plan’s coverage begins. ▪ However, if you choose a Private Fee-for-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that new plan and keep our plan for your drug coverage. If you want to leave our plan, you must either enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or ask to be disenrolled. To ask to be disenrolled, you must send us a written request. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) or contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Original Medicare <i>without</i> a separate Medicare prescription drug plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note: If you disenroll from a Medicare prescription drug plan and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a Part D late-enrollment penalty if you join 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this. (Phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet.) ▪ You can also contact Medicare, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours

Chapter 8. Ending your membership in the plan

<p>a Medicare drug plan later. See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late-enrollment penalty.</p>	<p>a day, seven days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.</p>
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Section 4. Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your drugs through our plan

Section 4.1

Until your membership ends, you are still a member of our plan

If you leave our plan, it may take time before your membership ends and your new Medicare coverage goes into effect. (See Section 2 for information on when your new coverage begins.)

During this time, you must continue to get your prescription drugs through our plan.

- **You should continue to use our network pharmacies to get your prescriptions filled until your membership in our plan ends.** Usually, your prescription drugs are only covered if they are filled at a network pharmacy including through our mail-order pharmacy services.

Section 5. BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) must end your membership in the plan in certain situations

Section 5.1

When must we end your membership in the plan?

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

- If you no longer have Medicare Part A or Part B (or both).
- If you move out of our service area.

- If you are away from our service area for more than 12 months.
 - If you move or take a long trip, you need to call Customer Service to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan's area. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison).
- If you are not a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States.
- If you lie about or withhold information about other insurance you have that provides prescription drug coverage.
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you are enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide care for you and other members of our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get prescription drugs. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
 - If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General.
- If you do not pay the plan premiums for 60 days:
 - We must notify you in writing that you have 60 days to pay the plan premium before we end your membership.
- 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 plan and you will lose prescription drug coverage.

Where can you get more information?

If you have questions or would like more information on when we can end your membership:

- You can call **Customer Service** for more information (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 5.2

We cannot ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health

BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) is not allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health.

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel that you are being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, you should call

Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You may call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Section 5.3

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

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you file a grievance or can make a complaint about our decision to end your membership. You can also look in Chapter 7, Section 7 for information about how to make a complaint.

Chapter 9

Legal notices

Chapter 9. Legal notices

Section 1. Notice about governing law	110
Section 2. Notice about non-discrimination	110
Section 3. Notice about Medicare secondary payer subrogation rights	110
Section 4. Additional legal notices	110

Section 1. Notice about governing law

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

Section 2. Notice about non-discrimination

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

Section 3. Notice about Medicare secondary payer subrogation rights

We have the right and responsibility to collect for covered Medicare prescription drugs for which Medicare is not the primary payer. According to CMS regulations at 42 CFR sections 422.108 and 423.462, BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP), as a Medicare prescription drug plan sponsor, will exercise

the same rights of recovery that the Secretary exercises under CMS regulations in subparts B through D of part 411 of 42 CFR and the rules established in this section supersede any state laws.

Section 4. Additional legal notices

Collecting member payments

Under certain circumstances, if we pay the health care provider amounts that are your responsibility, such as deductibles, copayments or coinsurance, we may collect such amounts directly from you. You agree that we have the right to collect such amounts from you.

Assignment

The benefits provided under this *Evidence of Coverage* are for the personal benefit of the member and cannot be transferred or assigned. Any attempt to assign this contract will automatically terminate all rights under this contract.

Notice of claim

In the event that a service is rendered for which you are billed, you have at least 12 months from the date of service to submit such claims to your plan. According to CMS Pub 100-02 Benefit Policy, Chapter 15, Section 40, physicians and practitioners are required to submit claims on behalf of beneficiaries for all items and services they provide for which Medicare payment may be made under Part B. Also, they **are not allowed to charge beneficiaries in excess of the limits on charges that apply to the item or service being furnished.** However, a physician or practitioner (as defined in §40.4) may opt out of Medicare. A physician or practitioner who opts out is not required to submit claims on behalf of beneficiaries and also is excluded from limits on charges for Medicare covered services.

You may submit such claims to:

Express Scripts
ATTN: Medicare Part D
P.O. Box 14718
Lexington, KY 40512-4718

Entire contract

This *Evidence of Coverage* and applicable riders attached hereto, and your completed enrollment form, constitute the entire contract between the parties and as of the effective date hereof, supersede all other agreements between the parties.

Waiver by agents

No agent or other person, except an executive officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc., has authority to waive any conditions or restrictions of this *Evidence of Coverage* or the Drug Chart in Chapter 4.

No change in this *Evidence of Coverage* shall be valid unless evidenced by an endorsement signed by an authorized executive officer of the company or by an amendment to it signed by the authorized company officer.

Cessation of operation

In the event of the cessation of operation or dissolution of your plan in the area in which you reside, this *Evidence of Coverage* will be terminated. You will receive notice 90 days before the *Evidence of Coverage* is terminated.

Please note: If the *Evidence of Coverage* terminates, your coverage will also end.

In that event, the company will explain your options at that time. For example, there may be other health plans in the area for you to join if you wish. Or, you may wish to return to Original Medicare and possibly obtain supplemental insurance. In the latter situation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. would arrange for you to obtain, without health screening or a waiting period, a supplemental health insurance policy to cover Medicare coinsurance and deductibles.

Whether you enroll in another prepaid health plan or not, there would be no gap in coverage.

Refusal to accept treatment

You may, for personal or religious reasons, refuse to accept procedures or treatment recommended as necessary by your primary care physician. Although such refusal is your right, in some situations it may be regarded as a barrier to the continuance of the provider/patient relationship or to the rendering of the appropriate standard of care.

When a member refuses a recommended, necessary treatment or procedure and the primary care physician believes that no professionally acceptable alternative exists, the member will be advised of this belief.

Limitation of actions

No legal action may be taken to recover benefits within 60 days after the service is rendered. No such action may be taken later than 3 years after the service upon which the legal action is based was provided.

Circumstances beyond plan control

If there is an epidemic, catastrophe, general emergency or other circumstance beyond the company's control, neither your plan nor any provider shall have any liability or obligation except the following, as a result of reasonable delay in providing services:

- Because of the occurrence, you may have to obtain covered services from a non-network provider instead of a network provider. Your plan will reimburse you up to the amount that would have been covered under this *Evidence of Coverage*.
- Your plan may require written statements from you and the medical personnel who attended you confirming your illness or injury and the necessity for the treatment you received.

Plan's sole discretion

The plan may, at its sole discretion, cover services and supplies not specifically covered by the *Evidence of Coverage*.

This applies if the plan determines such services and supplies are in lieu of more expensive services and supplies that would otherwise be required for the care and treatment of a member.

Disclosure

You are entitled to ask for the following information from your plan:

- Information on your plan's physician incentive plans.
- Information on the procedures your plan uses to control utilization of services and expenditures.
- Information on the financial condition of the company.
- General coverage and comparative plan information.

To obtain this information, call Customer Service at 1-800-928-6201 or, if you are hearing or speech impaired and have a TTY telephone line, 711. The Customer Service department is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30. The plan will send this information to you within 30 days of your request.

Information about advance directives

(Information about using a legal form such as a “living will” or “power of attorney” to give directions in advance about your health care in case you become unable to make your own health care decisions)

You have the right to make your own health care decisions. *But what if you had an accident or illness so serious that you became unable to make these decisions for yourself?*

If this were to happen:

- You might want a particular person you trust to make these decisions for you.
- You might want to let health care providers know the types of medical care you would *want* and *not*

want if you were not able to make decisions for yourself.

- You might want to do both - to appoint someone else to make decisions for you, and to let this person and your health care providers know the kinds of medical care you would want if you were unable to make these decisions for yourself.

If you wish, you can fill out and sign a special form that lets others know what you want done if you cannot make health care decisions for yourself. This form is a legal document. It is sometimes called an “advance directive,” because it lets you give directions in advance about what you want to happen if you ever become unable to make your own health care decisions.

There are different types of advance directives and different names for them depending on your state or local area. For example, documents called “living will” and “power of attorney for health care” are examples of advance directives.

It's your choice whether you want to fill out an advance directive. The law forbids any discrimination against you in your medical care based on whether or not you have an advance directive.

How can you use a legal form to give your instructions in advance?

If you decide that you want to have an advance directive, there are several ways to get this type of legal form. You can get a form from your lawyer, from a social worker and from some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare, such as your SHIP (which stands for State Health Insurance Assistance Program). Chapter 2 of this booklet tells how to contact your SHIP. (SHIPs have different names depending on which state you are in.)

Regardless of where you get this form, keep in mind that it is a legal document. You should consider having a lawyer help you prepare it. It is important to sign this form and keep a copy at home. You should give

a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form as the one to make decisions for you if you can't.

You may want to give copies to close friends or family members as well. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be hospitalized, take a copy with you.

If you are hospitalized, they will ask you about an advance directive

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.

It is your choice whether to sign or not. If you decide not to sign an advance directive form, you will not be denied care or be discriminated against in the care you are given.

What if providers don't follow the instructions you have given?

If you believe that a doctor or hospital has not followed the instructions in your advance directive, you may file a complaint with your state Department of Health.

Continuity and coordination of care

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. has policies and procedures in place to promote the coordination and continuity of medical care for our members. This includes the confidential exchange of information between primary care physicians and specialists, as well as behavioral health providers.

Subrogation and reimbursement

These provisions apply when we pay benefits as a result of injuries or illness you sustained and you have a right to a recovery or have received a recovery. We have the right to recover payments we make on your behalf from, or take any legal action against any party responsible for compensating you for your injuries. We also have a right to be repaid from any recovery in the amount of benefits paid on your behalf. The following apply:

- The amount of our recovery will be calculated pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 411.37, and pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 422.108(f), no state laws shall apply to our subrogation and reimbursement rights.
- Our subrogation and reimbursement rights shall have first priority, to be paid before any of your other claims are paid. Our subrogation and reimbursement rights will not be affected, reduced, or eliminated by the “made whole” doctrine or any other equitable doctrine.
- You must notify us promptly of how, when and where an accident or incident resulting in personal injury or illness to you occurred and all information regarding the parties involved, and you must notify us promptly if you retain an attorney related to such an accident or incident. You and your legal representative must cooperate with us, do whatever is necessary to enable us to exercise our rights and do nothing to prejudice our rights.
- If you fail to repay us, we shall be entitled to deduct any of the unsatisfied portion of the amount of benefits we have paid or the amount of your recovery whichever is less, from any future benefit under the plan.

Chapter 10

Definitions of important words

Chapter 10. Definitions of important words

Appeal – An appeal is something you do if you disagree with our decision to deny a request for coverage of prescription drugs or payment for drugs you already received. For example, you may ask for an appeal if we don't pay for a drug you think you should be able to receive. Chapter 7 explains appeals, including the process involved in making an appeal.

Annual Enrollment Period – A set time each fall when members can change their health or drug plans or switch to Original Medicare. The Annual Enrollment Period is from October 15 until December 7.

Brand-name drug – A prescription drug that is manufactured and sold by the pharmaceutical company that originally researched and developed the drug. Brand-name drugs have the same active-ingredient formula as the generic version of the drug. However, generic drugs are manufactured and sold by other drug manufacturers and are generally not available until after the patent on the brand-name drug has expired.

Catastrophic coverage stage – The stage in the Part D Drug Benefit where you pay a low copayment or coinsurance for your drugs after you or other qualified parties on your behalf have spent \$5,000 in covered drugs during the covered year.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – The Federal agency that administers Medicare. Chapter 2 explains how to contact CMS.

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

Complaint – The formal name for “making a complaint” is “filing a grievance.” The complaint process is used for certain types of problems *only*. This includes problems related to quality of care, waiting times and the customer service you receive. See also “Grievance,” in this list of definitions.

Copayment (or “copay”) – An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for a prescription drug. A copayment is a set amount, rather than a percentage. For example, you might pay \$10 or \$20 for a prescription drug.

Cost sharing – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when drugs are received. (This is in addition to the plan's monthly premium.) Cost sharing includes any combination of the following three types of payments: 1) any deductible amount a plan may impose before drugs are covered; 2) any fixed “copayment” amount that a plan requires when a specific drug is received; or 3) any “coinsurance” amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a drug, that a plan requires when a specific drug is received. A “daily cost-sharing rate” may apply when your doctor prescribes less than a full month's supply of certain drugs for you and you are required to pay a copayment.

Cost-sharing tier – Every drug on the list of covered drugs is in one of six cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher your cost for the drug.

Coverage determination – A decision about whether a drug prescribed for you is covered by the plan and the amount, if any, you are required to pay for the prescription. In general, if you bring your prescription to a pharmacy and the pharmacy tells you the prescription isn't covered under your plan, that isn't a coverage determination. You need to call or write to your plan to ask for a formal decision about the coverage. Coverage determinations are called “coverage decisions” in this booklet. Chapter 7 explains how to ask us for a coverage decision.

Covered drugs – The term we use to mean all of the prescription drugs covered by our plan.

Creditable prescription drug coverage – Prescription drug coverage (for example, from an employer or union) that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug

coverage. People who have this kind of coverage when they become eligible for Medicare can generally keep that coverage without paying a penalty, if they decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

Customer Service – A department within our plan responsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits, grievances and appeals. See Chapter 2 for information about how to contact Customer Service.

Daily cost-sharing rate - A “daily cost-sharing rate” may apply when your doctor prescribes less than a full month's supply of certain drugs for you and you are required to pay a copayment. A daily cost-sharing rate is the copayment divided by the number of days in a month's supply. Here is an example: If your copayment for a one-month supply of a drug is \$30, and a one-month's supply in your plan is 30 days, then your “daily cost-sharing rate” is \$1 per day. This means you pay \$1 for each day's supply when you fill your prescription.

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

Dispensing fee – A fee charged each time a covered drug is dispensed to pay for the cost of filling a prescription. The dispensing fee covers costs such as the pharmacist's time to prepare and package the prescription.

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

Exception – A type of coverage determination that, if approved, allows you to get a drug that is not on your plan sponsor's formulary (a formulary exception) or get a nonpreferred drug at a lower cost-sharing level (a tiering exception). You may also request an exception if your plan sponsor requires you to try another drug before receiving the drug you are

requesting, or the plan limits the quantity or dosage of the drug you are requesting (a formulary exception).

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.

Generic drug – A prescription drug that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as having the same active ingredient(s) as the brand-name drug. Generally, a “generic” drug works the same as a brand-name drug and usually costs less.

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

Income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) – If your income is above a certain limit, you will pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount in addition to your plan premium. For example, individuals with income greater than \$85,000 and married couples with income greater than \$170,000 must pay a higher Medicare Part B (medical insurance) and Medicare prescription drug coverage premium amount. This additional amount is called the income-related monthly adjustment amount. Less than 5% of people with Medicare are affected, so most people will not pay a higher premium.

Initial coverage limit – The maximum limit of coverage under the initial coverage stage.

Initial coverage stage – This is the stage before your total drug costs, including amounts you have paid and what your plan has paid on your behalf for the year, have reached \$3,750.

Initial Enrollment Period – When you are first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B. For example, if you're eligible for Medicare when you turn 65, your Initial Enrollment Period is the seven-month period that begins three months before the month

you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65 and ends three months after the month you turn 65.

List of Covered Drugs (Formulary or “Drug List”)

– A list of prescription drugs covered by the plan. The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The list includes both brand-name and generic drugs.

Low-income subsidy (LIS) – See “Extra Help.”

Medicaid (or Medical Assistance) – A joint Federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with low incomes and limited resources. Medicaid programs vary from state to state, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid. See Chapter 2, Section 6 for information about how to contact Medicaid in your state.

Medically accepted indication – A use of a drug that is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books. See Chapter 3, Section 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.

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). People with Medicare can get their Medicare health coverage through Original Medicare, a Medicare Cost Plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.

Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan – Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A and Part B benefits. A Medicare Advantage plan can be an HMO, PPO, a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan or a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare services are covered through the plan, and are not paid for under Original Medicare. In most cases, Medicare Advantage plans also offer Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). These plans are called **Medicare Advantage Plans with Prescription Drug Coverage**. Everyone

who has Medicare Part A and Part B is eligible to join any Medicare Health Plan that is offered in their area, except people with end-stage renal disease (unless certain exceptions apply).

Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program – A program that provides discounts on most covered Part D brand-name drugs to Part D members who have reached the coverage gap stage and who are not already receiving “Extra Help.” Discounts are based on agreements between the Federal Government and certain drug manufacturers. For this reason, most, but not all, brand-name drugs are discounted.

Medicare-covered services – Services covered by Medicare Part A and Part B.

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).

Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) – Insurance to help pay for outpatient prescription drugs, vaccines, biologicals and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B.

“Medigap” (Medicare supplement insurance) policy – Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill “gaps” in Original Medicare. Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare. (A Medicare Advantage plan is not a Medigap policy.)

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

Network pharmacy – A network pharmacy is a pharmacy where members of our plan can get their prescription drug benefits. We call them “network pharmacies” because they contract with our plan. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered only if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies.

Original Medicare (“Traditional Medicare” or “Fee-for-service” Medicare) – Original Medicare is offered by the government, and not a private health plan like Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals and other health care providers payment amounts established by Congress. You can see any doctor, hospital or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has two parts: Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) and is available everywhere in the United States.

Out-of-network pharmacy – A pharmacy that doesn't have a contract with our plan to coordinate or provide covered drugs to members of our plan. As explained in this *Evidence of Coverage*, most drugs you get from out-of-network pharmacies are not covered by our plan unless certain conditions apply.

Out-of-pocket costs – See the definition for “cost sharing” above. A member’s cost-sharing requirement to pay for a portion of drugs received is also referred to as the member’s “out-of-pocket” cost requirement.

Part C – See “*Medicare Advantage (MA) plan.*”

Part D – The voluntary Medicare prescription drug Benefit Program. (For ease of reference, we refer to the prescription drug benefit program as Part D.)

Part D drugs – Drugs that can be covered under Part D. We may or may not offer all Part D drugs. (See your *Formulary* for a specific list of covered drugs.) Certain categories of drugs were specifically excluded by Congress from being covered as Part D drugs.

Preferred cost sharing – Preferred cost sharing means lower cost sharing for certain covered Part D drugs at certain network pharmacies.

Part D Late Enrollment Penalty – An amount added to your monthly premium for Medicare drug coverage if you go without creditable coverage (coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as

standard Medicare prescription drug coverage) for a continuous period of 63 days or more. You pay this higher amount as long as you have a Medicare drug plan. There are some exceptions. For example, if you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay your prescription drug plan costs, the late enrollment penalty rules do not apply to you. If you receive “Extra Help,” you do not pay a late enrollment penalty.

Premium – The periodic payment to Medicare, an insurance company or a health care plan for health or prescription drug coverage.

Prior authorization – Approval in advance to get certain drugs that may or may not be on our formulary. Some drugs are covered only if your doctor or other network provider gets “prior authorization” from us. Covered drugs that need prior authorization are marked in the *Formulary*.

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) – A group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the Federal Government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients. See Chapter 2 for information about how to contact the QIO for your state.

Quantity limits – A management tool that is designed to limit the use of selected drugs for quality, safety or utilization reasons. Limits may be on the amount of the drug that we cover per prescription or for a defined period of time.

Service area – A geographic area where a prescription drug plan accepts members if it limits membership based on where people live. The plan may disenroll you if you permanently move out of the plan’s service area.

Special Enrollment Period – A set time when members can change their health or drug plans or return to Original Medicare. Situations in which you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period include: if you move outside of the service area, if you are getting “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs, if you move into a nursing home or if we violate our contract with you.

Standard cost sharing – Standard cost sharing is cost sharing other than preferred cost sharing offered at a network pharmacy.

Step therapy – A utilization tool that requires you to first try another drug to treat your medical condition before we will cover the drug your physician may have initially prescribed.

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

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. is a PDP plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. depends on contract renewal. Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. (AICI) has contracted with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to offer Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) noted above or herein. AICI is the state-licensed, risk-bearing entity offering these plans. AICI has retained the services of its related companies and authorized agents/brokers/producers to provide administrative services and/or to make the PDPs available in this region. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. and AICI are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BCBSGa Blue MedicareRx Premier (PDP) Customer Service

Call: 1-800-928-6201. Calls to this number are free. From October 1 through February 14, Customer Service representatives will be available to answer your call directly from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Beginning February 15, Customer Service representatives will be available to answer your call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Our automated system is available any time for self-service options. You can also leave a message after hours and on weekends and holidays. Please leave your phone number and the other information requested by our automated system. A representative will return your call by the end of the next business day. Customer Service also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.

TTY: 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.

Fax: 1-805-713-5986

Write: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. Customer Service
P.O. Box 9282
Oxnard, CA 93031-9282

Website: <https://shop.bcbsga.com/medicare>

State Health Insurance Program

State Health Insurance Programs are state programs that get money from the Federal Government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

In Georgia:

GeorgiaCares

Call: 1-866-552-4464

TTY: 711. This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.

Write: GeorgiaCares
2 Peachtree Street NW
33rd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Website: <http://www.mygeorgiacares.org>

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