

# Important Disclosures

Large Group Plan

**Blue Shield Active Choice Plus Plan Disclosure Form (101+)**

Provider Network: Full PPO

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## Notice

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**This disclosure form is only a summary. Consult the Evidence of Coverage and the Group Health Service Contract to determine the governing contractual provisions.**

The Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and the Group Health Service Contract (Contract) disclose the terms and conditions of your coverage. You should read this disclosure form and the EOC completely and carefully. If you or a covered family member have special health care needs, you should read any relevant sections closely.



Consult the health plan benefits and coverage matrix for additional information.

Applicants for coverage under this plan have a right to view the EOC prior to enrollment. Applicants may contact Blue Shield for additional information about this plan's Benefits. Call Customer Service at (888) 256-1915.

Blue Shield will furnish a copy of the EOC upon request.

This is a First Dollar Services PPO plan. Blue Shield credits you with a dollar amount each year, called a First Dollar Services credit, to use for certain routine care services. You can use this First Dollar Services credit before your Cost Share applies. See the Paying for Covered Services section for more information about your First Dollar Services credit.

## General disclosures

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### **Principal Benefits and coverages**

Your plan includes certain Benefits and coverages, including coverage for acute and subacute care. Blue Shield provides coverage for Medically Necessary services and supplies only. Experimental or Investigational services and supplies are not covered.

All Benefits are subject to:

- Your Cost Share;
- Any Benefit maximums;
- The provisions of the Medical Management Programs; and
- The terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of this EOC.

You can receive many outpatient Benefits in a variety of settings, including your home, a Physician's office, an urgent care center, an Ambulatory Surgery Center, or a Hospital. Blue Shield's Medical Management Programs work with your provider to ensure that your care is provided safely and effectively in a setting that is appropriate to your needs. Your Cost Share for outpatient Benefits may vary depending on where you receive them.

Review your Summary of Benefits and your EOC to understand the specifics and costs associated with your principal Benefits and coverages.



### Principal Benefits and Coverages




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Acupuncture services

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Allergy testing and immunotherapy Benefits

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Ambulance services

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Bariatric surgery Benefits

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Chiropractic services

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Clinical trials for treatment of cancer or life-threatening diseases or conditions Benefits

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Diabetes care services

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Diagnostic X-ray, imaging, pathology, laboratory, and other testing services

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Dialysis Benefits

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Durable medical equipment

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## Principal Benefits and Coverages

Emergency Benefits

Family planning and Infertility Benefits

Home health services

Hospice program services

Hospital services

Medical treatment of the teeth, gums, jaw joints, and jaw bones

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits

Physician and other professional services

PKU formulas and special food products

Podiatric services

Pregnancy and maternity care

Preventive Health Services

Reconstructive Surgery Benefits

Rehabilitative and habilitative services

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services

Transplant services

Urgent care services

## **Principal exclusions and limitations on Benefits**

Review your EOC to learn more about this plan's general exclusions and limitations.



## General exclusions and limitations



1

This plan only covers services that are Medically Necessary. A Physician or other Health Care Provider's decision to prescribe, order, recommend, or approve a service or supply does not, in itself, make it Medically Necessary. This exclusion



## General exclusions and limitations



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|   | does not apply to services which Blue Shield is required by law to cover for Reconstructive Surgery.   |
| 2 | <p>Routine physical examinations solely for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immunizations and vaccinations, by any mode of administration, for the purpose of travel; or</li><li>• Licensure, employment, insurance, court order, parole, or probation.</li></ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.</p>   |
| 3 | Hospitalization solely for X-ray, laboratory or any other outpatient diagnostic studies, or for medical observation.   |
| 4 | <p>Routine foot care items and services that are not Medically Necessary, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Callus treatment;</li><li>• Corn paring or excision;</li><li>• Toenail trimming;</li><li>• Over-the-counter shoe inserts or arch supports; or</li><li>• Any type of massage procedure on the foot.</li></ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to items or services provided through a Participating Hospice Agency or covered under the diabetes care Benefit.</p>  |
| 5 | <p>Home services, hospitalization, or confinement in a health facility primarily for rest, custodial care, or domiciliary care.</p> <p>Custodial care is assistance with Activities of Daily Living furnished in the home primarily for supervisory care or supportive services, or in a facility primarily to provide room and board.</p> <p>Domiciliary care is a supervised living arrangement in a home-like environment for adults who are unable to live alone because of age-related impairments or physical, mental, or visual disabilities.</p> |
| 6 | Continuous Nursing Services, private duty nursing, or nursing shift care, except as provided through a Participating Hospice Agency.   |
| 7 | Prescription and non-prescription oral food and nutritional supplements. This exclusion does not apply to services listed in the <i>Home infusion and injectable medication services</i> and <i>PKU formulas and special food products</i> sections of the EOC, or as provided through a Participating Hospice Agency. This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.  |



## General exclusions and limitations



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| 8  | Hearing aids, hearing aid examinations for the appropriate type of hearing aid, fitting, and hearing aid recheck appointments.  |
| 9  | Eye exams and refractions, lenses and frames for eyeglasses, lens options, treatments, and contact lenses, except as listed under the <i>Prosthetic equipment and devices</i> section of the EOC.<br>Video-assisted visual aids or video magnification equipment for any purpose, or surgery to correct refractive error.   |
| 10 | Any type of communicator, voice enhancer, voice prosthesis, electronic voice producing machine, or any other language assistive device. This exclusion does not apply to items or services listed under the <i>Prosthetic equipment and devices</i> section of the EOC.   |
| 11 | Dental services and supplies for treatment of the teeth, gums, and associated periodontal structures, including but not limited to the treatment, prevention, or relief of pain or dysfunction of the temporomandibular joint and muscles of mastication. This exclusion does not apply to items or services provided under the <i>Medical treatment of the teeth, gums, or jaw joints and jaw bones</i> , <i>Pediatric dental Benefits</i> , and <i>Hospital services</i> sections of the EOC.   |
| 12 | Surgery that is performed to alter or reshape normal structures of the body to improve appearance. This exclusion does not apply to Medically Necessary treatment for complications resulting from cosmetic surgery, such as infections or hemorrhages.   |
| 13 | Unless selected as an optional Benefit by your Employer, any services related to assisted reproductive technology (including associated services such as radiology, laboratory, medications, and procedures) including but not limited to the harvesting or stimulation of the human ovum, in vitro fertilization, Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT) procedure, Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT), Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), pre-implantation genetic screening, donor services or procurement and storage of donor embryos, oocytes, ovarian tissue, or sperm, any type of artificial insemination, services or medications to treat low sperm count, services incident to or resulting from procedures for a surrogate mother who is otherwise not eligible for covered pregnancy and maternity care under a Blue Shield health plan, or services incident to reversal of surgical sterilization, except for Medically Necessary treatment of medical complications of the reversal procedure. |
| 14 | Home testing devices and monitoring equipment. This exclusion does not apply to items specifically described in the <i>Durable medical equipment</i> or <i>Diabetes care services</i> sections of the EOC.  |



## General exclusions and limitations



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| 15 | Preventive Health Services performed by a Non-Participating Provider, except laboratory services under the California Prenatal Screening Program.   |
| 16 | Services performed in a Hospital by house officers, residents, interns, or other professionals in training without the supervision of an attending Physician in association with an accredited clinical education program.  |
| 17 | Services performed by your spouse, Domestic Partner, child, brother, sister, or parent.   |
| 18 | <p>Services provided by an individual or entity that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is not appropriately licensed or certified by the state to provide health care services;</li><li>• Is not operating within the scope of such license or certification; or</li><li>• Does not maintain the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certificate required to perform laboratory testing services.</li></ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to Behavioral Health Treatment Benefits listed under the <i>Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits</i> section of the EOC or to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder provided by an individual trainee, associate or applicant for licensure who is supervised as required by applicable law.</p> |
| 19 | <p>Select physical and occupational therapies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Massage therapy, unless it is a component of a multimodality rehabilitative treatment plan or physical therapy treatment plan;</li><li>• Training or therapy for the treatment of learning disabilities or behavioral problems;</li><li>• Social skills training or therapy;</li><li>• Vocational, educational, recreational, art, dance, music, or reading therapy; and</li><li>• Testing for intelligence or learning disabilities.</li></ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.</p>   |
| 20 | Weight control programs and exercise programs. This exclusion does not apply to nutritional counseling provided under the <i>Diabetes care services</i> section of the EOC, or to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder, or Preventive Health Services.  |
| 21 | Services or Drugs that are Experimental or Investigational in nature.   |





## General exclusions and limitations



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| 22 | <p>Services that cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drugs;</li><li>• Medicines;</li><li>• Supplements;</li><li>• Tests;</li><li>• Vaccines;</li><li>• Devices; and</li><li>• Radioactive material.</li></ul> <p>However, drugs and medicines that have received FDA approval for marketing for one or more uses will not be denied on the basis that they are being prescribed for an off-label use if the conditions set forth in California Health &amp; Safety Code Section 1367.21 have been met.</p> |
| 23 | <p>The following non-prescription (over-the-counter) medical equipment or supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oxygen saturation monitors;</li><li>• Prophylactic knee braces; and</li><li>• Bath chairs.</li></ul>   |
| 24 | <p>Member convenience items, such as internet, phones, televisions, guest trays, and personal hygiene items.</p>   |
| 25 | <p>Disposable supplies for home use except as provided under the <i>Durable medical equipment</i>, <i>Home health services</i>, and <i>Hospice program services</i> sections of the EOC.</p>   |
| 26 | <p>Services incident to any injury or disease arising out of, or in the course of, employment for salary, wage, or profit if such injury or disease is covered by any workers' compensation law, occupational disease law, or similar legislation. However, if Blue Shield provides payment for such services, we will be entitled to establish a lien up to the amount paid by Blue Shield for the treatment of such injury or disease.</p>   |
| 27 | <p>Transportation by car, taxi, bus, gurney van, wheelchair van, and any other type of transportation (other than a licensed ambulance or psychiatric transport van).</p>  |
| 28 | <p>Drugs dispensed by a Physician or Physician's office for outpatient use.</p>  |

## **Prepayments fees**

Your Employer is responsible for a monthly payment to Blue Shield for health care coverage for the Subscriber and any enrolled Dependents. This monthly payment is a Premium. Any amount the Subscriber must contribute to the Premium is set by your Employer.

The contract states the monthly Premiums for this plan for the Subscriber and any enrolled Dependents. Blue Shield will give your Employer written notice of Premium or coverage changes. We will send this notice at least 60 days prior to plan renewal or the effective date of the Benefit change. Your Employer is responsible for letting you know of any changes. Benefits provided after the effective date of any change will be subject to the change. There is no vested right to obtain the original Benefits.

## **Other charges**

Your Cost Share is the amount you pay for Covered Services. It is your portion of the Blue Shield Allowable Amount.

Your Cost Share includes any:

- Deductible;
- Copayment amount; and
- Coinsurance amount.

## **Allowable Amount**

The Allowable Amount is the maximum amount Blue Shield will pay for Covered Services, or the provider's billed charge for those Covered Services, whichever is less. Blue Shield's payment to the provider is the difference between the Allowable Amount and your Cost Share.

Participating Providers agree to accept the Allowable Amount as payment in full for Covered Services, except as stated in the *Exception for other coverage and Reductions – third party liability* sections of the EOC. When you see a Participating Provider, you are responsible for your Cost Share.

Generally, Blue Shield will pay its portion of the Allowable Amount and you will pay your Cost Share. If there is a payment dispute between Blue Shield and a Participating Provider over Covered Services you receive, the Participating Provider must resolve that dispute with Blue Shield. You are not required to pay for Blue Shield's portion of the Allowable Amount. You are only required to pay your Cost Share for those services.

Non-Participating Providers do not agree to accept the Allowable Amount as payment in full for Covered Services. When you see a Non-Participating Provider, you are responsible for:

- Your Cost Share; and
- All charges over the Allowable Amount.

## **Calendar Year Deductible**

The Deductible is the amount you pay each Calendar Year for Covered Services before Blue Shield begins payment. Blue Shield will pay for some Covered Services before you meet your Deductible.

Amounts you pay toward your Deductible count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Some plans do not have a Deductible. For plans that do, there may be separate Deductibles for:

- An individual Member and an entire Family; and
- Participating Providers and Non-Participating Providers.

If you have a Family plan, there is an individual Deductible within the Family Deductible. This means an individual family member can meet the individual Deductible before the entire Family meets the Family Deductible.

If you have an individual plan and you enroll a Dependent, your plan will become a Family plan. Any amount you have paid toward the Deductible for your individual plan will be applied to both the individual Deductible and the Family Deductible for your new plan.

See the Summary of Benefits for details on which Covered Services are subject to the Deductible and how the Deductible works for your plan.

### **Prior carrier Deductible credit**

If you pay all or part of a Deductible for another Employer-sponsored health plan in the same Calendar Year you enroll in this plan, that amount will be applied to this plan's Deductible if:

- You were enrolled in an Employer-sponsored health plan with another carrier during the same Calendar Year this contract becomes effective and you enroll as of the original effective date of coverage under this contract;
- You were enrolled in another Blue Shield plan sponsored by the same Employer which this plan is replacing; or
- You were enrolled in another Blue Shield plan sponsored by the same Employer and you are transferring to this plan during open enrollment.

## **Copayment and Coinsurance**

A Covered Service may have a Copayment or a Coinsurance. A Copayment is a specific dollar amount you pay for a Covered Service. A Coinsurance is a percentage of the Allowable Amount you pay for a Covered Service.

Your provider will ask you to pay your Copayment or Coinsurance at the time of service. For Covered Services that are subject to your plan's Deductible, you are also responsible for all costs up to the Allowable Amount until you reach your Deductible.

You will continue to pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for each Covered Service you receive until you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

## Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum

The Out-of-Pocket Maximum is the most you are required to pay in Cost Share for Covered Services in a Calendar Year. Your Cost Share includes Deductible, Copayment, and Coinsurance and these count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum, except as listed below. Once you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum, Blue Shield will pay 100% of the Allowable Amount for Covered Services for the rest of the Calendar Year.

Some plans may have a separate Out-of-Pocket Maximum for:

- An individual Member and an entire Family;
- Participating Providers and Non-Participating Providers; and
- Participating Providers and combined Participating and Non-Participating Providers.

If you have a Family plan, there is an individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum within the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum. This means an individual family member can meet the individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum before the entire Family meets the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

If you have an individual plan and you enroll a Dependent, your plan will become a Family plan. Any amount you have paid toward the Out-of-Pocket Maximum for your individual plan will be applied to both the individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum and the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum for your new plan.

The following do not count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum:

- Charges for services that are not covered; and
- Charges over the Allowable Amount.

You will continue to be responsible for these costs even after you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

See the *Summary of Benefits* section of the EOC for details on how the Out-of-Pocket Maximum works for your plan.

## First Dollar Services

To take full advantage of your Active Choice plan, and avoid unnecessary costs, it is very important for you to know how your plan works.

“First dollar” means that you do not have to pay any applicable Deductible, Copayment or Coinsurance before Benefits are provided.

Blue Shield provides reimbursement for Covered Services under this plan in three ways:

- Preventive Care Category – available at no cost to you and your Deductible does not apply to these services.
- Category 1 – First Dollar Services - certain routine care services. You can use your First Dollar Services credit towards these services before your Deductible applies.

- When you receive any services listed under First Dollar Services on the *Summary of Benefits*, Blue Shield pays 100% of the Allowable Amount up to the individual or Family First Dollar Services credit maximums, each Calendar Year.
- If you have Family coverage, there is a combined First Dollar Services credit maximum. Each Calendar Year when you or one of your Dependents incurs allowed charges for First Dollar Services, the amount paid by Blue Shield for those services is deducted from the Family First Dollar Services credit.
- After the First Dollar Services credit maximum for the individual or Family is reached, you pay any applicable Deductible, Copayment or Coinsurance until your Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum has been reached.
- Once your Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum amount has been reached, Blue Shield pays 100% of the Allowable Amount for subsequent services.
- Blue Shield tracks the First Dollar Services credit usage for you and will notify you once you have reached the allowed individual or Family First Dollar Services credit maximum.
- Only the services listed under First Dollar Services in the *Summary of Benefits* are First Dollar Services and are reimbursed as described above.
- Category 2 – all Covered Services other than the Preventive Care Category services and the Category 1 - First Dollar Services. Your Deductible applies to these services.
  - When you receive any services listed under Category 2 in the *Summary of Benefits*, you pay any applicable Deductible, Copayment or Coinsurance until your Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum has been reached.
  - Once your Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum amount has been reached, Blue Shield pays 100% of the Allowable Amount for subsequent services.

### **Carryover credit**

Member only (individual) coverage:

- Each Calendar Year when you incur allowed charges for First Dollar Services, the amount paid by Blue Shield for those service is deducted from the individual First Dollar Services credit.
- If during the Calendar Year you do not reach the allowed individual First Dollar Services credit maximum, any unused portion of this amount may be carried over for use in the next Calendar Year.

Member with Dependent(s) (Family) coverage:

- Each Calendar Year when you or one of your Dependents incurs allowed charges for First Dollar Services, the amount paid by Blue Shield for those service is deducted from the Family First Dollar Services credit.

- If during the Calendar Year you or your Family does not reach the allowed individual or Family First Dollar Services credit maximum, any unused portion of these amounts may be carried over for use in the next Calendar Year.

Carryover credit may be accumulated and used only under the following circumstances:

- Carryover credit may be used only for those services listed as First Dollar Services at the time charges are incurred;
- Carryover credit amounts may be carried over as long as you, or your Dependents if applicable, have been covered continuously under an Active Choice plan offered by your current Employer through Blue Shield. If you change Employers, you cannot take your carryover credit amounts with you, even if your new Employer offers the Blue Shield Active Choice plan; and
- If you have Family coverage, Family carryover credit amounts are available to each individual Member.

This carryover credit is available to you only while you are covered under an Active Choice plan through Blue Shield.

When the First Dollar Services carryover credit is applied toward Covered Services, the provisions that govern the Evidence of Coverage at the time Benefits are provided apply.

## **Choice of Physicians and providers**

This plan covers care from Participating Providers and Non-Participating Providers. You do not need a referral. However, some services do require prior authorization.

### **Participating Providers**

Participating Providers have a contract with Blue Shield and agree to accept Blue Shield's Allowable Amount as payment in full for Covered Services. As a result, your Cost Share is less when you receive Covered Services from a Participating Provider.

Some services will not be covered unless you receive them from a Participating Provider. See the *Summary of Benefits* section of the EOC to find out which Covered Services must be received from a Participating Provider.

If a provider leaves this plan's network, the status of the provider will change from Participating to Non-Participating.

### **Non-Participating Providers**

Non-Participating Providers do not have a contract with Blue Shield to accept Blue Shield's Allowable Amount as payment in full for Covered Services. Except for Emergency Services and services received at a Participating Hospital under certain conditions, you will pay more for Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider.

### **Non-Participating Providers at a Participating Provider facility**

When you receive care at a Participating Provider facility, some Covered Services may be provided by a Non-Participating Provider. If it was not your choice to see a Non-Participating Provider for these services, your Cost Share will be the same as the amount due to a Participating Provider under similar circumstances.

### **Second medical opinion**

You can consult a Participating or Non-Participating Provider for a second medical opinion in situations including but not limited to:

- You have questions about the reasonableness or necessity of the treatment plan;
- There are different treatment options for your medical condition;
- Your diagnosis is unclear;
- Your condition has not improved after completing the prescribed course of treatment;
- You need additional information before deciding on a treatment plan; or
- You have questions about your diagnosis or treatment plan.

You do not need prior authorization from Blue Shield or your Primary Care Physician for a second medical opinion.

### **Continuity of care**

Continuity of care may be available if:

- Your Participating Provider becomes a Non-Participating Provider during your care;
- Your MHPA Participating Provider becomes an MHPA Non-Participating Provider during your care; or
- You are a newly-covered Member whose previous health plan was withdrawn from the market.

You can request to continue treatment with your Non-Participating Provider in the situations described above if you are currently receiving the following care:

- Ongoing treatment for an acute or serious chronic condition;
- Pregnancy care, including care immediately after giving birth;
- Treatment for a maternal mental health condition;
- Treatment for a terminal illness;
- Other services authorized by a now-terminated provider as part of a documented course of treatment; or
- Care for a child up to 36 months old.

To request continuity of care, visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) and fill out the Continuity of Care Application. Blue Shield will confirm your eligibility and review your request for Medical Necessity.

The Non-Participating Provider must agree to accept Blue Shield's Allowable Amount as payment in full for your ongoing care. If the provider agrees and your request is



authorized, you may continue to see the Non-Participating Provider at the Participating Provider Cost Share for:

- Up to 12 months;
- For a maternal mental health condition, 12 months after the condition's diagnosis or 12 months after the end of the pregnancy, whichever is later; or
- If you have a terminal illness, for the duration of the terminal illness.

## **Care outside of California**

If you need medical care while traveling outside of California, you're covered. Blue Shield has relationships with health plans in other states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the BlueCard® Program. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association can help you access care from participating and non-participating providers in those geographic areas.



See the *Out-of-area services* section of the EOC for more information about receiving care while outside of California. To find participating providers while outside of California, visit [bcbs.com](https://www.bcbs.com).

## **Emergency Services**



If you have a medical emergency, **call 911 or seek immediate medical attention** at the nearest hospital.

The Benefits of this plan will be provided anywhere in the world for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition. Emergency Services are covered at the Participating Provider Cost Share, even if you receive treatment from a Non-Participating Provider.

After you receive care, Blue Shield will review your claim for Emergency Services to determine if your condition was in fact an Emergency Medical Condition. If you did not require Emergency Services and did not reasonably believe an emergency existed, you will be responsible for the Participating or Non-Participating Provider Cost Share for that non-emergency Covered Service.

## **Reimbursement provisions**

When you see a Participating Provider, your provider submits the claim to Blue Shield. When you see a Non-Participating Provider, you must submit the claim to Blue Shield or the Benefit Administrator.

Claim forms are available at [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) or by contacting the Benefit Administrator. Please submit your claim form and medical records within one year of the service date.

**Questions? Visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com), use the Blue Shield mobile app, or call Customer Service at (888) 256-1915.**



Blue Shield or the Benefit Administrator will process your claim within 30 business days of receipt if it is not missing any required information. If your claim is missing any required information, you or your provider will be notified and asked to submit the missing information. Blue Shield cannot process your claim until we receive the missing information.

Once your claim is processed, you will receive an explanation of your Benefits. For each service, the explanation will list your Cost Share and the payment made by Blue Shield or the Benefit Administrator to the provider.

When you receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider, Blue Shield or the Benefit Administrator may send the payment to the Subscriber, or directly to the Non-Participating Provider.



**The Subscriber** must make sure **the Non-Participating Provider** receives the **full billed amount** for non-emergency services, whether or not Blue Shield makes payment to the Non-Participating Provider.

## **Facilities**



Visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) or use the Blue Shield mobile app and click on **Find a Doctor** for a list of your plan's **Participating Providers**.

We update our provider directories periodically to reflect changes in our provider networks. It is the Member's obligation to verify whether the provider chosen is a Participating Provider or an MHPA Participating Provider prior to obtaining coverage.

For the most up-to-date listings, check our online directories in the Find a Doctor section of [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) or by calling Customer Service.

## **Renewal provisions**

Blue Shield has the right to change the Benefits and terms of this plan as the law permits. This includes, but is not limited to, changes to:

- Terms and conditions;
- Benefits;
- Cost Shares;
- Premiums; and
- Limitations and exclusions.

Blue Shield will give your Employer written notice of Premium or coverage changes. We will send this notice at least 60 days prior to plan renewal or the effective date of the Benefit change. Your Employer is responsible for letting you know of any changes.

**Questions? Visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com), use the Blue Shield mobile app, or call Customer Service at (888) 256-1915.**

Benefits provided after the effective date of any change will be subject to the change. There is no vested right to obtain the original Benefits.

## **Individual continuation of Benefits**

If your employment with your current Employer ends, you and any covered Dependents may qualify for continued group coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1985. See the Continuation of group coverage section of the EOC for more information on COBRA continuation coverage.

## **Termination of Benefits**

Your coverage will end if:

- Your Employer cancels or does not renew coverage;
- The Subscriber cancels coverage; or
- Blue Shield cancels or rescinds coverage.

Please refer to the EOC for additional information.

### **If your Employer cancels coverage**

Your Employer may cancel coverage at any time. To cancel coverage, your Employer must provide written notice to Blue Shield and its Employees.

### **If the Subscriber cancels coverage**

If the Subscriber decides to cancel coverage, coverage will end at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on a date determined by your Employer.

### **Reinstatement**

If the Subscriber voluntarily cancels coverage, the Subscriber can contact the Employer for reinstatement options.

### **If Blue Shield cancels coverage**

Blue Shield can cancel coverage if:

- You are no longer eligible for coverage in this plan;
- Your Employer fails to meet Blue Shield's Employer eligibility, participation, and contribution requirements;
- Blue Shield terminates this plan; or
- You or your Employer commit fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact.

Blue Shield will provide 30 days' advance written notice of cancellation of coverage to your Employer if your Employer fails to meet Blue Shield's Employer eligibility, participation, and contribution requirements. It is your Employer's responsibility to provide a copy of the notice to its Employees.

### **Cancellation for Employer's nonpayment of Premiums**

Blue Shield can cancel coverage if your Employer does not pay the required Premiums in full and on time. Your Employer is responsible for all Premiums during the term of coverage, including the 30-day grace period. If Blue Shield cancels coverage due to nonpayment of Premiums, Blue Shield will send a Notice of End of Coverage to you and your Employer no later than five calendar days after the date coverage ends.

### **Cancellation or rescission for fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact**

Blue Shield may cancel or rescind your coverage if you, your Dependent, or your Employer commit fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact. It is your Employer's responsibility to notify you if the Contract is rescinded or canceled. Rescission voids the Contract as if it never existed. Blue Shield will send the Notice of Cancellation, Rescission or Nonrenewal to your Employer prior to any rescission. The Employer must provide enrolled Employees with a copy of the Notice of Cancellation, Rescission or Nonrenewal and the Notice of End of Coverage.

# Blue Shield of California

## Notice Informing Individuals about Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Requirements

### Discrimination is against the law

Blue Shield of California complies with applicable state laws and federal civil rights laws, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. Blue Shield of California does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Blue Shield of California:

- Provides aids and services at no cost to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (including large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, and other formats)
- Provides language services at no cost to people whose primary language is not English such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Blue Shield of California Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Blue Shield of California has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, you can file a grievance with:

Blue Shield of California  
Civil Rights Coordinator  
P.O. Box 629007  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-9007

**Phone: (844) 831-4133 (TTY: 711)**

**Fax: (844) 696-6070**

**Email: [BlueShieldCivilRightsCoordinator@blueshieldca.com](mailto:BlueShieldCivilRightsCoordinator@blueshieldca.com)**

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, our Civil Rights 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, DC 20201  
(800) 368-1019; TTY: (800) 537-7697

Complaint forms are available at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html).

# Notice of the Availability of Language Assistance Services

## Blue Shield of California

**IMPORTANT:** Can you read this letter? If not, we can have somebody help you read it. You may also be able to get this letter written in your language. For help at no cost, please call right away at the Member/Customer Service telephone number on the back of your Blue Shield ID card, or (866) 346-7198.

**IMPORTANTE:** ¿Puede leer esta carta? Si no, podemos hacer que alguien le ayude a leerla. También puede recibir esta carta en su idioma. Para ayuda sin cargo, por favor llame inmediatamente al teléfono de Servicios al miembro/cliente que se encuentra al reverso de su tarjeta de identificación de Blue Shield o al (866) 346-7198. (Spanish)

**重要通知：**您能讀懂這封信嗎？如果不能，我們可以請人幫您閱讀。這封信也可以用您所講的語言書寫。如需免費幫助，請立即撥打登列在您的Blue Shield ID卡背面上的會員/客戶服務部的電話，或者撥打電話 (866) 346-7198。(Chinese)

**QUAN TRỌNG:** Quý vị có thể đọc lá thư này không? Nếu không, chúng tôi có thể nhờ người giúp quý vị đọc thư. Quý vị cũng có thể nhận lá thư này được viết bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Để được hỗ trợ miễn phí, vui lòng gọi ngay đến Ban Dịch vụ Hội viên/Khách hàng theo số ở mặt sau thẻ ID Blue Shield của quý vị hoặc theo số (866) 346-7198. (Vietnamese)

**MAHALAGA:** Nababasa mo ba ang sulat na ito? Kung hindi, maari kaming kumuha ng isang tao upang matulungan ka upang mabasa ito. Maari ka ring makakuha ng sulat na ito na nakasulat sa iyong wika. Para sa lib्रेng tulong, mangyaring tumawag kaagad sa numerong telepono ng Miyembro/Customer Service sa likod ng iyong Blue Shield ID kard, o (866) 346-7198. (Tagalog)

**Baa' ákohwiindzindooígí:** Díí naaltsoosish yíiniłta'go bíniǵhah? Doo bíniǵhahgóó éí, naaltsoos nich'í' yiidóoltaǵíí ła' nihee hółó. Díí naaltsoos aldó' t'áá Diné k'ehjí ádoolníł nínízingó bíǵhah. Doo ɓaąh ilínígó shíká' adoowoł nínízingó nihich'í' béesh bee hodiłnih dóó námboo éí díí Blue Shield bee néiho'díłzinígí bine'dée' bikáá' éí doodagó éí (866) 346-7198 jí' hodiłnih. (Navajo)

**중요:** 이 서신을 읽을 수 있으세요? 읽으실 수 경우, 도움을 드릴 수 있는 사람이 있습니다. 또한 다른 언어로 작성된 이 서신을 받으실 수도 있습니다. 무료로 도움을 받으시려면 Blue Shield ID 카드 뒷면의 회원/고객 서비스 전화번호 또는 (866) 346-7198로 지금 전환하세요. (Korean)

**ԿԱՐՆՎՈՐ Է.** Կարողանում ե՞ք կարդալ այս նամակը: Եթե ոչ, ապա մենք կօգնենք ձեզ: Դուք պետք է նաև կարողանաք ստանալ այս նամակը ձեր լեզվով: Օտոայությունն անվճար է: Խնդրում ենք անմիջապես զանգահարել Հաճախորդների սպասարկման բաժնի հեռախոսահամարով, որը նշված է ձեր Blue Shield ID քարտի ետևի մասում, կամ (866) 346-7198 համարով: (Armenian)

**ВАЖНО:** Не можете прочесть данное письмо? Мы поможем вам, если необходимо. Вы также можете получить это письмо написанное на вашем родном языке. Позвоните в Службу клиентской/членской поддержки прямо сейчас по телефону, указанному сзади идентификационной карты Blue Shield, или по телефону (866) 346-7198, и вам помогут совершенно бесплатно. (Russian)

**重要：**お客様は、この手紙を読むことができますか？もし読むことができない場合、弊社が、お客様をサポートする人物を手配いたします。また、お客様の母国語で書かれた手紙をお送りすることも可能です。無料のサポートを希望される場合は、Blue Shield IDカードの裏面に記載されている会員/お客様サービスの電話番号、または、(866) 346-7198にお電話をおかけください。(Japanese)

**مهم:** آیا می‌توانید این نامه را بخوانید؟ اگر پاسختان منفی است، می‌توانیم کسی را برای کمک به شما در اختیارتان قرار دهیم. حتی می‌توانید نسخه مکتوب این نامه را به زبان خودتان دریافت کنید. برای دریافت کمک رایگان، لطفاً بدون فوت وقت از طریق شماره تلفنی که در پشت کارت شناسی Blue Shield تان درج شده است و یا از طریق شماره تلفن (866) 346-7198 با خدمات اعضا/مشتری تماس بگیرید. (Persian)

**ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ:** ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ? ਜੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਪੱਤਰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ। ਮੁਫਤ ਵਿਚ ਮਦਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ Blue Shield ID ਕਾਰਡ ਦੇ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ/ਕਸਟਮਰ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ, ਜਾਂ (866) 346-7198 ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

**ប្រការសំខាន់៖** តើអ្នកអាចលិខិតនេះ បានដែរឬទេ? បើមិនអាចទេ យើងអាចឲ្យគេជួយអ្នកក្នុងការអានលិខិតនេះ។ អ្នកក៏អាចទទួលបានលិខិតនេះជាភាសារបស់អ្នកផងដែរ។ សម្រាប់ជំនួយដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ សូមហៅទូរស័ព្ទភ្លាមៗទៅកាន់លេខទូរស័ព្ទសេវាសមាជិក/អតិថិជនដែលមាននៅលើខ្នងប័ណ្ណសម្គាល់ Blue Shield របស់អ្នក ឬតាមរយៈលេខ (866) 346-7198។ (Khmer)

**المهم:** هل تستطيع قراءة هذا الخطاب؟ أن لم تستطع قراءته، يمكننا إحضار شخص ما ليساعدك في قراءته. قد تحتاج أيضاً إلى الحصول على هذا الخطاب مكتوباً بلغتك. للحصول على المساعدة بدون تكلفة، يرجى الاتصال الآن على رقم هاتف خدمة العملاء/أحد الأعضاء المدون على الجانب الخفي من بطاقة الهوية Blue Shield أو على الرقم (866) 346-7198. (Arabic)

**TSEEM CEEB:** Koj pos tuaj yeem nyeem tau tsab ntwav no? Yog hais tias nyeem tsis tau, peb tuaj yeem nrhiav ib tug neeg los pab nyeem nws rau koj. Tej zaum koj kuj yuav tau txais muab tsab ntwav no sau ua koj hom lus. Rau kev pab txhais dawb, thov hu kiag rau tus xov tooj Kev Pab Cuam Tub Koom Xeeb/Tub Lag Luam uas nyob rau sab nraum nrob qaum ntwam koj daim npav Blue Shield ID, los yog hu rau tus xov tooj (866) 346-7198. (Hmong)

**สำคัญ:** คุณอ่านจดหมายฉบับนี้ได้หรือไม่ หากไม่ได้ โปรดขอความช่วยเหลือจากผู้อ่านได้ คุณอาจได้รับจดหมายฉบับนี้เป็นภาษาของคุณ หากต้องการความช่วยเหลือโดยไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย โปรดติดต่อฝ่ายบริการลูกค้า/สมาชิกทางเบอร์โทรศัพท์ในบัตรประจำตัว Blue Shield ของคุณ หรือโทร (866) 346-7198 (Thai)

**महत्वपूर्ण:** क्या आप इस पत्र को पढ़ सकते हैं? यदि नहीं, तो हम इसे पढ़ने में आपकी मदद के लिए किसी व्यक्ति का प्रबंध कर सकते हैं। आप इस पत्र को अपनी भाषा में भी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निःशुल्क मदद प्राप्त करने के लिए अपने Blue Shield ID कार्ड के पीछे दिए गये मंबर/कस्टमर सर्विस टेलीफोन नंबर, या (866) 346-7198 पर कॉल करें। (Hindi)

**ສິ່ງສຳຄັນ:** ທ່ານສາມາດອ່ານຈົດໝາຍນີ້ໄດ້ບໍ່? ຖ້າອ່ານບໍ່ໄດ້, ພວກເຮົາສາມາດໃຫ້ບາງຄົນຊ່ວຍອ່ານໃຫ້ທ່ານພັງໄດ້. ທ່ານຍັງສາມາດຂໍໃຫ້ແປຈົດໝາຍນີ້ເປັນພາສາຂອງທ່ານໄດ້. ສຳລັບຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອແບບບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າ, ກະລຸນາ ໂທຫາເບີໂທຂອງຝ່າຍບໍລິການສະມາຊິກ/ລູກຄ້າໃນທັນທີເບີໂທລະສັບຢູ່ດ້ານຫຼັງບັດສະມາຊິກ Blue Shield ຂອງທ່ານ, ຫຼືໂທໂທເບີ(866) 346-7198. (Laotian)