

GLOSSARY — TERMS TO KNOW

Allowed amount: The amount Blue Cross has agreed to pay a specific provider for a covered service.

Coinsurance: This payment structure starts after meeting your deductible. In coinsurance, you and the plan each pay a percentage for covered services. Example: 80/20 coinsurance means the plan pays 80 percent and you pay 20 percent.

Convenience or retail clinic: These clinics treat a limited list of common illnesses. They are often located in or near a retail store.

Copay: A fee you pay every time you get care or a prescription. Copays can vary based on where you get care (virtual, clinic, urgent care, etc.).

Cost sharing: Refers to the member sharing medical costs with the health plan through copays, deductible and coinsurance.

Deductible: The dollar amount you must pay for most covered services each calendar year before the health plan begins to pay for benefits.

Eligible or covered services: Healthcare covered by your plan.

Embedded deductible: Plan begins paying benefits that require cost sharing for the first family member who meets the per-person deductible. Once one or more of the remaining family members meet the family deductible the plan pays benefits for all covered family members.

Explanation of Benefits (EOB): A letter you receive after getting care that shows costs, the amount the health plan is expected to pay and the amount you are expected to pay. You do not pay anything when you receive an EOB. An EOB is not a bill.

Formulary or drug list: A list of FDA-approved prescription drugs covered by your health plan. To help ensure you get the right drugs for your needs, some drugs may require prior authorization, step therapy, and/or quantity limits.

Health plan: Can refer to your health insurance company or your specific health plan.

In-network: Providers or pharmacies in your plan's network that give you the most coverage (lowest cost). Note: An in-network provider is not the same as a participating provider.

Member website: A secure website for accessing plan details and cost information as well as health and wellbeing tools.

Nonparticipating provider: A provider that does not have a contract with the health plan. You pay in full when using these providers. Note: A nonparticipating provider is not the same as an out-of-network provider.

Out-of-network: A provider or pharmacy that has a contract with the health plan but is not part of your plan's network. You may pay more when using these providers/pharmacies. Note: An out-of-network provider is not the same as a nonparticipating provider.

Out-of-pocket expense/cost: Refers to costs the member pays: premium, copay, deductible, coinsurance, and non-covered services or over-the-allowed-amount costs.

Out-of-pocket (OOP) maximum: This is the last milestone you hit by paying for covered medical services. Once you reach this amount, the plan pays for all covered in-network services for the plan year's remainder.

Participating provider: A provider that has a contract with the health plan, and may be in or out of your plan's network. Note: A participating provider is not the same as an in-network provider.

Premium: Your monthly payment, like a membership fee. Your employer may pay part of your premium. You may also be able to pay your premium pretax from your paycheck.

Provider: Refers to doctors, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies and other healthcare professionals.

Service (also called "care"): Medical procedures, treatment, and prescription drugs.