



ESSENTIAL

2026

Evidence of Coverage

BlueRxSM is a PDP with a Medicare contract.
Enrollment in BlueRx (PDP) depends on contract renewal.

BlueRx (PDP) is provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company, independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Discrimination is Against the Law

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex (consistent with the scope of sex discrimination described in 45 CFR § 92.101(a)(2)). We do not exclude people or treat them less favorably because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama:

- Provides reasonable modifications and free appropriate auxiliary aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language assistance services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages

If you need reasonable modifications, appropriate auxiliary aids and services, or language assistance services, contact our 1557 Compliance Coordinator. If you believe that we have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email at: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Compliance Office, 450 Riverchase Parkway East, Birmingham, Alabama 35244, Attn: 1557 Compliance Coordinator, 1-855-216-3144, 711 (TTY), 1-205-220-2984 (fax), 1557Grievance@bcbosal.org (email). If you need help filing a grievance, our 1557 Compliance Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 1-800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

Visit AlabamaBlue.com/NoticeofNondiscrimination to view an electronic version of this notice.

Notice of Availability of Language Assistance Services and Auxiliary Aids and Services

English: ATTENTION: Free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids and services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) or call Customer Service.

Arabic: انتباه: إذا كنت تتحدث العربية، تتوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية المجانية. كما تتوفر أيضًا المساعدات والخدمات الإضافية المناسبة لتوفير المعلومات بتنسيقات يسهل الوصول إليها مجانًا. اتصل بالرقم 1-855-216-3144 (الهاتف النصي: 711) أو الاتصال بخدمة العملاء.

Chinese: 请注意：如果您说普通话，我们可免费为您提供语言协助服务。我们还免费提供适当的辅助工具和服，以易读格式向您提供信息。请拨打 1-855-216-3144（TTY: 711）或致电客户服务部。

French: À NOTER : Si vous parlez français, des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits sont à votre disposition. Des aides et des services auxiliaires appropriés pour fournir des informations dans des formats accessibles sont également disponibles gratuitement. Appelez le 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) ou contactez le service client.

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose Sprachassistentendienste zur Verfügung. Geeignete Hilfsmittel und Dienstleistungen zur Bereitstellung von Informationen in zugänglichen Formaten sind ebenfalls kostenlos erhältlich. Rufen Sie 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) oder den Kundendienst an.

Gujarati: ધ્યાન આપો: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલો છો, તો તમારા માટે નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ ઉપલબ્ધ છે. સુલભ ફોર્મેટમાં માહિતી પ્રદાન કરવા માટેની યોગ્ય સહાય અને સેવાઓ પણ વિના મૂલ્યે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) પર અથવા ગ્રાહક સેવા પર કૉલ કરો.

Hindi: ध्यान दें: अगर आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं, तो आपके लिए नि:शुल्क भाषा सहायता सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं। आसान प्रारूप में सूचना उपलब्ध कराने के लिए उपयुक्त सहायक साधन और सेवाएँ भी नि:शुल्क उपलब्ध हैं। 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) पर कॉल करें या ग्राहक सेवा को कॉल करें।

Japanese: ご案内：日本語を話される方には、無料の言語アシスタントサービスをご用意しております。アクセシブルな形式で情報を提供するため、補助器具や支援サービスも無料で提供しております。1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) もしくは、カスタマーサービスにお電話でお問合せください。

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Lao: ເອົາໃຈໃສ່: ຖ້າເຈົ້າເວົ້າ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາພຣີແມ່ນມີໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ ແລະ ການບໍລິການທີ່ເໝາະສົມໃນການສະໜອງຂໍ້ມູນໃນຮູບແບບທີ່ສາມາດເຂົ້າເຖິງໄດ້ແມ່ນຍັງສາມາດໃຊ້ໄດ້ໂດຍບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າ. ໂທ 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) ຫຼື ໂທຫາຝ່າຍບໍລິການລູກຄ້າ.

Portuguese: ATENÇÃO: Se você falar português, serviços gratuitos de assistência linguística estão disponíveis para você. Também estão disponíveis gratuitamente ajudas e serviços auxiliares adequados para fornecer informações em formatos acessíveis. Ligue para 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) ou ligue para o Atendimento ao Cliente.

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если ваш язык русский язык, к вашим услугам бесплатная языковая помощь. Соответствующие вспомогательные средства и услуги по предоставлению информации в доступных форматах также предоставляются бесплатно. Позвоните по телефону 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) или обратитесь в службу поддержки клиентов.

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si usted habla español, hay disponibles servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. También hay disponibles, de forma gratuita, ayudas y servicios auxiliares adecuados para dar información en formatos accesibles. Llame al 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) o llame a Servicio al cliente.

Tagalog: Paunawa: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, available sa iyo ang mga libreng serbisyo sa tulong sa wika. Available rin ang naaangkop na mga pantulong na tulong at serbisyo nang walang bayad para magbigay ng impormasyon sa mga naa-access na format. Tumawag sa 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) o tumawag sa Serbisyo sa Customer.

Turkish: DİKKAT: Konuşmanız durumunda Türkçe, ücretsiz dil yardımı hizmetlerinden yararlanabilirsiniz. Erişilebilir formatlarda bilgi sağlamak için uygun yardımcı araçlar ve hizmetler de ücretsiz olarak sunulmaktadır. 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) nolu telefonu veya Müşteri Hizmetlerini arayın.

Vietnamese: CHÚ Ý: Nếu quý vị nói tiếng việt thì dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí có sẵn cho quý vị. Chúng tôi cũng có các hỗ trợ và dịch vụ phụ trợ miễn phí phù hợp để cung cấp thông tin ở định dạng dễ tiếp cận. Vui lòng gọi số 1-855-216-3144 (TTY: 711) hoặc gọi Dịch Vụ Khách Hàng.

January 1 – December 31, 2026

Evidence of Coverage for 2026:

Your Medicare Drug Coverage as a Member of BlueRx Essential (PDP)

This document gives the details of your Medicare drug coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2026. **This is an important legal document. Keep it in a safe place.**

This document explains your benefits and rights. Use this document to understand:

- Our plan premium and cost sharing
- Our drug benefits
- How to file a complaint if you're not satisfied with a service or treatment
- How to contact us
- Other protections required by Medicare law

For questions about this document, call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN) (TTY users call 711). Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day. This call is free.

This plan, **BlueRx Essential**, is offered by **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company**. (When this *Evidence of Coverage* says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company**. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means **BlueRx Essential**.)

To receive this material in an alternative format, including braille, large print and audio, contact **Member Services** at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)**. (TTY users should call **711**.) Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.

Benefits, premiums, deductibles, and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2027.

Our formulary and/or pharmacy network may change at any time. You'll get notice about any changes that can affect you at least 30 days in advance.

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CHAPTER 1:

Get started as a member

SECTION 1 You're a member of BlueRx Essential

Section 1.1 You're enrolled in BlueRx Essential, which is a Medicare Drug Plan

You're covered by Original Medicare or another health plan for your health care coverage, and you chose to get your Medicare drug coverage through our plan, **BlueRx Essential**.

BlueRx Essential is a Medicare drug plan (PDP). Like all Medicare plans, this Medicare drug plan is approved by Medicare and run by a private company.

Section 1.2 Legal information about the *Evidence of Coverage*

This *Evidence of Coverage* is part of our contract with you about how **BlueRx Essential** covers your care. Other parts of this contract include your enrollment form, the *List of Covered Drugs* (formulary), and any notices you get 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 you're enrolled in **BlueRx Essential** between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.

Medicare allows us to make changes to plans we offer each calendar year. This means we can change the costs and benefits of **BlueRx Essential** after December 31, 2026. We can also choose to stop offering our plan in your service area, after December 31, 2026.

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

SECTION 2 Plan Eligibility Requirements

Section 2.1 Eligibility Requirements

You're eligible for membership in our plan as long as you meet all these conditions:

- You have Medicare Part A or Medicare Part B (or you have both Part A and Part B)
- You live in our geographic service area (described in Section 2.2). People who are incarcerated aren't considered to be living in the geographic service area, even if they're physically located in it.
- You're a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States

Section 2.2 Plan service area for BlueRx Essential

BlueRx Essential is only available to people who live in our plan service area. To stay a member of our plan, you must continue to live in our service area. The service area is described below.

Our service area includes these states: Alabama and Tennessee

If you move out of our plan's service area, you can't stay a member of this plan. Call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to see if we have a plan in your new area. When you move, you'll have a Special Enrollment Period to either switch to Original Medicare or enroll in a Medicare health or drug plan in your new location.

If you move or change your mailing address, it's also important to call Social Security. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778).



Section 2.3 U.S. citizen or lawful presence

You must be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States to be a member of a Medicare health plan. Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) will notify **BlueRx Essential** if you're not eligible to stay a member of our plan. **BlueRx Essential** must disenroll you if you don't meet this requirement.


SECTION 3 Important membership materials

Section 3.1 Our plan membership card


Use your membership card for prescription drugs you get at network pharmacies. You should also show the provider your Medicaid card, if you have one. Sample membership card:

	BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama	
A Medicare Approved Part D Sponsor		
Member Name JOHN DOE		
Member ID PDZ123456789	CMS Contract# and PBP# CMS S1030-001	
Issuer 80840	Rx BIN 014897	
Effective Date 01-01-2017	Rx PCN RPD	
	Rx GRP 90200	
MedicareRx Prescription Drug Coverage X		

Front of card

	www.bluerxalatenn.com
Member Services..... 800-327-3998	
TTY users, call..... 800-267-3384	
Pharmacy Customer Service..... 877-878-8668	
Physician Formulary Exceptions..... 888-234-8253	
Submit claims to: Part D Claims P.O. Box 20970 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0970	
BlueRx (PDP) is provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company, independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.	
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama 450 Riverchase Parkway East Birmingham, AL 35244	
S1030_PDZ_XXX	CMS Approval Date: XX/XXXX

Back of card

	BlueRx	
A Medicare Approved Part D Plan		
Member Name JOHN DOE		
Member ID PDO123456789	CMS Contract# and PBP# CMS S1030-006	
Issuer 80840	Rx BIN 014897	
Effective Date 01/01/2017	Rx PCN RPD	
	Rx GRP 90300	
MedicareRx Prescription Drug Coverage X		

Front of card

	www.bluerxalatenn.com
Member Services..... 888-311-7508	
TTY users, call..... 800-267-3384	
Pharmacy Customer Service..... 877-878-8668	
Physician Formulary Exceptions..... 888-234-8253	
Submit claims to: Part D Claims P.O. Box 20970 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0970	
BlueRx (PDP) is provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company, independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.	
UTIC Insurance Company 450 Riverchase Parkway East Birmingham, AL 35244	
S1030_PDO_XXX	CMS Approval Date: XX/XXXX

Back of card

Carry your card with you at all times and remember to show your card when you get covered drugs. If our plan membership card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) right away and we'll send you a new card.

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 Pharmacy Directory

The *Pharmacy Directory* **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/)** **Directory (TN)** lists our network pharmacies. **Network pharmacies** are pharmacies that agree to fill covered prescriptions for our plan members. Use the *Pharmacy Directory* to find

the network pharmacy you want to use. Go to Chapter 3, Section 2.4 for information on when you can use pharmacies that aren't in our plan's network.

If you don't have a *Pharmacy Directory*, you can ask for a copy from Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). You can also find this information on our website at **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory(TN))**.

Section 3.3 Drug List (formulary)

Our plan has a *List of Covered Drugs* (also called the Drug List or formulary). It tells which prescription drugs are covered under the Part D benefit included in **BlueRx Essential**. The drugs on this list are selected by our plan, with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The Drug List must meet Medicare's requirements. Drugs with negotiated prices under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program will be included on your Drug List unless they have been removed and replaced as described in Chapter 3, Section 6. Medicare approved the **BlueRx Essential** Drug List.

The Drug List also tells if there are any rules that restrict coverage for a drug.

We'll give you a copy of the Drug List. To get the most complete and current information about which drugs are covered, visit **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents \(TN\)](https://BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents(TN))** or call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

SECTION 4 Summary of Important Costs for 2026

	Your Costs in 2026
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium can be higher or lower than this amount. Go to Section 4.1 for details.	\$76.20
Part D drug coverage deductible (Go to Chapter 4, Section 4 for details.)	\$615 except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.
Part D drug coverage (Go to Chapter 4 for details, including Yearly Deductible, Initial Coverage, and Catastrophic Coverage Stages.)	Copayment/Coinsurance as applicable during the Initial Coverage Stage: Drug Tier 1: Retail cost-sharing: \$2 for a one-month (30 day) supply. Mail-order: \$2 for a one-month (30 day) supply.

	Your Costs in 2026
Part D drug coverage (continued)	<p>Drug Tier 2: <i>Retail cost-sharing:</i> \$10 for a one-month (30 day) supply. <i>Mail-order:</i> \$10 for a one-month (30 day) supply.</p> <p>Drug Tier 3: <i>Retail cost-sharing:</i> 19% of the total cost. You pay no more than \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier even if you have not met your deductible. <i>Mail-order:</i> 19% of the total cost. You pay no more than \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier even if you have not met your deductible.</p> <p>Drug Tier 4: <i>Retail cost-sharing:</i> 41% of the total cost. You pay no more than \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier even if you have not met your deductible. <i>Mail-order:</i> 41% of the total cost. You pay no more than \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier even if you have not met your deductible.</p> <p>Drug Tier 5: <i>Retail cost-sharing:</i> 25% of the total cost. <i>Mail-order:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost.</p> <p>Catastrophic Coverage Stage: During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.</p>

Your costs may include the following:

- Plan Premium (Section 4.1)
- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium (Section 4.2)
- Part D Late Enrollment Penalty (Section 4.3)
- Income Related Monthly Adjusted Amount (Section 4.4)

- Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Amount (Section 4.5)

Section 4.1 Plan Premium

As a member of our plan, you pay a monthly plan premium. For 2026, the monthly premium for **BlueRx Essential** is **\$76.20**.

If you *already* get 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, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) and ask for the *LIS Rider*.

In some situations, our 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. Learn more about these programs in Chapter 2, Section 7. If you qualify, enrolling in the program might lower your monthly plan premium.

Medicare Part B and Part D premiums differ for people with different incomes. If you have questions about these premiums, check your copy of *Medicare & You 2026* handbook in the section called *2026 Medicare Costs*. Download a copy from the Medicare website at ([Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you)) or order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 4.2 Monthly Medicare Part B Premium

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums

In addition to paying the monthly plan premium, **you must continue paying your Medicare premiums to stay a member of our plan**. This includes your premium for Part B. You may also pay a premium for Part A if you aren't eligible for premium-free Part A.

Section 4.3 Part D Late Enrollment Penalty

Some members are required to pay a Part D **late enrollment penalty**. The Part D late enrollment penalty is an additional premium that must be paid for Part D coverage if at any time after your initial enrollment period is over, there was a period of 63 days or more in a row when you didn't 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 drug coverage. The cost of the late enrollment penalty depends on how long you went without Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage. You'll 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 **BlueRx Essential**, we let you know the amount of the penalty. If you don't pay your Part D late enrollment penalty, you could lose your prescription drug benefits.

You **don't** have to pay the Part D late enrollment penalty if:

- You get Extra Help from Medicare to help pay your drug costs.
- You went less than 63 days in a row without creditable coverage.
- You had creditable drug coverage through another source (like a former employer, union, TRICARE, or Veterans Health Administration (VA)). Your insurer or human resources department will tell you each year if your drug coverage is creditable coverage. You may get this information in a letter or in a newsletter from that plan. Keep this information because you may need it if you join a Medicare drug plan later.
 - **Note:** Any letter or notice must state that you had creditable prescription drug coverage that is expected to pay as much as Medicare's standard drug plan pays.
 - **Note:** Prescription drug discount cards, free clinics, and drug discount websites aren't creditable prescription drug coverage.

Medicare determines the amount of the Part D late enrollment penalty. Here's how it works:

- If you went 63 days or more without Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage after you were first eligible to enroll in Part D, our plan will count the number of full months you didn't have coverage. The penalty is 1% for every month that you did not have creditable coverage. For example, if you go 14 months without coverage, the penalty percentage will be 14%.
- Then Medicare determines the amount of the average monthly premium for Medicare drug plans in the nation from the previous year (national base beneficiary premium). For 2026, this average premium amount is \$38.99.
- To calculate your monthly penalty, multiply the penalty percentage by the national base beneficiary premium and round to the nearest 10 cents. In the example here, it would be 14% times \$38.99, which equals \$5.46. This rounds to \$5.50. This amount would be added **to the monthly premium for someone with a Part D late enrollment penalty**.

Three important things to know about the monthly Part D late enrollment penalty:

- **The penalty may change each year** because the national base beneficiary premium can change each year.
- **You'll continue to pay a penalty** every month for as long as you're enrolled in a plan that has Medicare Part D drug benefits, even if you change plans.
- If you're *under* 65 and enrolled in Medicare, 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 you don't have coverage after your initial enrollment period for aging into Medicare.

If you disagree about your Part D late enrollment penalty, you or your representative can ask for a review. Generally, you must ask for this review **within 60 days** from the date on the first letter you get stating you have to pay a late enrollment penalty. However, if you were paying a penalty before you joined our plan, you may not have another chance to ask for a review of that late enrollment penalty.

Important: Don't 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 our plan premiums.

Section 4.4 Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount

Some members may be required to pay an extra charge, known as the Part D Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA). The extra charge is calculated using your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return from 2 years ago. If this amount is above a certain amount, you'll pay the standard premium amount and the additional IRMAA. For more information on the extra amount you may have to pay based on your income, visit [Medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/costs-for-medicare-drug-coverage/monthly-premium-for-drug-plans](https://www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/costs-for-medicare-drug-coverage/monthly-premium-for-drug-plans).

If you have to pay an extra IRMAA, Social Security, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be. 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 our 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'll get a bill from Medicare. **You must pay the extra IRMAA to the government. It can't be paid with your monthly plan premium. If you don't pay the extra IRMAA, you'll be disenrolled from our plan and lose prescription drug coverage.**

If you disagree about paying an extra IRMAA, you can ask Social Security to review the decision. To find out how to do this, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778).

Section 4.5 Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Amount

If you are participating in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, each month you'll pay our plan premium (if you have one) and you'll get a bill from your health or drug plan for your prescription drugs (instead of paying the pharmacy). Your monthly bill is based on what you owe for any prescriptions you get, plus your previous month's balance, divided by the number of months left in the year.

Chapter 2, Section 7 tells more about the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. If you disagree with the amount billed as part of this payment option, you can follow the steps in Chapter 7 to make a complaint or appeal.

SECTION 5 More information about your monthly premium

Section 5.1 How to pay our plan premium

There are 3 ways you can pay our plan premium.

Option 1: Pay by check

You can pay your monthly plan premium directly to **BlueRx Essential** by check. If you would like to pay for your premiums by check, we will send you a statement each month. Your monthly premiums are due the 1st of each month, and should be made payable to **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama**, and not CMS nor HHS. If premiums are not received by the end of the following month, your enrollment is subject to cancellation. If you do not pay your premiums for 180 days, we will cancel your membership in the plan. You can mail your payment to us at **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama**, P.O. Box 360387, Birmingham, AL 35236-0387. You may also drop off your check at the **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama** office located at 420 Riverchase Parkway East, Birmingham, AL 35244. You may leave your payment with an associate or use the lockbox in the parking lot for your convenience.

Option 2: Pay by Electronic Checking, Debit or Credit Card

You can have your monthly plan premium automatically withdrawn from your bank account, charged directly to your debit card or charged directly to your credit card. Deductions/charges will be made on or around the first of each month. If you would like to pay your premiums by electronic checking, debit or credit card, you will need to fill out an Authorization Agreement or submit a request by phone through Member Services. You can obtain this form from our website at [BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents \(TN\)](https://BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents(TN)) or you can contact Member Services to request one. (Phone numbers for Member Services are printed on the back cover of this document.)

Option 3: Have your premium taken out of your monthly Social Security check

You can have the plan premium taken out of your monthly Social Security check. Contact Member Services for more information on how to pay your monthly plan premium this way. We will be happy to help you set this up.

Changing the way you pay your plan premium. If you decide to change how you pay your plan premium, it can take up to 3 months for your new payment method to take effect. While we process your new payment method, you're still responsible for making sure your plan premium is paid on time. To change your payment method, please contact Member Services. Member Services can provide you with information on the requirements for each of the payment options above. (Phone numbers for Member Services are printed on the back cover of this document.)

If you have trouble paying your plan premium

Your plan premium is due in our office by the first day of the month. If we don't get your payment by the 10th, we'll send you a notice letting you know our plan membership will end if we don't get your plan premium within 180 days. If you owe a Part D late enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty to keep your drug coverage.

If you have trouble paying your premium on time, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to see if we can direct you to programs that will help with your plan premium.

If we end your membership because you did not pay your plan premium, you'll have health coverage under Original Medicare. You may not be able to get Part D drug coverage until the following year if you enroll in a new plan during the Open Enrollment Period. (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 unpaid premiums. We have the right to pursue collection of the amount you owe. If you want to enroll again in our plan (or another plan that we offer) in the future, you'll need to pay the amount you owe before you can enroll.

If you think we wrongfully ended your membership, you can make a complaint (also called a grievance). If you had an emergency circumstance out of your control that made you unable to pay your plan premium within our grace period, you can make a complaint. For complaints, we'll review our decision again. Go to Chapter 7 to learn how to make a complaint or call us at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** between Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day. TTY users call **711**. You must make your complaint no later than 60 calendar days after the date your membership ends.

Section 5.2 Our monthly plan premium won't change during the year

We're not allowed to change our plan's monthly plan premium amount during the year. If the monthly plan premium changes for next year, we'll tell you in September and the new premium will take effect on January 1.

If you become eligible for Extra Help or lose your eligibility for Extra Help during the year, the part of our plan premium you have to pay may change. If you qualify for Extra Help with your drug coverage costs, Extra Help pays part of your monthly plan premiums. If you lose your eligibility for Extra Help during the year, you'll need to start paying the full monthly premium. Find out more about Extra Help in Chapter 2, Section 7.

SECTION 6 Keep our plan membership record up to date

Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and phone number. It shows your specific plan coverage.

The pharmacists in our plan's network **use your membership record to know what drugs are covered and the cost-sharing amounts**. Because of this, it is very important you help to keep your information up to date.

If you have any of these changes, let us know:

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

If any of this information changes, let us know by calling Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

It's also important to contact Social Security if you move or change your mailing address. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users call 1-800-325-0778).

SECTION 7 How other insurance works with our plan

Medicare requires us to collect information about any other medical or drug coverage you have so we can coordinate any other coverage with your benefits under our plan. This is called **Coordination of Benefits**.

Once a year, we'll send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug coverage we know about. Read this information carefully. If it's correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information isn't correct, or if you have other coverage that's not listed, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). You may need to give our plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you confirm their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

When you have other insurance (like employer group health coverage), Medicare rules decide whether our plan or your other insurance pays first. The insurance that pays first (the "primary payer"), pays up to the limits of its coverage. The insurance that pays second (the "secondary payer"), only pays if there are costs left uncovered by the primary coverage. The secondary payer may not pay the uncovered costs. If you have other insurance, tell your doctor, hospital, and pharmacy.

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) are 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 has more than 100 employees.
 - If you're over 65 and you (or your spouse or domestic partner) are 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 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.

CHAPTER 2: Phone numbers and resources

SECTION 1 BlueRx Essential contacts

For help with claims, billing, or member card questions, call or write to BlueRx Essential. We'll be happy to help you.

Member Services – Contact Information	
Call	1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN) Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day. Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
Write	BlueRx Essential P.O. Box 995 Birmingham, AL 35298
Website	<u>BCBSALMedicare.com (AL)</u>/<u>BlueRxAlaTenn.com (TN)</u>

How to ask for a coverage decision or appeal

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your coverage or about the amount we pay for your Part D drugs. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision. For more information on how to ask for coverage decisions or appeals about your Part D drugs, go to Chapter 7.

Coverage Decisions and Appeals for Part D prescription drugs – Contact Information

Call	1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN) Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
Fax	1-855-212-8110
Write	BlueRx Essential Attn: Clinical Review Department 2900 Ames Crossing Road Suite 200 Eagan, MN 55121
Website	BCBSALMedicare.com (AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com (TN)

How to make a complaint

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 doesn't involve coverage or payment disputes. For more information on how to make a complaint, go to Chapter 7.

Complaints – Contact Information

Call	1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN) Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
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Complaints – Contact Information

TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
Write	BlueRx Essential Attn: Grievances P.O. Box 995 Birmingham, AL 35298
Medicare website	To submit a complaint about BlueRx Essential directly to Medicare, go to Medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx .

How to ask us to pay our share of the cost of a drug you got

If you got a bill or paid for drugs (like a pharmacy bill) you think we should pay for, you may need to ask our plan for reimbursement or to pay the pharmacy bill. Go to Chapter 5 for more information.

If you send us a payment request and we deny any part of your request, you can appeal our decision. Go to Chapter 7 for more information.

Payment Requests – Contact Information

Call	1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN) Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.

Payment Requests – Contact Information

Write	Prescription Drug Claims Payment Requests P. O. Box 20970 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0970
Website	BCBSALMedicare.com (AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com (TN)

SECTION 2 Get Help from Medicare

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 (CMS). This agency contracts with Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, including our plan.

Medicare – Contact Information

Call	1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) Calls to this number are free. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
TTY	1-877-486-2048 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free.
Chat Live	Chat live at Medicare.gov/talk-to-someone .
Write	Write to Medicare at PO Box 1270, Lawrence, KS 66044
Website	Medicare.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get information about the Medicare health and drug plans in your area, including what they cost and what services they provide. • Find Medicare-participating doctors or other health care providers and suppliers. • Find out what Medicare covers, including preventive services (like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly “Wellness” visits). • Get Medicare appeals information and forms.

Medicare – Contact Information

- Get information about the quality of care provided by plans, nursing homes, hospitals, doctors, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, hospice centers, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals.
- Look up helpful websites and phone numbers.

You can also visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about **BlueRx Essential**.

To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to [Medicare.gov/MedicareComplaintForm/home.aspx](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.

SECTION 3 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state that offers free help, information, and answers to your Medicare questions. Here is a list of the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs in each state we serve:

- In Alabama, the SHIP is called Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
- In Tennessee, the SHIP is called Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Programs are independent state programs (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.

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

Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program – Contact Information

Call

1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463)
Available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program – Contact Information

Write	Alabama Department of Senior Services 201 Monroe Street, Suite 350 Montgomery, AL 36104 ageline@adss.alabama.gov
Website	AlabamaAgeLine.gov

Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program – Contact Information

Call	1-877-801-0044
Write	Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability 502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor Nashville, TN 37243-0860
Website	Tn.Aging.gov/Aging

SECTION 4 Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO)

A designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) serves people with Medicare in each state. Here is a list of the Quality Improvement Organizations in each state we serve:

- For Alabama, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Acentra Health.
- For Tennessee, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Acentra Health.

Acentra Health has a group of doctors and other health care professionals paid by Medicare to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. Acentra Health is an independent organization. It is not connected with our plan.

Contact Acentra Health if you have a complaint about the quality of care you got. For example, you can contact Acentra Health if you were given the wrong medication or if you were given medications that interact in a negative way.

Acentra Health (Alabama's Quality Improvement Organization) – Contact Information

Call	1-888-317-0751 Available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
TTY	711

Acentra Health (Alabama's Quality Improvement Organization) – Contact Information

Write	Acentra Health 5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900 Tampa, FL 33609
Website	Acentraqio.com

Acentra Health (Tennessee's Quality Improvement Organization) – Contact Information

Call	1-888-317-0751 Available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
TTY	711
Write	Acentra Health 5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900 Tampa, FL 33609
Website	Acentraqio.com

SECTION 5 Social Security

Social Security determines Medicare eligibility and handles Medicare enrollment. Social Security is also responsible for determining who has to pay an extra amount for Part D drug coverage because they have a higher income. If you got a letter from Social Security telling you that you have to pay the extra amount and have questions about the amount or if your income went down because of a life-changing event, you can call Social Security to ask for reconsideration.

If you move or change your mailing address, contact Social Security to let them know.

Social Security – Contact Information

Call	1-800-772-1213 Calls to this number are free. Available 8 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday. Use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.
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Social Security – Contact Information

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 8 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday.
Website	SSA.gov

SECTION 6 Medicaid

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. Medicaid offers programs to help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These **Medicare Savings Programs** include:

- **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+).)
- **Qualifying Individual (QI):** Helps pay Part B premiums.
- **Qualified Disabled & Working Individuals (QDWI):** Helps pay Part A premiums.

To find out more about Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs, contact the Alabama Medicaid Agency for Alabama residents and TennCare for Tennessee residents.

Alabama Medicaid Agency – Contact Information

Call	1-800-362-1504 Available 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
TTY	1-800-253-0799 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking.
Write	Alabama Medicaid Agency P. O. Box 5624 Montgomery, AL 36103-5624
Website	Medicaid.Alabama.gov

TennCare (Tennessee’s Medicaid Program) – Contact Information

Call	1-800-342-3145 Available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Write	Bureau of TennCare 310 Great Circle Road Nashville, TN 37243
Website	Tn.gov/TennCare

SECTION 7 Programs to help people pay for prescription drugs

The Medicare website ([Medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/drug-costs](https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/drug-costs)) has information on ways to lower your prescription drug costs. The programs below can help people with limited incomes.

Extra Help from Medicare

Medicare and Social Security have a program called Extra Help that can help pay drug costs for people with limited income and resources. If you qualify, you get help paying for your Medicare drug plan’s monthly premium, yearly deductible, and copayments and coinsurance. Extra Help also counts toward your out-of-pocket costs.

If you automatically qualify for Extra Help, Medicare will mail you a purple letter to let you know. If you don’t automatically qualify, you can apply anytime. To see if you qualify for getting Extra Help:

- Visit secure.ssa.gov/i1020/start to apply online.
- Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users call 1-800-325-0778.

When you apply for Extra Help, you can also start the application process for a Medicare Savings Program (MSP). These state programs provide help with other Medicare costs. Social Security will send information to your state to initiate an MSP application, unless you tell them not to on the Extra Help application.

If you qualify for Extra Help and you think that you’re paying an incorrect amount for your prescription at a pharmacy, our plan has a process to help you get evidence of the right copayment amount. If you already have evidence of the right amount, we can help you share this evidence with us.

- Contact Member Services to provide a copy of your SSA Letter received (Notice of Award, Notice of Change, Notice of Planned Action and/or Important Information) to our plan or to request assistance with obtaining Best Available Evidence to establish your appropriate subsidy status.

- When we get the evidence showing the right copayment level, we'll update our system so you can pay the right amount when you get your next prescription. If you overpay your copayment, we'll pay you back either by check or a future copayment credit. If the pharmacy didn't collect your copayment and you owe them a debt, we may make the payment directly to the pharmacy. If a state paid on your behalf, we may make payment directly to the state. Call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) if you have questions.

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

Many states offer help paying for prescriptions, drug plan premiums and/or other drug costs. If you're enrolled in a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP), Medicare's Extra Help pays first.

What if you have Extra Help and coverage from an AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)?

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps people living with HIV/AIDS access life-saving HIV medications. Medicare Part D drugs that are also on the ADAP formulary qualify for prescription cost-sharing help through the through the Alabama AIDS Drug Assistance Program. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the Alabama AIDS Drug Assistance Program at 1-866-574-9964. In Tennessee, Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the Tennessee Department of Health at 1-615-741-7500.

Note: To be eligible for the ADAP in your state, people 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 change plans, notify your local ADAP enrollment worker so you can continue to get help. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, call 1-866-574-9964 in Alabama or 1-615-741-7500 in Tennessee.

State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs

Many states have State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs that help 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.

Here is a list of the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs in each state we serve:

- In Alabama, the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program is Alabama SeniorRx Prescription Assistance Program.
- In Tennessee, the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program is Tennessee Drug Card.

Alabama SenioRx Prescription Assistance Program – Contact Information

Call	1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463) Available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.
Write	Alabama Department of Senior Services 201 Monroe Street, Suite 350 Montgomery, AL 36104 ageline@adss.alabama.gov
Website	AlabamaAgeLine.gov

Tennessee Drug Card – Contact Information

Call	1-888-987-0688
Website	TennesseeDrugCard.com

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a payment option that works with your current drug coverage to help you manage your out-of-pocket costs for drugs covered by our plan by spreading them across **the calendar year** (January – December). Anyone with a Medicare drug plan or Medicare health plan with drug coverage (like a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage) can use this payment option. **This payment option might help you manage your expenses, but it doesn't save you money or lower your drug costs. If you're participating in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan and stay in the same Part D plan, your participation will be automatically renewed for 2026.** To learn more about this payment option, call the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Support Line at **1-833-202-8162** (TTY users call **711**) or visit Medicare.gov.

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Support Line – Contact Information

Call	1-833-202-8162 Calls to this number are free. 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST Monday – Friday (Voicemails monitored on weekends.) 7 a.m. – 12 a.m. CST 7 days a week (October 1 – December 7) 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST 7 days a week (December 8 - March 31) Free language interpreter services are available for non-English speakers.
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Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Support Line – Contact Information

TTY	<p>711</p> <p>Calls to the number are free.</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST Monday – Friday</p> <p>7 a.m. – 12 a.m. CST 7 days a week (October 1 – December 7)</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST 7 days a week (December 8 - March 31)</p>
Fax	1-440-557-6525
Write	<p>BlueRx</p> <p>MPPP Support Dept.</p> <p>810 Sharon Dr.</p> <p>Westlake, OH 44145</p> <p>MPPPsupport@RxPayments.com</p>
Website	RxPayments.com

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Election Support – Contact Information

Call	<p>1-833-202-8162</p> <p>Calls to this number are free.</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST Monday – Friday (Voicemails monitored on weekends.)</p> <p>7 a.m. – 12 a.m. CST 7 days a week (October 1 – December 7)</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST 7 days a week (December 8 – March 31)</p> <p>Free language interpreter services are available for non-English speakers.</p>
TTY	<p>711</p> <p>Calls to the number are free.</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST Monday – Friday</p> <p>7 a.m. – 12 a.m. CST 7 days a week (October 1 – December 7)</p> <p>7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST 7 days a week (December 8 - March 31)</p>
Fax	1-440-557-6525
Write	<p>BlueRx</p> <p>Mailstop: 1001</p> <p>MPPP Election Dept.</p> <p>13900 N. Harvey Ave</p> <p>Edmond, OK 73013</p> <p>ElectMPPP@RxPayments.com</p>

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Election Support – Contact Information

Website	Activate.RxPayments.com
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SECTION 8 Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

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 get your Medicare through the Railroad Retirement Board, let them know if you move or change your mailing address. For questions about your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) – Contact Information

Call	1-877-772-5772 Calls to this number are free. Press “0” to speak with an RRB representative from 9 am to 3:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 9 am to 12 pm on Wednesday. Press “1” to access the automated RRB HelpLine and get recorded information 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 hearing or speaking. Calls to this number aren’t free.
Website	RRB.gov

SECTION 9 If you have group insurance or other health insurance from an employer

If you (or your spouse or domestic partner) get benefits from your (or your spouse or domestic partner’s) employer or retiree group as part of this plan, call the employer/union benefits administrator or Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) with any questions. You can ask about your (or your spouse or domestic partner’s) employer or retiree health benefits, premiums, or the enrollment period. (Phone numbers for Member Services are printed on the back cover of this document.) You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with questions about your Medicare coverage under this plan. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have other drug coverage through your (or your spouse or domestic partner's) employer or retiree group, contact **that group's benefits administrator**. The benefits administrator can help you understand how your current drug coverage will work with our plan.

CHAPTER 3:

Using plan coverage for Part D drugs

SECTION 1 Basic rules for our plan's Part D drug coverage

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, go to your *Medicare & You 2026* handbook.) Your Part D prescription drugs are covered under our plan.

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

- You must have a provider (a doctor, dentist, or other prescriber) write you a prescription that's valid under applicable state law.
- Your prescriber must not be on Medicare's Exclusion or Preclusion Lists.
- You generally must use a network pharmacy to fill your prescription or you can fill your prescription through our plan's mail-order service. (Go to Section 2)
- Your drug must be on our plan's Drug List (Go to Section 3).
- 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 (FDA) or supported by certain references. (Go to Section 3 in this chapter for more information about a medically accepted indication.)
- Your drug may require approval from our plan based on certain criteria before we agree to cover it. (Go to Section 4 for more information.)

SECTION 2 Fill your prescription at a network pharmacy or through our plan's mail-order service

In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they're filled at our plan's network pharmacies. (Go to Section 2.4 for information about when we cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies.)

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

Section 2.1 Network pharmacies

Find a network pharmacy in your area

To find a network pharmacy, go to your *Pharmacy Directory*, visit our website (**[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory)**/**[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://www.bluerxalatennc.com/Directory)**), and/or call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)**/ **1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

You may go to any of our network pharmacies.

If your pharmacy leaves the network

If the pharmacy you use leaves our plan's network, you'll have to find a new pharmacy in the network. To find another pharmacy in your area, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)**/ **1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) or use the *Pharmacy Directory*. You can also find information on our website at **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory)**/**[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://www.bluerxalatennc.com/Directory)**.

Specialized pharmacies

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

- Pharmacies that supply drugs for home infusion therapy.
- Pharmacies that supply drugs for residents of a long-term care (LTC) facility. Usually, a LTC facility (such as a nursing home) has its own pharmacy. If you have difficulty getting Part D drugs in an LTC facility, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)**/ **1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).
- 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.
- Pharmacies that dispense drugs restricted by the FDA to certain locations or that require special handling, provider coordination, or education on its use. To locate a specialized pharmacy, go to your *Pharmacy Directory* **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory)**/**[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://www.bluerxalatennc.com/Directory)** or call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)**/ **1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Section 2.2 Our plan's mail-order service

Our plan's mail-order service allows you to order **up to a 100-day supply**.

To get information about filling your prescriptions by mail or to request a refill on existing prescriptions on file, use the following instructions. Mail your prescriptions to one of our Home Delivery Pharmacies or have your prescriber telephone, fax or submit by electronic

transmission a new prescription. You have 3 options this year to receive your medications by mail:

1. Walgreens Mail Service

Speak with a trained agent at 1-800-731-3588 (TTY 711), or

Visit their website at walgreensmailservice.com

2. Amazon Pharmacy

Speak with a trained agent at 1-855-745-5725 (TTY 711), or

Visit their website at pharmacy.amazon.com/medicaremyw

3. Express Scripts® Pharmacy

Speak with a trained agent at 1-833-715-0967 (TTY 711), or

Visit their website at express-scripts.com/rx

Once you are established with a Home Delivery Pharmacy, you can request refills be auto shipped each month to help ensure your medications are delivered to you timely or you can request refills by phone, through their website or by utilizing self-service tools.

Usually a mail-order pharmacy order will be delivered to you in no more than 10 calendar days from receipt for new prescriptions, excluding Sundays and holidays and 3-5 calendar days for refills, excluding Sundays and holidays. If a mail-order delay exists and you are in jeopardy of therapy interruption, your plan allows for up to a 7 day medication supply refill at a retail pharmacy. Please call Member Services to get an override approval. Once approval is received we can transfer your prescription to the pharmacy of your choice or have your prescriber telephone a shorter supply to the indicated pharmacy. 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.

New prescriptions the pharmacy gets directly from your doctor's office.

The pharmacy will automatically fill and deliver new prescriptions it gets 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 can ask for automatic delivery of all new prescriptions at any time by contacting Walgreens Mail Service, Amazon Pharmacy, or Express Scripts® Pharmacy. Contact your mail order pharmacy to set up automatic refills for your prescriptions.

If you get a prescription automatically by mail that you don't 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 don't want the pharmacy to automatically fill and ship each new prescription, contact your pharmacy directly.

If you 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. It's important to respond each time you're contacted by the pharmacy to let them know whether to ship, delay, or cancel the new prescription.

To opt out of automatic deliveries of new prescriptions received directly from your health care provider's office, contact your pharmacy directly.

Refills on mail-order prescriptions. For refills of your drugs, you have the option to sign up for an automatic refill program. Under this program we start to process your next refill automatically when our records show you should be close to running out of your drug. The pharmacy will contact you before shipping each refill to make sure you are in need of more medication, and you can cancel scheduled refills if you have enough medication or your medication has changed.

If you choose not to use our auto-refill program but still want the mail-order pharmacy to send you your prescription, contact your pharmacy 10 business days before your current prescription will run out. This will ensure your order is shipped to you in time.

To opt out of our program that automatically prepares mail-order refills, contact us by please contact your mail order pharmacy by calling Walgreens Mail Service at 1-800-731-3588, Amazon Pharmacy at 1-855-745-5725, or Express Scripts® Pharmacy at 1-833-715-0967. If you do not want automatic refills for your prescriptions, you do not need to take any actions. Your mail order pharmacy will not enroll your prescriptions for automatic refills unless you tell them to do so.

If you get a refill automatically by mail that you don't want, you may be eligible for a refund.

Section 2.3 How to get a long-term supply of drugs

When you get a long-term supply of drugs, your cost sharing may be lower. Our plan offers 2 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 you take on a regular basis, for a chronic or long-term medical condition.)

1. Some retail pharmacies in our network allow you to get a long-term supply of maintenance drugs. Your *Pharmacy Directory* **[\(AL\)/BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory)** tells you which pharmacies in our network can give you a long-term supply of maintenance drugs. You can also call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) for more information.
2. You can also get maintenance drugs through our mail-order program. Go to Section 2.2 for more information.

Section 2.4 Using a pharmacy that's not in our plan's network

Generally, we cover drugs filled at an out-of-network pharmacy *only* when you aren't able to use a network pharmacy. We also have network pharmacies outside of our service area where you can get prescriptions filled as a member of our plan. **Check first with Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to see if there's a network pharmacy nearby.

We cover prescriptions filled at an out-of-network pharmacy only in these circumstances:

- You are traveling outside your Plan service area and you become ill and need a covered Part D drug, and you cannot access a network pharmacy;
- You are not able to obtain a covered Part D drug in a timely manner within your service area, for example, there is no network pharmacy within a reasonable driving distance that provides 24 hour service seven days a week;
- You are filling a prescription for a covered Part D drug and that particular drug is not regularly stocked at an accessible network retail or mail-order pharmacy;
- You are provided with covered Part D drugs dispensed by an out-of-network institution-based pharmacy while a patient is in an emergency department, provider-based clinic, outpatient surgery, or other outpatient setting;
- Or, in case of any other emergency when a covered Part D drug is required and a network pharmacy is not available.

If you must use an out-of-network pharmacy, you'll generally have to pay the full cost (rather than your normal cost share) at the time you fill your prescription. You can ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost. (Go to Chapter 5, Section 2 for information on how to ask our plan to pay you back.) You may be required to pay the difference between what you pay for the drug at the out-of-network pharmacy and the cost we would cover at an in-network pharmacy.

SECTION 3 Your drugs need to be on our plan's Drug List

Section 3.1 The Drug List tells which Part D drugs are covered

Our plan has a *List of Covered Drugs* (formulary). In this *Evidence of Coverage*, **we call it the Drug List**.

The drugs on this list are selected by our plan with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The list meets Medicare's requirements and has been approved by Medicare. The Drug List only shows drugs covered under Medicare Part D.

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

- Approved by the FDA for the diagnosis or condition for which it's prescribed, or
- Supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System.

The Drug List includes brand name drugs, generic drugs, and biological products (which may include biosimilars).

A brand name drug is a prescription drug sold under a trademarked name owned by the drug manufacturer. Biological products are drugs that are more complex than typical drugs. On the Drug List, when we refer to drugs, this could mean a drug or a biological product.

A generic drug is a prescription drug that has the same active ingredients as the brand name drug. Biological products have alternatives called biosimilars. Generally, generics and biosimilars work just as well as the brand name or original biological product and usually cost less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand name drugs and biosimilar alternatives for some original biological products. Some biosimilars are interchangeable biosimilars and, depending on state law, may be substituted for the original biological product at the pharmacy without needing a new prescription, just like generic drugs can be substituted for brand name drugs.

Go to Chapter 10 for definitions of types of drugs that may be on the Drug List.

Over-the-counter drugs

Our plan also covers certain over-the-counter drugs. Some over-the-counter drugs are less expensive than prescription drugs and work just as well. For more information, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Drugs that aren't on the Drug List

Our plan doesn't cover all prescription drugs.

- In some cases, the law doesn't allow any Medicare plan to cover certain types of drugs. (For more information, go to Section 7.)
- In other cases, we decided not to include a particular drug on the Drug List.
- In some cases, you may be able to get a drug that's not on the Drug List. (For more information, go to Chapter 7.)

Section 3.2 5 cost-sharing tiers for drugs on the Drug List

Every drug on our plan's Drug List is in one of 5 cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the tier, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Cost-Sharing Tier 1 is our Preferred Generic Tier
- Cost-Sharing Tier 2 is our Generic Tier
- Cost-Sharing Tier 3 is our Preferred Brand Tier
 - You pay no more than **\$35** for a one-month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier, even if you have not met your deductible.
- Cost-Sharing Tier 4 is our Non-Preferred Drug Tier
 - You pay no more than **\$35** for a one-month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier, even if you have not met your deductible.
- Cost-Sharing Tier 5 is our Specialty Tier

Tier 1 is our lowest cost-sharing tier.

While Tier 4 has the highest cost-share percentage, you can expect to pay more for drugs covered in Tier 5.

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in our plan's Drug List. The amount you pay for drugs in each cost-sharing tier is shown in Chapter 4.

Section 3.3 How to find out if a specific drug is on the Drug List

To find out if a drug is on our Drug List, you have these options:

- Check the most recent Drug List we provided electronically.
- Visit our plan's website (**[BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents \(TN\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Documents(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents(TN))**). The Drug List on the website is always the most current.
- Call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to find out if a particular drug is on our plan's Drug List or ask for a copy of the list.
- Use our plan's "Real-Time Benefit Tool" (**[MyPrime.com](https://www.myprime.com)**) to search for drugs on the Drug List to get an estimate of what you'll pay and see if there are alternative drugs on the Drug List that could treat the same condition. You can also call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

SECTION 4 Drugs with restrictions on coverage

Section 4.1 Why some drugs have restrictions

For certain prescription drugs, special rules restrict how and when our plan covers them. A team of doctors and pharmacists developed these rules to encourage you and your provider

to use drugs in the most effective way. To find out if any of these restrictions apply to a drug you take or want to take, check the Drug List.

If a safe, lower-cost drug will work just as well medically as a higher-cost drug, our plan's rules are designed to encourage you and your provider to use that lower-cost option.

Note that sometimes a drug may appear more than once in our Drug List. This is because the same drugs can differ based on the strength, amount, or form of the drug prescribed by your health care provider, and different restrictions or cost sharing may apply to the different versions of the drug (for example, 10 mg versus 100 mg; one per day versus 2 per day; tablet versus liquid).

Section 4.2 Types of restrictions

If there's a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider have to take extra steps for us to cover the drug. Call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to learn what you or your provider can do to get coverage for the drug. **If you want us to waive the restriction for you, you 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. (Go to Chapter 7.)

Getting plan approval in advance

For certain drugs, you or your provider need to get approval from our plan based on specific criteria before we agree to cover the drug for you. This is called **prior authorization**. This is put in place to ensure medication safety and help guide appropriate use of certain drugs. If you don't get this approval, your drug might not be covered by our plan. Our plan's prior authorization criteria can be obtained by calling Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) or on our website **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents \(AL\)](https://www.bcsalmedicare.com/Documents)**/**[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents \(TN\)](https://www.bcsalmedicare.com/Documents)**.

Trying a different drug first

This requirement encourages you to try less costly but usually just as effective drugs before our plan covers another drug. For example, if Drug A and Drug B treat the same medical condition, our plan may require you to try Drug A first. If Drug A doesn't work for you, our plan will then cover Drug B. This requirement to try a different drug first is called **step therapy**. Our plan's step therapy criteria can be obtained by calling Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) or on our website **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents \(AL\)](https://www.bcsalmedicare.com/Documents)**/**[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents \(TN\)](https://www.bcsalmedicare.com/Documents)**.

Quantity limits

For certain drugs, we limit how much of a drug you can get each time you fill your prescription. For example, if it's 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 5 What you can do if one of your drugs isn't covered the way you'd like

There are situations where a prescription drug you take, or that you and your provider think you should take, isn't on our Drug List or has restrictions. For example:

- The drug might not be covered at all. Or a generic version of the drug may be covered but the brand name version you want to take isn't covered.
- The drug is covered, but there are extra rules or restrictions on coverage.
- The drug is covered, but in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost sharing more expensive than you think it should be.

If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost more expensive than you think it should be, go to Section 5.1 to learn what you can do.

If your drug isn't on the Drug List or is restricted, here are options for what you can do:

- You may be able to get a temporary supply of the drug.
- You can change to another drug.
- You can ask for an **exception** and ask our plan to cover the drug or remove restrictions from the drug.

You may be able to get a temporary supply

Under certain circumstances, our plan must provide a temporary supply of a drug you're already taking. This temporary supply gives you time to talk with your provider about the change.

To be eligible for a temporary supply, the drug you take **must no longer be on our plan's Drug List OR is now restricted in some way.**

- **If you're a new member**, we'll cover a temporary supply of your drug during the first **90 days** of your membership in our plan.
- **If you were in our plan last year**, we'll cover a temporary supply of your drug during the first **90 days** of the calendar year.
- This temporary supply will be for a maximum of 30-days. If your prescription is written for fewer days, we'll allow multiple fills to provide up to a maximum of 30-days of medication. The prescription must be filled at a network pharmacy. (Note that a long-term care pharmacy may provide the drug in smaller amounts at a time to prevent waste.)
- **For members who've been in our plan for more than 90 days and live in a long-term care facility and need a supply right away:**

We'll cover one 31-day emergency supply of a particular drug, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. This is in addition to the above temporary supply.

- **For those members who have been in the plan and are admitted to or discharged from a long-term care (LTC) facility:**

Circumstances exist in which unplanned transitions for current members could arise and in which prescribed drug regimens may not be on the formulary. These circumstances usually involve level of care changes in which a member is changing from one treatment setting to another.

For these unplanned transitions, you must use our exceptions and appeals processes. Coverage determinations are processed and redeterminations are made as expeditiously as your health condition requires.

In order to prevent a temporary gap in care when a member is discharged to home, members are permitted to have a full outpatient supply available to continue therapy once their limited supply provided at discharge is exhausted. This outpatient supply is available in advance of discharge from a Part A stay.

When a member is admitted to or discharged from a long-term care (LTC) facility, and does not have access to the remainder of the previously dispensed prescription, a one-time override of the “refill too soon” edits is processed for each medication which would be impacted due to a member being admitted to or discharged from a LTC facility. Early refill edits are not used to limit appropriate and necessary access to a member’s Part D benefit, and such members are allowed to access a refill upon admission or discharge.

For questions about a temporary supply, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

During the time when you’re using a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your provider to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. You have 2 options:

Option 1. You can change to another drug

Talk with your provider about whether a different drug covered by our plan may work just as well for you. Call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) 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.

Option 2. You can ask for an exception

You and your provider can ask our plan to make an exception and cover the drug in the way you’d like it covered. If your provider says you have medical reasons that justify asking us for an exception, your provider can help you ask for an exception. For example, you can ask our plan to cover a drug even though it is not on our plan’s Drug List. Or you can ask our plan to make an exception and cover the drug without restrictions.

If you’re a current member and a drug you take will be removed from the formulary or restricted in some way for next year, we’ll tell you about any change before the new year. You

can ask for an exception before next year, and we'll give you an answer within 72 hours after we get your request (or your prescriber's supporting statement). If we approve your request, we'll authorize coverage for the drug before the change takes effect.

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

Section 5.1 What to 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, talk to your provider. There may be a different drug in a lower cost-sharing tier that might work just as well for you. You can call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) 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.

You can ask for an exception

You and your provider can ask our plan to make an exception in the cost-sharing tier for the drug so that you pay less for it. If your provider says 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, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.4 for what to do. It explains the procedures and deadlines set by Medicare to make sure your request is handled promptly and fairly.

Drugs in our Cost-Sharing Tier 1 - Preferred Generic, Cost-Sharing Tier 3 - Preferred Brand and Cost-Sharing Tier 5 - Specialty aren't eligible for this type of exception. We don't lower the cost-sharing amount for drugs in these tiers. However, you can request an exception for Cost-Sharing Tier 2 - Generic and Cost-Sharing Tier 4 - Non-Preferred Drug.

SECTION 6 Our Drug List can change during the year

Most changes in drug coverage happen at the beginning of each year (January 1). However, during the year, our plan can make some changes to the Drug List. For example, our plan might:

- **Add or remove drugs from the Drug List**
- **Move a drug to a higher or lower cost-sharing tier**
- **Add or remove a restriction on coverage for a drug**
- **Replace a brand name drug with a generic version of the drug**

- **Replace an original biological product with an interchangeable biosimilar version of the biological product**

We must follow Medicare requirements before we change our plan's Drug List.

Information on changes to drug coverage

When changes to the Drug List occur, we post information on our website about those changes. We also update our online Drug List regularly. Sometimes you'll get direct notice if changes are made to a drug you take.

Changes to drug coverage that affect you during this plan year

- **Adding new drugs to the Drug List and immediately removing or making changes to a like drug on the Drug List.**
 - When adding a new version of a drug to the Drug List, we may immediately remove a like drug from the Drug List, move the like drug to a different cost-sharing tier, add new restrictions, or both. The new version of the drug will be on the same or a lower cost-sharing tier and with the same or fewer restrictions.
 - We'll make these immediate changes only if we add a new generic version of a brand name drug or add certain new biosimilar versions of an original biological product that was already on the Drug List.
 - We may make these changes immediately and tell you later, even if you take the drug that we remove or make changes to. If you take the like drug at the time we make the change, we'll tell you about any specific change we made.
- **Adding drugs to the Drug List and removing or making changes to a like drug on the Drug List with advance notice.**
 - When adding another version of a drug to the Drug List, we may remove a like drug from the Drug List, move it to a different cost-sharing tier, add new restrictions, or both. The version of the drug that we add will be on the same or a lower cost-sharing tier and with the same or fewer restrictions.
 - We'll make these changes only if we add a new generic version of a brand name drug or add certain new biosimilar versions of an original biological product that was already on the Drug List.
 - We'll tell you at least 30 days before we make the change or tell you about the change and cover a 30-day fill of the version of the drug you're taking.
- **Removing unsafe drugs and other drugs on the Drug List that are withdrawn from the market.**
 - Sometimes a drug may be deemed unsafe or taken off the market for another reason. If this happens, we may immediately remove the drug from the Drug List. If you take that drug, we'll tell you after we make the change.

- **Making other changes to drugs on the Drug List.**
 - We may make other changes once the year has started that affect drugs you take. For example, we based on FDA boxed warnings or new clinical guidelines recognized by Medicare.
 - We'll tell you at least 30 days before we make these changes or tell you about the change and cover an additional 30-day fill of the drug you're taking.

If we make any of these changes to any of the drugs you take, talk with your prescriber about the options that would work best for you, including changing to a different drug to treat your condition, or asking for a coverage decision to satisfy any new restrictions on the drug you're taking. You or your prescriber can ask us for an exception to continue covering the drug or version of the drug you've been taking. For more information on how to ask for a coverage decision, including an exception, go to Chapter 7.

Changes to the Drug List that don't affect you during this plan year

We may make certain changes to the Drug List that aren't described above. In these cases, the change won't apply to you if you're taking the drug when the change is made; however, these changes will likely affect you starting January 1 of the next plan year if you stay in the same plan.

In general, changes that won't affect you during the current plan year are:

- We move your drug into a higher cost-sharing tier.
- We put a new restriction on the use of your drug.
- We remove your drug from the Drug List.

If any of these changes happen for a drug you take (except for market withdrawal, a generic drug replacing a brand name drug, or other changes noted in the sections above), the change won't affect your use or what you pay as your share of the cost until January 1 of the next year.

We won't tell you about these types of changes directly during the current plan year. You'll need to check the Drug List for the next plan year (when the list is available during the open enrollment period) to see if there are any changes to drugs you take that will impact you during the next plan year.

SECTION 7 Types of drugs we don't cover

Some kinds of prescription drugs are *excluded*. This means Medicare doesn't pay for these drugs.

If you get drugs that are excluded, you must pay for them yourself. If you appeal and the requested drug is found not to be excluded under Part D, we'll pay for or cover it. (For information about appealing a decision, go to Chapter 7.)

Here are 3 general rules about drugs that Medicare drug plans won't cover under Part D:

- Our plan's Part D drug coverage can't cover a drug that would be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B.
- Our plan can't cover a drug purchased outside the United States or its territories.
- Our plan can't cover *off-label* use of a drug when the use is not supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information System. *Off-label* use is any use of the drug other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the FDA.

In addition, by law, the following categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare drug plans:

- Non-prescription drugs (also called over-the-counter drugs)
- Drugs used to promote fertility
- Drugs used for the relief of cough or cold symptoms
- Drugs used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Drugs used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction
- Drugs used for treatment of anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer requires associated tests or monitoring services be purchased only from the manufacturer as a condition of sale
- Drugs not approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a prescription drug

If you get Extra Help to pay for your prescriptions, Extra Help won't pay for drugs that aren't normally covered. If you have drug coverage through Medicaid, your state Medicaid program may cover some prescription drugs not normally covered in a Medicare drug plan. Contact your state Medicaid program to determine what drug coverage may be available to you. (Find phone numbers and contact information for Medicaid in Chapter 2, Section 6.)

SECTION 8 How to fill a prescription

To fill your prescription, provide our plan membership information (which can be found on your membership card) at the network pharmacy you choose. The network pharmacy will automatically bill our plan for *our* share of your drug cost. You need to pay the pharmacy *your* share of the cost when you pick up your prescription.

If you don't have our plan membership information with you, you or the pharmacy can call our plan to get the information, or you can ask the pharmacy to look up our plan enrollment information.

If the pharmacy can't 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. Go to Chapter 5, Section 2 for information about how to ask our plan for reimbursement.

SECTION 9 Part D drug coverage in special situations

Section 9.1 In a hospital or a skilled nursing facility for a stay covered by our plan

If you're admitted to a hospital or to a skilled nursing facility, Original Medicare (or your Medicare health plan with Part A and B coverage, if applicable) will generally cover the cost of your prescription drugs during your stay. Once you leave the hospital or skilled nursing facility, our plan will cover your prescription drugs as long as the drugs meet all our rules for coverage described in this chapter.

Section 9.2 As 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 uses a pharmacy that supplies drugs for all its residents. If you're a resident of an LTC facility, you may get your prescription drugs through the facility's pharmacy or the one it uses, as long as it's part of our network.

Check your *Pharmacy Directory* **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/Directory(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory(TN))** to find out if your LTC facility's pharmacy or the one it uses is part of our network. If it isn't, or if you need more information or help, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). If you're in an LTC facility, we must ensure that you're able to routinely get your Part D benefits through our network of LTC pharmacies.

If you're a resident in an LTC facility and need a drug that's not on our Drug List or restricted in some way, go to Section 5 for information about a temporary or emergency supply.

Section 9.3 If you are taking drugs covered by Original Medicare

Your enrollment in **BlueRx Essential** 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're enrolled in our plan. 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 **BlueRx Essential** in other situations. 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 **BlueRx Essential** for the drug.

Section 9.4 If you have a Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policy with 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 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 If you also get drug coverage from an employer or retiree group plan

If you have other drug coverage through your (or your spouse or domestic partner's) employer or retiree group, contact **that group's benefits administrator**. They can help you understand how your current drug coverage will work with our plan.

In general, if you have employee or retiree group coverage, the drug coverage you get from us will be *secondary* to your group coverage. That means your group coverage pays first.

Special note about creditable coverage:

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

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

Keep any notices about creditable coverage because you may need these notices later to show that you maintained creditable coverage. If you didn't get a creditable coverage notice, ask for a copy from the employer or retiree group's benefits administrator or the employer or union.

Section 9.6 If you're in Medicare-certified hospice

Hospice and our plan don't cover the same drug at the same time. If you're enrolled in Medicare hospice and require certain drugs (e.g., anti-nausea drugs, laxatives, pain medication or anti-anxiety drugs) that aren't covered by your hospice because it is unrelated to your terminal illness and related conditions, our plan must get 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 getting these drugs that should be covered by our plan, ask your hospice provider or prescriber to provide notification before your prescription is filled.

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

SECTION 10 Programs on drug safety and managing medications

We conduct drug use reviews to help make sure our members get safe and appropriate care.

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 like:

- Possible medication errors
- Drugs that may not be necessary because you take another similar drug to treat the same 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 for drugs that have ingredients you're allergic to
- Possible errors in the amount (dosage) of a drug you're taking
- Unsafe amounts of opioid pain medications

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

Section 10.1 Drug Management Program (DMP) to help members safely use opioid medications

We have a program that helps make sure members safely use prescription opioids and other frequently abused medications. This program is called a Drug Management Program (DMP). If you use opioid medications that you get from several prescribers or pharmacies, or if you had a recent opioid overdose, we may talk to your prescribers to make sure your use of opioid medications is appropriate and medically necessary. Working with your prescribers, if we decide your use of prescription opioid or benzodiazepine medications may not be safe, we may limit how you can get those medications. If we place you in our DMP, the limitations may be:

- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain pharmacy(ies)
- Requiring you to get all your prescriptions for opioid or benzodiazepine medications from a certain prescriber(s)
- Limiting the amount of opioid or benzodiazepine medications we'll cover for you

If we plan on limiting how you get these medications or how much you can get, we'll send you a letter in advance. The letter will tell you if we'll limit coverage of these drugs for you, or if

you'll be required to get the prescriptions for these drugs only from a specific prescriber or pharmacy. You'll have an opportunity to tell us which prescribers or pharmacies you prefer to use, and about any other information you think is important for us to know. After you've had the opportunity to respond, if we decide to limit your coverage for these medications, we'll send you another letter confirming the limitation. If you think we made a mistake or you disagree with our decision or with the limitation, you and your prescriber have the right to appeal. If you appeal, we'll review your case and give you a new decision. If we continue to deny any part of your request related to the limitations that apply to your access to medications, we'll automatically send your case to an independent reviewer outside of our plan. Go to Chapter 7 for information about how to ask for an appeal.

You won't be placed in our DMP if you have certain medical conditions, such as cancer-related pain or sickle cell disease, you're getting hospice, palliative, or end-of-life care, or live in a long-term care facility.

Section 10.2 Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program to help members manage medications

We have a program that can help our members with complex health needs. Our program is called a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program. This program is voluntary and free. A team of pharmacists and doctors developed the program for us to help make sure our members get the most benefit from the drugs they take.

Some members who have certain chronic diseases and take medications that exceed a specific amount of drug costs or are in a DMP to help them use opioids safely, may be able to get services through an MTM program. If you qualify for the program, a pharmacist or other health professional will give you a comprehensive review of all your medications. During the review, you can talk about 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 which has a recommended to-do list that includes steps you should take to get the best results from your medications. You'll also get a medication list that will include all the medications you're taking, how much you take, and when and why you take them. In addition, members in the MTM program will get information on the safe disposal of prescription medications that are controlled substances.

It's a good idea to talk to your doctor about your recommended to-do list and medication list. Bring the summary with you to your visit or anytime you talk with your doctors, pharmacists, and other health care providers. Keep your medication list up to date and 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'll automatically enroll you in the program and send you information. If you decide not to participate, notify us and we'll withdraw you. For questions about this program, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

CHAPTER 4:

What you pay for Part D drugs

SECTION 1 What you pay for Part D 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, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) and ask for the *LIS Rider*.

We use “drug” in this chapter to mean a Part D prescription drug. 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, you need to know what drugs are covered, where to fill your prescriptions, and what rules to follow when you get your covered drugs. Chapter 3 explains these rules. When you use our plan's “Real-Time Benefit Tool” to look up drug coverage (**MyPrime.com**), the cost you see shows an estimate of the out-of-pocket costs you're expected to pay. You can also get information provided by the “Real-Time Benefit Tool” by calling Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Section 1.1 Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered drugs

There are 3 different types of out-of-pocket costs for covered Part D drugs that you may be asked to pay:

- **Deductible** is the amount you pay for drugs before our plan starts to pay our share.
- **Copayment** is a fixed amount you pay each time you fill a prescription.
- **Coinsurance** is a percentage of the total cost of the drug you pay each time you fill a prescription.

Section 1.2 How Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs

Medicare has rules about what counts and what doesn't count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Here are the rules we must follow to keep track of your out-of-pocket costs.

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

Your out-of-pocket costs **include** the payments listed below (as long as they are for covered Part D drugs, and you followed the rules for drug coverage explained in Chapter 3):

- The amount you pay for drugs when you're in the following drug payment stages:
 - The Deductible Stage
 - The Initial Coverage Stage
- Any payments you made during this calendar year as a member of a different Medicare drug plan before you joined our plan
- Any payments for your drugs made by family or friends
- Any payments made for your drugs by Extra Help from Medicare, employer or union health plans, Indian Health Service, AIDS drug assistance programs, State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs), and most charities

Moving to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage:

When you (or those paying on your behalf) have spent a total of **\$2,100** in out-of-pocket costs within the calendar year, you move from the Initial Coverage Stage to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

These payments aren't included in your out-of-pocket costs

Your out-of-pocket costs **don't include** any of these types of payments:

- Your monthly premium
- Drugs you buy outside the United States and its territories
- Drugs that aren't covered by our plan
- Drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy that don't meet our 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 you make toward drugs not normally covered in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
- Payments for your drugs made by certain insurance plans and government-funded health programs such as TRICARE and the Veterans Health Administration (VA)
- Payments for your drugs made by a third-party with a legal obligation to pay for prescription costs (for example, Workers' Compensation)

- Payments made by drug manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program

Reminder: If any other organization like the ones listed above pays part or all of your out-of-pocket costs for drugs, you're required to tell our plan by calling Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Tracking your out-of-pocket total costs

- The *Part D Explanation of Benefits* (EOB) you get includes the current total of your out-of-pocket costs. When this amount reaches **\$2,100**, the *Part D EOB* will tell you that you left the Initial Coverage Stage and moved to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** Go to Section 3.1 to learn what you can do to help make sure our records of what you spent are complete and up to date.

SECTION 2 Drug payment stages for BlueRx Essential members

There are **3 drug payment stages** for your drug coverage under **BlueRx Essential**. How much you pay for each prescription depends on what stage you're in when you get a prescription filled or refilled. Keep in mind you are always responsible for our plan's monthly premium regardless of the drug payment stage. Details of each stage are explained in this chapter. The stages are:

- **Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage**
- **Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage**
- **Stage 3: Catastrophic Coverage Stage**

SECTION 3 Your *Part D Explanation of Benefits (EOB)* explains which payment stage you're in

Our plan keeps track of your prescription drug costs and the payments you make when you get prescriptions at the pharmacy. This way, we can tell you when you moved from one drug payment stage to the next. We track 2 types of costs:

- **Out-of-Pocket Costs:** this is how much you have paid. This includes what you paid when you get a covered Part D drug, any payments for your drugs made by family or friends, and any payments made for your drugs by Extra Help from Medicare, employer or union health plans, Indian Health Service, AIDS drug assistance programs, charities, and most State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs).

- **Total Drug Costs:** this is the total of all payments made for your covered Part D drugs. It includes what our plan paid, what you paid, and what other programs or organizations paid for your covered Part D drugs.

If you filled one or more prescriptions filled through our plan during the previous month, we'll send you a *Part D EOB*. The *Part D EOB* includes:

- **Information for that month.** This report gives payment details about prescriptions you filled during the previous month. It shows the total drug costs, what our plan paid, and what you and others paid on your behalf.
- **Totals for the year since January 1.** This shows the total drug costs and total payments for your drugs since the year began.
- **Drug price information.** This displays the total drug price, and information about changes in price from first fill for each prescription claim of the same quantity.
- **Available lower cost alternative prescriptions.** This shows information about other available drugs with lower cost sharing for each prescription claim, if applicable.

Section 3.1 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's how you can help us keep your information correct and up to date:

- **Show your membership card every time you get a prescription filled.** This helps make sure we know about the prescriptions you fill and what you pay.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** There are times you may pay for the entire cost of a prescription drug. In these cases, we won't 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, give us copies of your receipts. **Examples of when you should give us copies of your drug receipts:**
 - When you purchase a covered drug at a network pharmacy at a special price or use a discount card that's not part of our plan's benefit.
 - When you pay a copayment for drugs provided under a drug manufacturer patient assistance program.
 - Any time you buy covered drugs at out-of-network pharmacies or pay the full price for a covered drug under special circumstances.
 - If you're 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.
- **Send us information about the payments others make for you.** Payments made by certain other people and organizations also count toward your out-of-pocket costs. For example, payments made by a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, an AIDS drug assistance program (ADAP), the Indian Health Service, and charities count toward your out-of-pocket costs. 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 get a *Part D EOB*, look it over to be sure the information is complete and correct. If you think something is missing or you have questions, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). Be sure to keep these reports.

SECTION 4 The Deductible Stage

The Deductible Stage is the first payment stage for your drug coverage. This stage begins when you fill your first prescription for the year. When you're in this payment stage, **you must pay the full cost of your drugs** until you reach our plan's deductible amount, which is **\$615** for 2026. The deductible doesn't apply to covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines, including shingles, tetanus, and travel vaccines. The **full cost** is usually lower than the normal full price of the drug since our plan negotiated lower costs for most drugs at network pharmacies. The full cost cannot exceed the maximum fair price plus dispensing fees for drugs with negotiated prices under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

Once you pay **\$615** for your drugs, you leave the Deductible Stage and move on to the Initial Coverage Stage.

SECTION 5 The Initial Coverage Stage

Section 5.1 What you pay for a drug depends on the drug and where you fill your prescription

During the Initial Coverage Stage, our plan pays its share of the cost of your covered 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.

Our plan has 5 cost-sharing tiers

Every drug on our plan's Drug List is in one of 5 cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Cost-Sharing Tier 1 is our Preferred Generic Tier
- Cost-Sharing Tier 2 is our Generic Tier
- Cost-Sharing Tier 3 is our Preferred Brand Tier
 - You pay **\$35** per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier, even if you have not met your deductible.
- Cost-Sharing Tier 4 is our Non-Preferred Drug Tier
 - You pay **\$35** per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier, even if you have not met your deductible.
- Cost-Sharing Tier 5 is our Specialty Tier

Tier 1 is our lowest cost-sharing tier.

While Tier 4 has the highest cost-share percentage, you can expect to pay more for drugs covered in Tier 5.

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in our 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
- A pharmacy that isn't in our plan's network. We cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies in only limited situations. Go to Chapter 3, Section 2.4 to find out when we'll cover a prescription filled at an out-of-network pharmacy.
- Our plan's mail-order pharmacy

For more information about these pharmacy choices and filling your prescriptions, go to Chapter 3 and our plan's *Pharmacy Directory* [**BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory \(TN\)**](https://BCBSALMedicare.com/Directory(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Directory(TN)).

Section 5.2 Your costs for a one-month supply of a covered drug

During the Initial Coverage Stage, your share of the cost of a covered drug will be either a copayment or coinsurance.

The amount of the copayment or coinsurance depends on the cost-sharing tier.

Sometimes the cost of the drug is lower than your copayment. In these cases, you pay the lower price for the drug instead of the copayment.

Your costs for a *one-month* supply of a covered Part D drug

Tier	Retail cost-sharing (in-network) (up to a 30-day supply)	Mail order cost-sharing (up to a 30-day supply)	Long-term care (LTC) cost-sharing (up to a 31-day supply)	Out-of-network cost-sharing (Coverage is limited to certain situations; go to Chapter 3 for details.) (up to a 30-day supply)
Cost-Sharing Tier 1 (Preferred Generic)	\$2 copay	\$2 copay	\$2 copay	\$2 copay
Cost-Sharing Tier 2 (Generic)	\$10 copay	\$10 copay	\$10 copay	\$10 copay
Cost-Sharing Tier 3 (Preferred Brand)	19% coinsurance	19% coinsurance	19% coinsurance	19% coinsurance
Cost-Sharing Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Drug)	41% coinsurance	41% coinsurance	41% coinsurance	41% coinsurance
Cost-Sharing Tier 5 (Specialty)	25% coinsurance	25% coinsurance	25% coinsurance	25% coinsurance

You won't pay more than \$35 for a one-month supply of each covered insulin product regardless of the cost-sharing tier, even if you haven't paid your deductible.

Go to Section 7 of this chapter for more information on cost-sharing for Part D vaccines.

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 drug covers a full month's supply. There may be times when you or your doctor would like you to have less than a month's supply of a drug (for example, when you're trying a medication for the first time). You can also ask your doctor to

prescribe, and your pharmacist to dispense, less than a full month's supply if this will help you better plan refill dates.

If you get less than a full month's supply of certain drugs, you won't have to pay for the full month's supply.

- If you're responsible for coinsurance, you pay a *percentage* of the total cost of the drug. Since the coinsurance is based on the total cost of the drug, your cost will be lower since the total cost for the drug will be lower.
- If you're responsible for a copayment for the drug, you only pay for the number of days of the drug that you get instead of a whole month. We calculate the 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 get.

Section 5.4 Your costs for a long-term (up to a 100-day) supply of a covered Part D drug

For some drugs, you can get a long-term supply (also called an *extended supply*). A long-term supply is up to a 100-day supply.

Sometimes the cost of the drug is lower than your copayment. In these cases, you pay the lower price for the drug instead of the copayment.

Your costs for a *long-term* (up to a 100-day) supply of a covered Part D drug

Tier	Retail cost-sharing (in-network) (up to a 100-day supply)	Mail order cost-sharing (up to a 100-day supply)
Cost-Sharing Tier 1 (Preferred Generic)	\$4 copay	\$4 copay
Cost-Sharing Tier 2 (Generic)	\$20 copay	\$20 copay
Cost-Sharing Tier 3 (Preferred Brand)	19% coinsurance	19% coinsurance
Cost-Sharing Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Drug)	41% coinsurance	41% coinsurance
Cost-Sharing Tier 5 (Specialty)	25% coinsurance	25% coinsurance

You won't pay more than \$70 for up to a 2-month supply or \$70 for up to a 3-month supply of each covered insulin product regardless of the cost-sharing tier, even if you haven't paid your deductible.

Section 5.5 You stay in the Initial Coverage Stage until your out-of-pocket costs for the year reach \$2,100

You stay in the Initial Coverage Stage until your total out-of-pocket costs reach **\$2,100**. You then move to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

The *Part D EOB* you get will help you keep track of how much you, our plan, and any third parties have spent on your behalf during the year. Not all members will reach the **\$2,100** out-of-pocket limit in a year.

We'll let you know if you reach this amount. Go to Section 1.2 for more information on how Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs.

SECTION 6 The Catastrophic Coverage Stage

In the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you pay nothing for covered Part D drugs. You enter the Catastrophic Coverage Stage when your out-of-pocket costs reach the **\$2,100** limit for the calendar year. Once you're in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you'll stay in this payment stage until the end of the calendar year.

- During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

SECTION 7 What you pay for Part D vaccines

Important message about what you pay for vaccines – Some vaccines are considered medical benefits and are covered under Part B. Other vaccines are considered Part D drugs. You can find these vaccines listed in our plan's Drug List. Our plan covers most adult Part D vaccines at no cost to you even if you haven't paid your deductible. Refer to our plan's Drug List or call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) for coverage and cost-sharing details about specific vaccines.

There are 2 parts to our coverage of Part D vaccinations:

- The first part is the cost of **the vaccine itself**.
- The second part is for the cost of **giving you the vaccine**. (This is sometimes called the administration of the vaccine.)

Your costs for a Part D vaccine depend on 3 things:

- 1. Whether the vaccine is recommended for adults by an organization called the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).**
 - Most adult Part D vaccines are recommended by ACIP and cost you nothing.
- 2. Where you get the vaccine.**
 - The vaccine itself may be dispensed by a pharmacy or provided by the doctor's office.

3. Who gives you the vaccine.

- A pharmacist or another provider may give the vaccine in the pharmacy. Or a provider may give it in the doctor's office.

What you pay at the time you get the Part D vaccine can vary depending on the circumstances and what **drug payment stage** you're in.

- When you get a vaccine, you may have to pay the entire cost for both the vaccine itself and the cost for the provider to give you the vaccine. You can ask our plan to pay you back for our share of the cost. For most adult Part D vaccines, this means you'll be reimbursed the entire cost you paid.
- Other times when you get a vaccine, you pay only your share of the cost under your Part D benefit. For most adult Part D vaccines, you pay nothing.

Below are 3 examples of ways you might get a Part D vaccine.

Situation 1: You get the Part D vaccine at the network pharmacy. (Whether you have this choice depends on where you live. Some states don't allow pharmacies to give certain vaccines.)

- For most adult Part D vaccines, you pay nothing.
- For other Part D vaccines, you pay the pharmacy your copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine itself, which includes the cost of giving you the vaccine.
- Our plan will pay the remainder of the costs.

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

- When you get the vaccine, you may have to pay the entire cost of the vaccine itself and the cost for the provider to give it to you.
- You can then ask our plan to pay our share of the cost by using the procedures described in Chapter 5.
- For most adult Part D vaccines, you'll be reimbursed the full amount you paid. For other Part D vaccines, you'll be reimbursed the amount you paid less any copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine (including administration), and less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get Extra Help, we'll reimburse you for this difference.)

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

- For most adult Part D vaccines, you pay nothing for the vaccine itself.
- For other Part D vaccines, you pay the pharmacy your copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine itself.

- When your doctor gives you the vaccine, you may have to 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.
- For most adult Part D vaccines, you'll be reimbursed the full amount you paid. For other Part D vaccines, you'll be reimbursed the amount you paid less any copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine administration, and less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get Extra Help, we'll reimburse you for this difference.)

CHAPTER 5:

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

SECTION 1 Situations when you should ask us to pay our share for covered drugs

Sometimes when you get a prescription drug, you may need to pay the full cost. Other times, you may find you pay more than you expected under the coverage rules of our plan, or you may get a bill from a provider. In these cases, you can ask our plan to pay you back (reimburse you). It's your right to be paid back by our plan whenever you've paid more than your share of the cost for drugs covered by our plan. There may be deadlines that you must meet to get paid back. Go to Section 2 of this chapter.

Examples of situations in which you may need to ask our plan to pay you back or to pay a bill you got:

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

If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy, the pharmacy may not be able to submit the claim directly to us. When that happens, you have to pay the full cost of your prescription.

Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Remember that we only cover out-of-network pharmacies in limited circumstances. Go to Chapter 3, Section 2.4 to learn about these circumstances. We may not pay you back the difference between what you paid for the drug at the out-of-network pharmacy and the amount we'd pay at an in-network pharmacy.

2. When you pay the full cost for a prescription because you don't have our plan membership card with you

If you don't have our plan membership card with you, you can ask the pharmacy to call our plan or look up your enrollment information. However, if the pharmacy can't 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. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

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 the drug isn't covered for some reason.

- For example, the drug may not be on our plan's Drug List, or it could have a requirement or restriction 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 to pay you back for our share of the cost. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

4. If you're retroactively enrolled in our plan

Sometimes a person's enrollment in our plan is retroactive. (This 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'll need to submit paperwork for us to handle the reimbursement.

When you send us a request for payment, we'll review your request and decide whether the service or drug should be covered. This is called making a **coverage decision**. If we decide it should be covered, we'll pay for our share of the cost for the service or drug. If we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. Chapter 7 has information about how to make an appeal.

SECTION 2 How to ask us to pay you back

You can ask us to pay you back by sending us a request in writing. If you send a request in writing, send your receipt documenting the payment you have made. It's a good idea to make a copy of your receipts for your records. **You must submit your claim to us within 36 months** of the date you got the service, item, or drug.

To make sure you're 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'll help us process the information faster.
- Download a copy of the form from our website ([BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents](https://www.BCBSALMedicare.com/Documents) (AL)/[BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents](https://www.BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Documents) (TN)) or call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) and ask for the form.

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

Prescription Drug Claims Payment Requests
P. O. Box 20970
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0970

SECTION 3 We'll consider your request for payment and say yes or no

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

- If we decide the drug is covered and you followed all the rules, we'll pay for our share of the cost. Our share of the cost might not be the full amount you paid (for example, if you got a drug at an out-of-network pharmacy or if the cash price you paid for a drug is higher than our negotiated price). If you already paid for the drug, we'll mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. We'll send payment within 30 days after your request was received.
- If we decide the drug is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we won't pay for our share of the cost. We'll send you a letter explaining the reasons why we aren't sending the payment and your rights to appeal that decision.

Section 3.1 If we tell you that we won't pay for all or part of the drug, you can make an appeal

If you think we made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or the amount we're paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you're asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment. The appeals process is a formal process with detailed procedures and important deadlines. For the details on how to make this appeal, go to Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 6:

Your rights and responsibilities

SECTION 1 Our plan must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities

Section 1.1 We must provide information in a way that works for you and consistent with your cultural sensitivities (in languages other than English, braille, large print, or other alternate formats, etc.)

Our plan is required to ensure that all services, both clinical and non-clinical, are provided in a culturally competent manner and are accessible to all enrollees, including those with limited English proficiency, limited reading skills, hearing incapacity, or those with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Examples of how our plan may meet these accessibility requirements include, but aren't limited to provision of translator services, interpreter services, teletypewriters, or TTY (text telephone or teletypewriter phone) connection.

Our plan has free interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English speaking members. We can also give you materials in braille, large print, or other alternate formats at no cost if you need it. We're required to give you information about our plan's benefits in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you, call to file a grievance with Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). You can also file a complaint with Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or directly with the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697.

Section 1.2 We must ensure you get timely access to covered drugs

You have the right to get your prescriptions filled or refilled at any of our network pharmacies without long delays. If you think you aren't getting your Part D drugs within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7 tells what you can do.

Section 1.3 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.

- You have rights related to your 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.
- Except for the circumstances noted below, if we intend to 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 or someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you first.*
- There are certain exceptions that don't require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.
 - We're required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care.
 - Because you're a member of our plan through Medicare, we're required to give Medicare your health information including information about your Part D drugs. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to federal statutes and regulations; typically, this requires that information that uniquely identifies you not be shared.

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

You have the right to look at your medical records held at our plan, and to get a copy of your records. We're 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'll 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 aren't routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Section 1.4 We must give you information about our plan, our network of pharmacies, and your covered drugs

As a member of **BlueRx Essential**, you have the right to get several kinds of information from us.

If you want any of the following kinds of information, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about our plan's financial condition.

- **Information about our network pharmacies.** You have the right to get information about the qualifications of the pharmacies in our network and how we pay the pharmacies in our network.
- **Information about your coverage and the rules you must follow when using your coverage.** Chapters 3 and 4 provide information about Part D drug coverage.
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it.** Chapter 7 provides information on asking for a written explanation on why a Part D drug isn't covered or if your coverage is restricted. Chapter 7 also provides information on asking us to change a decision, also called an appeal.

Section 1.5 You have the right to know your treatment options and participate in decisions about your care

You have the right to give instructions about what's to be done if you can't 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're in this situation. This means, *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.

Legal documents you can use to give directions in advance in these situations are called **advance directives**. Documents like a **living will** and **power of attorney for health care** are examples of advance directives.

How to set up an advance directive to give instructions:

- **Get a form.** You can get an advance directive form from your lawyer, a social worker, or some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare.
- **Fill out the form and sign it.** No matter of where you get this form, it's a legal document. Consider having a lawyer help you prepare it.
- **Give copies of the form to the right people.** Give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form who can make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members. Keep a copy at home.

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

- The hospital will ask whether you signed an advance directive form and whether you have it with you.

- If you didn't sign an advance directive form, the hospital has forms available and will ask if you want to sign one.

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

If your instructions aren't followed

If you sign an advance directive and you believe that a doctor or hospital didn't follow the instructions in it, you can file a complaint with the Alabama Department of Senior Services for Alabama members or the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability for Tennessee members.

Alabama:

Alabama Department of Senior Services
201 Monroe Street, Suite 350
Montgomery, AL 36104
ageline@adss.alabama.gov
1-800-243-5463

Tennessee:

Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0860
1-877-801-0044

Section 1.6 You have the right to make complaints and ask us to reconsider decisions we made

If you have any problems, concerns, or complaints and need to ask for coverage, or make an appeal, Chapter 7 of this document tells what you can do. Whatever you do—ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint—**we're required to treat you fairly.**

Section 1.7 If you believe you're being treated unfairly, or your rights aren't being respected

If you believe you've been treated unfairly or your rights haven't been respected due to your race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, or national origin, call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 (TTY users call 1-800-537-7697), or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

If you believe you've been treated unfairly or your rights haven't been respected, *and it's not* about discrimination, you can get help dealing with the problem you're having from these places:

- **Call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**)
- **Call your local SHIP at**
 - Alabama SHIP: Call 1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463)
 - Tennessee SHIP: Call 1-877-801-0044
- **Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)

Section 1.8 How to get more information about your rights

Get more information about your rights from these places:

- **Call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**)
- **Call your local SHIP at**
 - Alabama SHIP: Call 1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463)
 - Tennessee SHIP: Call 1-877-801-0044
- **Contact Medicare**
 - Visit Medicare.gov to read the publication *Medicare Rights & Protections* (available at: [Medicare Rights & Protections](#))
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)

SECTION 2 Your responsibilities as a member of our plan

Things you need to do as a member of our plan are listed below. For questions, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

- **Get familiar with your covered drugs and the rules you must follow to get these covered drugs.** Use this *Evidence of Coverage* to learn what's covered and the rules you need to follow to get covered drugs.
 - Chapters 3 and 4 give details about Part D drug coverage.
- **If you have any other drug coverage in addition to our plan, you're required to tell us.** Chapter 1 tells you about coordinating these benefits.
- **Tell your doctor and pharmacist that you're enrolled in our plan.** Show our plan membership card whenever you get Part D drugs.

- **Help your doctors and other providers help you by giving them information, asking questions, and following through on your care.**
 - To help get the best care, tell your doctors and other health providers about your health problems. Follow the treatment plans and instructions you and your doctors agree on.
 - Make sure your doctors know all the drugs you're taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements.
 - If you have questions, be sure to ask and get an answer you can understand.
- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you're responsible for these payments:
 - You must pay our plan premiums.
 - For most of your drugs covered by our plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the drug.
 - If you're required to pay a late enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty to stay a member of our plan.
 - If you are required to pay the extra amount for Part D because of your yearly income, you must continue to pay the extra amount directly to the government to stay a member of our plan.
- **If you move *within* our plan service area, we need to know** so we can keep your membership record up to date and know how to contact you.
- **If you move *outside* our plan service area, you can't stay a member of our plan.**
- **If you move, tell Social Security (or the Railroad Retirement Board).**

CHAPTER 7:

If you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)

SECTION 1 What to do if you have a problem or concern

This chapter explains 2 types of processes for handling problems and concerns:

- For some problems, you need to use the **process for coverage decisions and appeals**.
- For other problems, you need to use the **process for making complaints** (also called grievances).

Both processes have been approved by Medicare. Each process has a set of rules, procedures, and deadlines that must be followed by us and by you.

The information in this chapter will help you identify the right process to use and what to do.

Section 1.1 Legal terms

There are 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. To make things easier, this chapter uses more familiar words in place of some legal terms.

However, it's sometimes important to know the correct legal terms. To help you know which terms to use to get the right help or information, we include these legal terms when we give details for handling specific situations.

SECTION 2 Where to get more information and personalized help

We're always available to help you. Even if you have a complaint about our treatment of you, we're obligated to honor your right to complain. You should always call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) for help. In some situations, you may also want help or guidance from someone who isn't connected with us. Two organizations that can help are:

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Each state has a government program with trained counselors. 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're having. They can also answer questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

The services of SHIP counselors are free. You will find phone numbers and website URLs in Chapter 2, Section 3 of this document.

Medicare

You can also contact Medicare for help.

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048
- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).

SECTION 3 Which process to use for your problem

Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?

This includes problems about whether prescription drugs are covered or not, the way they are covered, and problems related to payment for prescription drugs.

Yes.

Go to **Section 4, A guide to coverage decisions and appeals.**

No.

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

Coverage decisions and appeals

SECTION 4 A guide to coverage decisions and appeals

Coverage decisions and appeals deal with problems related to your benefits and coverage for prescription drugs, including payments. 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 before you get services

If you want to know if we'll cover medical care before you get it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you. A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we'll pay for your prescription drugs.

In limited circumstances a request for a coverage decision will be dismissed, which means we won't review the request. Examples of when a request will be dismissed include if the request is incomplete, if someone makes the request on your behalf but isn't legally authorized to do so or if you ask for your request to be withdrawn. If we dismiss a request for a coverage decision, we'll send a notice explaining why the request was dismissed and how to ask for a review of the dismissal.

We make a coverage decision whenever we decide what's covered for you and how much we pay. In some cases, we might decide a drug isn't covered or is no longer covered for you. If you disagree with this coverage decision, you can make an appeal.

Making an appeal

If we make a coverage decision, whether before or after you get a benefit, and you aren't satisfied, you can **appeal** the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we made. Under certain circumstances, you can ask for an expedited or **fast appeal** of a coverage decision. Your appeal is handled by different reviewers than those who made the original decision.

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 properly followed the rules. When we complete the review, we give you our decision.

In limited circumstances, a request for a Level 1 appeal will be dismissed, which means we won't review the request. Examples of when a request will be dismissed include if the request is incomplete, if someone makes the request on your behalf but isn't legally authorized to do so, or if you ask for your request to be withdrawn. If we dismiss a request for a Level 1 appeal, we'll send a notice explaining why the request was dismissed and how to ask for a review of the dismissal.

If we don't dismiss your case but say no to all or part of your Level 1 appeal, you can go on to a Level 2 appeal. The Level 2 appeal is conducted by an independent review 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 (This chapter explains Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals).

Section 4.1 Get help asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal

Here are resources if you decide to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision:

- **Call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**)
- **Get free help** from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program
- **Your doctor or other prescriber can make a request for you.** For Part D drugs, your doctor or other prescriber can ask for a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your Level 1 appeal is denied, your doctor or prescriber can ask for a Level 2 appeal.
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** You can name another person to act for you as your *representative* to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal.
 - If you want a friend, relative, or another person to be your representative, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) and ask for the *Appointment of Representative* form. (The form is also available at [CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf) or on our

website at [BCBSALMedicare.com/Appeals \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Appeals \(TN\)](https://www.BCBSALMedicare.com/Appeals(AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Appeals(TN)).) This form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person you want to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form.

- We can accept an appeal request from a representative without the form, but we can't begin or complete our review until we get it. If we don't get the form before our deadline for making a decision on your appeal, your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we'll send you a written notice explaining your right to ask the independent review organization to review our decision to dismiss your appeal.
- **You also have the right to hire a lawyer.** You can contact your own lawyer or get the name of a lawyer from your local bar association or other referral service. There are groups that will give you free legal services if you qualify. However, **you aren't required to hire a lawyer** to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision.

SECTION 5 Part D drugs: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal

Section 5.1 What to do if you have problems getting a Part D drug or want us to pay you back for a Part D drug

Your benefits include coverage for many prescription drugs. To be covered, the drug must be used for a medically accepted indication. (Go to Chapter 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.) For details about Part D drugs, rules, restrictions, and costs go to Chapters 3 and 4. **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. We also use the term Drug List instead of *List of Covered Drugs* or formulary.

- If you don't know if a drug is covered or if you meet the rules, you can ask us. Some drugs require you to get approval from us before we'll cover it.
- If your pharmacy tells you that your prescription can't be filled as written, the pharmacy will give you a written notice explaining how to contact us to ask for a coverage decision.

Part D coverage decisions and appeals

Legal Term:

An initial coverage decision about your Part D drugs is called a **coverage determination**.

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we'll pay for your drugs. This section tells what you can do if you're in any of the following situations:

- Asking to cover a Part D drug that's not on our plan's Drug List. **Ask for an exception. Section 5.2**
- Asking to waive a restriction on our plan's coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get, prior authorization criteria, or the requirement to try another drug first). **Ask for an exception. Section 5.2**
- Asking to pay a lower cost-sharing amount for a covered drug on a higher cost-sharing tier. **Ask for an exception. Section 5.2**
- Asking to get pre-approval for a drug. **Ask for a coverage decision. Section 5.4**
- Pay for a prescription drug you already bought. **Ask us to pay you back. Section 5.4**

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

This section tells you both how to ask for coverage decisions and how to request an appeal.

Section 5.2 Asking for an exception

Legal Terms:

Asking for coverage of a drug that's not on the Drug List is a **formulary exception**.

Asking for removal of a restriction on coverage for a drug is a **formulary exception**.

Asking to pay a lower price for a covered non-preferred drug is a **tiering exception**.

If a drug isn't covered in the way you'd like it to be covered, you can ask us to make an **exception**. An exception is a type of coverage decision.

For us to consider your exception request, your doctor or other prescriber will need to explain the medical reasons why you need the exception approved. Here are 3 examples of exceptions that you or your doctor or other prescriber can ask us to make:

- 1. Covering a Part D drug that's not on our Drug List.** If we agree to cover a drug not on the Drug List, you'll need to pay the cost-sharing amount that applies to drugs in Tier 4. You can't ask for an exception to the cost-sharing amount we require you to pay for the drug.
- 2. Removing a restriction for a covered drug.** Chapter 3 describes the extra rules or restrictions that apply to certain drugs on our Drug List. If we agree to make an exception and waive a restriction for you, you can ask for an exception to the cost-sharing 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 5 cost-sharing tiers. In general, the lower the cost-sharing tier number, the less you pay as your share of the cost of the drug.
 - If our Drug List contains alternative drug(s) for treating your medical condition that are in a lower cost-sharing tier than your drug, you can ask us to cover your drug at the cost-sharing amount that applies to the same or similar type of alternative drug(s).
 - If the drug you're taking is a biological product you can ask us to cover your drug at a lower cost-sharing amount. This would be the lowest tier that contains biological product alternatives of the same or similar type for treating your condition.
 - If the drug you're taking is a brand name drug you can ask us to cover your drug at the cost-sharing amount that applies to the lowest tier that contains brand name alternatives of the same or similar type for treating your condition.
 - If the drug you're taking is a generic drug you can ask us to cover your drug at the cost-sharing amount that applies to the lowest tier that contains either brand or generic alternatives of the same or similar type for treating your condition.
 - You can't ask us to change the cost-sharing tier for any drug in Tiers 1 (Preferred Generic), 3 (Preferred Brand) or 5 (Specialty).
 - If we approve your tiering exception request and there's more than one lower cost-sharing tier with alternative drugs you can't take, you usually pay the lowest amount.

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 you're asking for an exception. For a faster decision, include this medical information from your doctor or other prescriber when you ask for the exception.

Our Drug List typically 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're asking for and wouldn't cause more side effects or other health problems, we generally won't approve your request for an exception. If you ask us for a tiering exception, we generally won't 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 or are likely to cause an adverse reaction or other harm.

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 our 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, you can ask for another review by making an appeal.

Section 5.4 How to ask for a coverage decision, including an exception**Legal Term:**

A fast coverage decision is called an **expedited coverage determination**.

Step 1: Decide if you need a standard coverage decision or a fast coverage decision.

Standard coverage decisions are made within **72 hours** after we get your doctor's statement. **Fast coverage decisions** are made within **24 hours** after we get your doctor's statement.

If your health requires it, ask us to give you a fast coverage decision. To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet 2 requirements:

- You must be asking for a drug you didn't get. (You can't ask for fast coverage decision to be paid back for a drug you have already bought.)
- Using the standard deadlines could cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to regain function.
- **If your doctor or other prescriber tells us that your health requires a fast coverage decision, we'll automatically give you a fast coverage decision.**
- **If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own, without your doctor or prescriber's support, we'll decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision.** If we don't approve a fast coverage decision, we'll send you a letter that:
 - Explains that we'll use the standard deadlines.
 - Explains if your doctor or other prescriber asks for the fast coverage decision, we'll automatically give you a fast coverage decision.

- Tells you how you can file a fast complaint about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you asked for. We'll answer your complaint within 24 hours of receipt.

Step 2: Ask for a standard coverage decision or a fast coverage decision.

Start by calling, writing, or faxing our plan to ask us to authorize or provide coverage for the prescription you want. You can also access the coverage decision process through our website. We must accept any written request, including a request submitted on the *CMS Model Coverage Determination Request Form*, which is available on our website [**BCBSALMedicare.com/Appeals \(AL\)**](https://www.bcbsalmedicare.com/appeals)/[**BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Appeals \(TN\)**](https://www.bluerxalatenn.com/appeals). Chapter 2 has contact information. You may submit coverage determination requests electronically at [**MyPrime.com**](https://www.myprime.com). To help us process your request, include your name, contact information, and information that shows which denied claim is being appealed.

You, your doctor, (or other prescriber), or your representative can do this. You can also have a lawyer act on your behalf. Section 4 of this chapter tells how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative.

- **If you're asking for an exception, provide the supporting statement**, which is the medical reasons for the exception. 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.

Step 3: We consider your request and give you our answer.***Deadlines for a fast coverage decision***

- We must generally give you our answer within **24 hours** after we get your request.
 - For exceptions, we'll give you our answer within 24 hours after we get your doctor's supporting statement. We'll give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If we don't meet this deadline, we're required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must provide the coverage we agreed to within 24 hours after we get your request or doctor's statement supporting your request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We'll also tell you how you can appeal.

Deadlines for a standard coverage decision about a drug you didn't get yet

- We must generally give you our answer **within 72 hours** after we get your request.
 - For exceptions, we'll give you our answer within 72 hours after we get your doctor's supporting statement. We'll give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If we don't meet this deadline, we're required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it'll be reviewed by an independent review organization.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must **provide the coverage** we agreed to provide **within 72 hours** after we get your request or doctor's statement supporting your request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We'll also tell you how you can appeal.

Deadlines for a standard coverage decision about payment for a drug you've already bought

- We must give you our answer **within 14 calendar days** after we get your request.
 - If we don't meet this deadline, we're required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we're also required to make payment to you within 14 calendar days after we get your request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We'll also tell you how you can appeal.

Step 4: If we say no to your coverage request, you can make an appeal.

- If we say no, you have the right to ask us to reconsider this decision by making an appeal. This means asking again to get the drug coverage you want. If you make an appeal, it means you're going to Level 1 of the appeals process.

Section 5.5 How to make a Level 1 appeal

Legal Terms:

An appeal to our plan about a Part D drug coverage decision is called a plan **redetermination**.

A fast appeal is called an **expedited redetermination**.

Step 1: Decide if you need a standard appeal or a fast appeal.

A standard appeal is usually made within 7 calendar days. A fast appeal is generally made within 72 hours. If your health requires it, ask for a fast appeal.

- If you're appealing a decision we made about a drug, 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: You, your representative, doctor, or other prescriber must contact us and make your Level 1 appeal. If your health requires a quick response, you must ask for a fast appeal.

- **For standard appeals, submit a written request or call us.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **For fast appeals, either submit your appeal in writing or call us at (1-800-327-3998 (AL) / 1-888-311-7508 (TN)).** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **We must accept any written request**, including a request submitted on the *CMS Model Redetermination Request Form*, which is available on our website **[BCBSALMedicare.com/Appeals \(AL\)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com/Appeals \(TN\)](https://www.bcbstx.com/Appeals)**. Include your name, contact information, and information about your claim to help us process your request.
- **You must make your appeal request within 65 calendar days** from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for asking for an appeal.
- **You can ask for a copy of the information in your appeal and add more information.** You and your doctor may add more information to support your appeal.

Step 3: We consider your appeal and give you our answer.

- When we review your appeal, we take another careful look at all 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

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours after we get your appeal**. We'll give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If we don't give you an answer within 72 hours, we're required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. Section 5.6 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must provide the coverage we agreed to within 72 hours after we get your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how you can appeal our decision.

Deadlines for a standard appeal for a drug you didn't get yet

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer **within 7 calendar days** after we get your appeal. We'll give you our decision sooner if you didn't get the drug yet and your health condition requires us to do so.
 - If we don't give you a decision within 7 calendar days, we're required to send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. Section 5.6 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must provide the coverage as quickly as your health requires, but no later than **7 calendar days** after we get your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how you can appeal our decision.

Deadlines for a standard appeal about payment for a drug you already bought

- We must give you our answer **within 14 calendar days** after we get your request.
 - If we don't meet this deadline, we're required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we're also required to make payment to you within **30 calendar days** after we get your request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no. We'll also tell you how you can appeal.

Step 4: If we say no to your appeal, you decide if you want to continue with the appeals process and make *another* appeal.

- If you decide to make another appeal, it means your appeal is going on to Level 2 of the appeals process.

Section 5.6 How to make a Level 2 appeal

Legal Term:

The formal name for the independent review organization is the **Independent Review Entity**. It is sometimes called the **IRE**.

The **independent review organization is an independent organization hired by Medicare**. It isn't connected with us and is not a government agency. This organization decides whether the decision we made is correct or if it should be changed. Medicare oversees its work.

Step 1: 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 independent review organization.
- **You must make your appeal request within 65 calendar days** from the date on the written notice.
- If we did not complete our review within the applicable timeframe or make an unfavorable decision regarding an **at-risk** determination under our drug management program, we'll automatically forward your request to the IRE.
- We'll send the information we have about your appeal to the independent review organization. This information is called your **case file**. **You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file.**
- You have a right to give the independent review organization additional information to support your appeal.

Step 2: The independent review organization reviews your appeal.

- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

Deadlines for fast appeal

- If your health requires it, ask the independent review organization for a fast appeal.
- If the independent review organization agrees to give you a fast appeal, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 72 hours** after it gets your appeal request.

Deadlines for standard appeal

- For standard appeals, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 7 calendar days** after it gets your appeal if it is for a drug you didn't get yet. If you're asking us to pay you back for a drug you already bought, the

independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 14 calendar days** after it gets your request.

Step 3: The independent review organization gives you its answer.

For fast appeals:

- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must provide the drug coverage that was approved by the independent review organization **within 24 hours** after we get the decision from the independent review organization.

For standard appeals:

- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of your request for coverage**, we must **provide the drug coverage** that was approved by the independent review organization **within 72 hours** after we get the decision from the independent review organization.
- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of your request to pay you back** for a drug you already bought, we're required to **send payment to you within 30 calendar days** after we get the decision from the independent review organization.

What if the independent review organization says no to your appeal?

If this organization says **no to part or all of** your appeal, it means they agree with our decision not to approve your request (or part of your request). (This is called **upholding the decision**. It's also called **turning down your appeal**.) In this case, the independent review organization will send you a letter that:

- Explains the decision.
- Lets you know about your right to a Level 3 appeal if the dollar value of the drug coverage you're asking for meets a certain minimum. If the dollar value of the drug coverage you're asking for is too low, you can't make another appeal and the decision at Level 2 is final.
- Tells you the dollar value that must be in dispute to continue with the appeals process.

Step 4: If your case meets the requirements, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are 3 additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal).
- If you want to go to a Level 3 appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal decision.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 6 explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals process.

SECTION 6 Taking your appeal to Levels 3, 4 and 5

Section 6.1 Appeal Levels 3, 4 and 5 for Part D Drug Requests

This section may be right for you if you made a Level 1 appeal and a Level 2 appeal, and both of your appeals were turned down.

If the dollar value of the drug you appealed meets certain minimum levels, you may be able to go to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar value is less than the minimum level, you can't appeal any further. The written response you get to your Level 2 appeal will explain how to make a Level 3 appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last 3 levels of appeal work in much the same way as the first 2 levels. Here's who handles the review of your appeal at each of these levels.

Level 3 appeal

An Administrative Law Judge or an attorney adjudicator who works for the federal government will review your appeal and give you an answer.

- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator says yes to your appeal, the appeals process *may or may not be over*.** Unlike a decision at a Level 2 appeal, we have the right to appeal a Level 3 decision that's favorable to you. If we decide to appeal, it will go to a Level 4 appeal.
 - If we decide *not* to appeal, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after we get the Administrative Law Judge's or attorney adjudicator's decision.
 - If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll send you a copy of the Level 4 appeal request with any accompanying documents. We may wait for the Level 4 appeal decision before authorizing or providing the medical care in dispute.
- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator 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 don't want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. The notice you get will tell you what to do for a Level 4 appeal.

Level 4 appeal

The **Medicare Appeals Council** (Council) will review your appeal and give you an answer. The Council is part of the federal government.

- **If the answer is yes, or if the Council denies our request to review a favorable Level 3 appeal decision, the appeals process *may or may not be over*.** Unlike a decision at Level 2, we have the right to appeal a Level 4 decision that is favorable to you. We'll decide whether to appeal this decision to Level 5.

- If we decide not to appeal the decision, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after getting the Council's decision.
- If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll let you know in writing.
- **If the answer is no or if the Council denies the review request, the appeals process may or may not be over.**
 - If you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
 - If you don't want to accept the decision, you may be able to continue to the next level of the review process. If the Council says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you whether the rules allow you to go to a Level 5 appeal and how to continue with a Level 5 appeal.

Level 5 appeal

A judge at the **Federal District Court** will review your appeal.

- A judge will review all the information and decide *yes* or *no* to your request. This is a final answer. There are no more appeal levels after the Federal District Court.

Making complaints

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

Section 7.1 What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process

The complaint process is *only* used for certain types of problems. This includes problems about quality of care, waiting times, and customer service. Here are examples of the kinds of problems handled by the complaint process.

Complaint	Example
Quality of your care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you unhappy with the quality of the care you got
Respecting your privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did someone not respect your right to privacy or share confidential information?
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 our Member Services? • Do you feel you're being encouraged to leave our plan?

Complaint	Example
Waiting times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you been kept waiting too long by pharmacists? Or by our Member Services or other staff at our plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples include waiting too long on the phone, in the waiting or exam room, or 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"> Did we fail to give you a required notice? Is our written information hard to understand?
Timeliness (These types of complaints are all about the <i>timeliness</i> of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals)	<p>If you asked for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think we aren't responding quickly enough, you can make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You asked us for a <i>fast coverage decision</i> or a <i>fast appeal</i>, and we said no; you can make a complaint. You believe we aren't meeting the deadlines for coverage decisions or appeals; you can make a complaint. You believe we aren't meeting deadlines for covering or reimbursing you for certain drugs that were approved; you can make a complaint. You believe we failed to meet required deadlines for forwarding your case to the independent review organization; you can make a complaint.

Section 7.2 How to make a complaint

Legal Terms:

A **complaint** is also called a **grievance**.

Making a complaint is called **filing a grievance**.

Using the process for complaints is called **using the process for filing a grievance**.

A **fast complaint** is called an **expedited grievance**.

Step 1: Contact us promptly – either by phone or in writing.

- **Calling Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) **is usually the first step.** If there's anything else you need to do, Member Services will let you know.
- **If you don't want to call (or you called and weren't satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us.** If you put your complaint in writing, we'll respond to your complaint in writing.
- **Procedure for making a written complaint:**
 - Write to the address on the back of your ID card within 60 days of the issue taking place.
 - Include the following in your letter:
 - Your name
 - Your address
 - Your Member ID Number
 - A description of your complaint/grievance including the date of service or occurrence.

Procedure for making an oral complaint:

- Call the Member Services phone number on the back of your ID card within 60 days of the issue taking place.
- Have the following prepared for the representative:
 - Your name
 - Your address
 - Your Member ID Number
 - A description of your complaint/grievance including the date of service or occurrence.

Grievance Response Times

Grievance Type	Time Frames	Response Type
Response: Expedited Grievance (Written)	Response in 24 hours	If you wrote to us, you'll receive your response in writing
Response: Expedited Grievance (Oral)	Response in 24 hours	If you called us, we'll call you and send you a response in writing
Response: Standard Grievance (Written)	No later than 30 days after the plan receives the oral or written grievance	If you wrote to us, you'll receive your response in writing
Response: Standard Grievance (Oral)	No later than 30 days after the plan receives the oral or written grievance	If you called us, we'll call you or respond in writing unless you requested a written response
Response: Quality of Care (Written)	No later than 30 days after the plan receives the oral or written grievance	We'll respond in writing, and we'll include information on filing a complaint with the QIO (Quality Improvement Organization)
Response: Quality of Care (Oral)	No later than 30 days after the plan receives the oral or written grievance	We'll respond in writing, and we'll include information on filing a complaint with the QIO (Quality Improvement Organization)
Response: Extensions	14 day maximum extension. Alert member immediately upon determining greater than 30 days is needed (Post Marked by 30th day)	If we issue an extension, we'll notify you in writing and we'll include the reason we extended the timeframe to respond to your complaint

- The **deadline** for making a complaint is 60 calendar days from the time you had the problem you want to complain about.

Step 2: We look into your complaint and give you our answer.

- **If possible, we'll 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.

- **Most complaints are answered within 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'll tell you in writing.
- **If you're making a complaint because we denied your request for a *fast coverage decision* or a *fast appeal*, we'll automatically give you a *fast complaint*.** If you have a *fast complaint*, it means we'll give you an answer **within 24 hours**.
- **If we don't agree** with some or all of your complaint or don't take responsibility for the problem you're complaining about, we'll include our reasons in our response to you.

Section 7.3 You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization

When your complaint is about *quality of care*, you have 2 extra options:

- **You can make your complaint directly to the Quality Improvement Organization.** 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. Chapter 2 has contact information.
Or
- **You can make your complaint to both the Quality Improvement Organization and us at the same time.**

Section 7.4 You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

You can submit a complaint about **BlueRx Essential** directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to [Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint](https://www.medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint). You may also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY/TDD users call 1-877-486-2048.

CHAPTER 8:

Ending membership in our plan

SECTION 1 Ending your membership in our plan

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

- You might leave our plan because you decide you *want* to leave. Sections 2 and 3 give information on ending your membership voluntarily.
- There are also limited situations where we're required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

If you're leaving our plan, our plan must continue to provide your prescription drugs, and you'll continue to pay your cost share until your membership ends.

SECTION 2 When can you end your membership in our plan?

Section 2.1 You can end your membership during the Open Enrollment Period

You can end your membership in our plan during the **Open Enrollment Period** each year. During this time, review your health and drug coverage and decide about coverage for the upcoming year.

- **The Open Enrollment Period** is from **October 15 to December 7**.
- **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 drug plan,
 - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare drug plan,
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan,
 - If you choose this option and receive Extra Help, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you've opted out of automatic enrollment.
 - A Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all 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'll be disenrolled from **BlueRx Essential** 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

BlueRx Essential for your drug coverage. If you don't want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 or more days in a row, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

- **Your membership will end in our plan** when your new plan's coverage starts on January 1.

Section 2.2 In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period

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

You may be eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period if any of the following situations apply. These are just examples; For the full list you can contact our plan, call Medicare, or visit the [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov):

- Usually, when you move
- If you have Medicaid
- If you're eligible for Extra Help paying for Medicare drug coverage
- If we violate our contract with you
- If you're getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital
- If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
- **Note:** If you're in a drug management program, you may not be able to change plans. Chapter 3, Section 10 tells you more about drug management programs.

Enrollment time periods vary depending on your situation.

To find out if you're eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you're eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and drug coverage. You can choose:

- Another Medicare drug plan,

- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan.
- A Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D drug coverage.
 - If you enroll in most Medicare health plans, you'll automatically be disenrolled from **BlueRx Essential** 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 **BlueRx Essential** for your drug coverage. If you don't want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 days or more in a row, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after we get your request to change our plan.

If you get Extra Help from Medicare to pay your drugs coverage costs: If you switch to Original Medicare and don't enroll in a separate Medicare drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you opt out of automatic enrollment.

Section 2.3 **Get more information about when you can end your membership**

If you have questions about ending your membership you can:

- **Call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**)
- Find the information in the **Medicare & You 2026** handbook
- Call **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)

SECTION 3 **How to end your membership in our plan**

The table below explains how you can end your membership in our plan.

To switch from our plan to:	Here's what to do:
Another Medicare health plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in the new Medicare health plan. • You'll automatically be disenrolled from BlueRx Essential when your new plan's coverage starts.

To switch from our plan to:	Here's what to do:
Original Medicare <i>with</i> a separate Medicare drug plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in the new Medicare drug plan. • You'll automatically be disenrolled from BlueRx Essential when your new drug plan's coverage starts.
Original Medicare <i>without</i> a separate Medicare drug plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send us a written request to disenroll. Call Member Services at 1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN) (TTY users call 711) if you need more information on how to do this. • You can also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. • You'll be disenrolled from BlueRx Essential when your coverage in Original Medicare starts.

SECTION 4 **Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your drugs through our plan**

Until your membership ends, and your new Medicare coverage starts, you must continue to get your prescription drugs through our plan.

- **Continue to use our network pharmacies or mail order to get your prescriptions filled.**

SECTION 5 **BlueRx Essential must end your plan membership in certain situations**

BlueRx Essential must end your membership in our 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're away from our service area for more than 12 months.
 - If you move or take a long trip, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**) to find out if the place you're moving or traveling to is in our plan's area.
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison)
- If you're no longer a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States.

- If you lie or withhold information about other insurance, you have that provides prescription drug coverage
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you're enrolling in our plan, and that information affects your eligibility for our plan. (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you continuously behave in a way that's 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 can't 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 don't pay our plan premiums for 180 days.
 - We must notify you in writing that you have 180 days to pay our plan premium before we end your membership.
- If you're required to pay the extra Part D amount because of your income and you don't pay it, Medicare will disenroll you from our plan and you'll lose drug coverage.

If you have questions or want more information on when we can end your membership, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)**/ **1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**).

Section 5.1 We can't ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason

BlueRx Essential isn't allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason.

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel you're being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 5.2 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.

CHAPTER 9: Legal notices

SECTION 1 Notice about governing law

The principal law that applies to this *Evidence of Coverage* 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 (CMS). In addition, other federal laws may apply and, under certain circumstances, the laws of the state you live in. This may affect your rights and responsibilities even if the laws aren't included or explained in this document.

SECTION 2 Notice about nondiscrimination

We don't discriminate based on race, ethnicity, national origin, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or geographic location within the service area. 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.

If you want more information or have concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment, 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. You can also review information from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights at [HHS.gov/ocr/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html).

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, call Member Services at **1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN)** (TTY users call **711**). If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, Member Services can help.

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, **BlueRx Essential**, 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 Notice about BlueRx Essential's subrogation rights and rights of reimbursement

If you are injured by any act or omission of another person, the benefits under **BlueRx Essential** will be subrogated. This means that we may use your right to recover money from the person(s) who caused the injury, or from any insurance company or other party, even your own insurance company. Besides the right of subrogation, we have a separate right of reimbursement. We have the right to be reimbursed or repaid from any money you, including your family members, recover, no matter the source, for an injury or condition for which we have paid plan benefits. This means that you promise to repay us, from any money you recover, the amount we have paid or provided in plan benefits. If you recover, we are entitled to recover up to the amount of the payments that we have made on your behalf. This is true no matter where or by whom the recovered money is held or how it is designated and even if you are not made whole for your loss and do not recover the total amount of your claim against the other person(s). This is also true if the payment you receive is described as payment for other than health care expenses.

You must cooperate with us and further our rights of subrogation and reimbursement. This means you must complete and sign all necessary documents to help us get this money back. You must not do anything that could limit our right to full reimbursement. This also means that you or your attorney must give us timely notice of all significant steps during negotiation, litigation, or settlement with any third party (such as filing a claim or lawsuit, initiation of settlement discussions, agreement to a settlement in principle, etc.), and before settling any claim arising out of injuries you sustained by an act or omission of another person(s) for which we provided benefits, so as to enable us to participate in the suit or settlement to protect and enforce our rights under this section.

If you do notify us so that we are able to and do recover the amount of our benefit payments for you, we will share proportionately with you in any attorney's fees charged you by your attorney for obtaining the recovery. If you do not give us that notice, our reimbursement or subrogation recovery under this section will not be decreased by any attorney's fee for your attorney.

CHAPTER 10: Definitions

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 got.

Biological Product – A prescription drug that is made from natural and living sources like animal cells, plant cells, bacteria, or yeast. Biological products are more complex than other drugs and can't be copied exactly, so alternative forms are called biosimilars. (Go to “**Original Biological Product**” and “**Biosimilar**”).

Biosimilar – A biological product very similar, but not identical, to the original biological product. Biosimilars are as safe and effective as the original biological product. Some biosimilars may be substituted for the original biological product at the pharmacy without needing a new prescription (go to “**Interchangeable Biosimilar**”).

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 that begins when you (or other qualified parties on your behalf) have spent **\$2,100** for Part D covered drugs during the covered year. During this payment stage, you pay **nothing** for your covered Part D drugs.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – The federal agency that administers Medicare.

Coinsurance – An amount you may be required to pay, expressed as a percentage (for example 20%) as your share of the cost for prescription drugs after you pay any deductibles.

Complaint – The formal name for making a complaint is **filing a grievance**. The complaint process is used *only* for certain types of problems. This includes problems about quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you get. It also includes complaints if our plan doesn't follow the time periods in the appeal process.

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 (for example \$10), rather than a percentage.

Cost-Sharing – Cost-sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when drugs are gotten. (This is in addition to our plan's monthly premium.) Cost-sharing includes any combination of the following 3 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 gotten; or 3) any coinsurance amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a drug, that a plan requires when a specific drug is gotten.

Cost-Sharing Tier – Every drug on the list of covered drugs is in one of 5 cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier, the higher your cost for the drug.

Coverage Determination – A decision about whether a drug prescribed for you is covered by our plan and the amount, if any, you're 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 our plan, that isn't a coverage determination. You need to call or write to our plan to ask for a formal decision about the coverage. Coverage determinations are called *coverage decisions* in this document.

Covered Drugs – The term we use to mean all 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 drug coverage later.

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're 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 our plan is 30 days, then your daily cost-sharing rate is \$1 per day.

Deductible – The amount you must pay for prescriptions before our plan pays.

Disenroll or **Disenrollment** – The process of ending your membership in our plan.

Dispensing Fee – A fee charged each time a covered drug is dispensed to pay for the cost of filling a prescription, such as the pharmacist's time to prepare and package the prescription.

Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP) – D-SNPs enroll people who are entitled to both Medicare (Title XVIII of the Social Security Act) and medical assistance from a state plan under Medicaid (Title XIX). States cover some Medicare costs, depending on the state and the person's eligibility.

Dually Eligible Individual – A person who is eligible for Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

Emergency – A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life (and if you're a pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb, or loss of or serious impairment to a bodily function. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse.

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 decision that, if approved, allows you to get a drug that is not on our formulary (a formulary exception), or get a non-preferred drug at a lower cost-sharing level (a tiering exception). You may also ask for an exception if our plan requires you to try another drug before getting the drug you’re asking for, if our plan requires a prior authorization for a drug and you want us to waive the criteria restriction, or if our plan limits the quantity or dosage of the drug you’re asking for (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’s approved by the 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 our plan, providers, or pharmacies, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This doesn’t involve coverage or payment disputes.

Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) – If your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return from 2 years ago is above a certain amount, you’ll pay the standard premium amount and an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, also known as IRMAA. IRMAA is an extra charge added to your premium. Less than 5% of people with Medicare are affected, so most people won’t pay a higher premium.

Initial Coverage Stage – This is the stage before your out-of-pocket costs for the year have reached the out-of-pocket threshold amount.

Initial Enrollment Period – When you’re first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B. If you’re eligible for Medicare when you turn 65, your Initial Enrollment Period is the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.

Interchangeable Biosimilar – A biosimilar that may be used as a substitute for an original biosimilar product at the pharmacy without needing a new prescription because it meets additional requirements related to the potential for automatic substitution. Automatic substitution at the pharmacy is subject to state law.

List of Covered Drugs (formulary or Drug List) – A list of prescription drugs covered by our plan.

Low Income Subsidy (LIS) – Go to Extra Help.

Manufacturer Discount Program – A program under which drug manufacturers pay a portion of our plan's full cost for covered Part D brand name drugs and biologics. Discounts are based on agreements between the federal government and drug manufacturers.

Maximum Fair Price – The price Medicare negotiated for a selected drug.

Medicaid (or Medical Assistance) – A joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with low incomes and limited resources. State Medicaid programs vary, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Medically Accepted Indication – A use of a drug that is either approved by the FDA or supported by certain references, such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information and the Micromedex DRUGDEX Information system.

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).

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 i) an HMO, ii) a PPO, iii) a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan, or iv) a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. Besides choosing from these types of plans, a Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO plan can also be a Special Needs Plan (SNP). 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**.

Medicare-Covered Services – Services covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. The term Medicare-Covered Services doesn't include the extra benefits, such as vision, dental, or hearing, that a Medicare Advantage plan may offer.

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 our plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Cost Plans, Special Needs 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, biologics, and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B.

Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program – A Medicare Part D program for complex health needs provided to people who meet certain requirements or are in a Drug Management Program. MTM services usually include a discussion with a pharmacist or health care provider to review medications.

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).

Member Services – A department within our plan responsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits, grievances, and appeals.

Network Pharmacy – A pharmacy that contracts with our plan where members of our plan can get their prescription drug benefits. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered only if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies.

Open Enrollment Period – The time period of October 15 until December 7 of each year when members can change their health or drug plans or switch to Original Medicare.

Original Biological Product – A biological product that has been approved by the FDA and serves as the comparison for manufacturers making a biosimilar version. It is also called a reference product.

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 2 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. Most drugs you get from out-of-network pharmacies aren't covered by our plan unless certain conditions apply.

Out-of-Pocket Costs – Go to the definition for cost sharing above. A member's cost-sharing requirement to pay for a portion of drugs gotten is also referred to as the member's out-of-pocket cost requirement.

Out-of-Pocket Threshold – The maximum amount you pay out of pocket for Part D drugs.

PACE plan – A PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) plan combines medical, social, and long-term services and supports (LTSS) for frail people to help people stay independent and living in their community (instead of moving to a nursing home) as long as possible. People enrolled in PACE plans get both their Medicare and Medicaid benefits through our plan.

Part C – Go to Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan.

Part D – The voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program.

Part D Drugs – Drugs that can be covered under Part D. We may or may not offer all Part D drugs. Certain categories of drugs have been excluded as covered Part D drugs by Congress.

Part D Late Enrollment Penalty – An amount added to your monthly premium for Medicare drug coverage if you go without creditable coverage (coverage that's expected to pay, on average, at least as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage) for a continuous period of 63 days or more after you're first eligible to join a Part D plan.

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 based on specific criteria. Covered drugs that need prior authorization are marked in the formulary and our criteria are posted on our website.

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.

Quantity Limits – A management tool that is designed to limit the use of a drug 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.

“Real-Time Benefit Tool” – A portal or computer application in which enrollees can look up complete, accurate, timely, clinically appropriate, enrollee-specific formulary and benefit information. This includes cost-sharing amounts, alternative formulary medications that may be used for the same health condition as a given drug, and coverage restrictions (Prior Authorization, Step Therapy, Quantity Limits) that apply to alternative medications.

Selected Drug – A drug covered under Part D for which Medicare negotiated a Maximum Fair Price.

Service Area – A geographic area where you must live to join a particular prescription drug plan. Our plan may disenroll you if you permanently move out of our 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 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.

Step Therapy – A utilization tool that requires you to first try another drug to treat your medical condition before we'll 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 aren't the same as Social Security benefits.

Prime Therapeutics LLC is an independent company that provides pharmacy solutions for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company members. **MyPrime.com** is a pharmacy benefit website owned and operated by Prime Therapeutics LLC, an independent company that provides pharmacy solutions for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UTIC Insurance Company members.

BlueRx Member Services

Member Services – Contact Information

Call	1-800-327-3998 (AL)/ 1-888-311-7508 (TN) Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day. Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 Calls to this number are free. Contact Member Services Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. From October 1 to March 31, the hours of operation are Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST. You may be required to leave a message for calls made after hours, weekends and holidays. Calls will be returned the next business day.
Write	BlueRx Essential P.O. Box 995 Birmingham, AL 35298
Website	BCBSALMedicare.com (AL)/BlueRxAlaTenn.com (TN)

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

State Health Insurance Assistance Program is a state program that gets money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. The SHIP for your state is listed in Chapter 2, Section 3 of the Evidence of Coverage.