Blue Shield Select (PPO) offered by California Physicians’ Service (dba Blue Shield of California)

Annual Notice of Changes for 2024

You are currently enrolled as a member of Blue Shield Select. Next year, there will be changes to the plan’s costs and benefits. Please see page 4 for a Summary of Important Costs, including Premium.

This document tells about the changes to your plan. To get more information about costs, benefits, or rules please review the Evidence of Coverage, which is located on our website at blueshieldca.com/MAPDdocuments2024. You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an Evidence of Coverage.

- You have from October 15 until December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.

What to do now

1. **ASK**: Which changes apply to you
   - Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
     - Review the changes to Medical care costs (doctor, hospital).
     - Review the changes to our drug coverage, including authorization requirements and costs.
     - Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing.
   - Check the changes in the 2024 “Drug List” to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.
   - Check to see if your primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals, and other providers, including pharmacies will be in our network next year.
   - Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. **COMPARE**: Learn about other plan choices
   - Check coverage and costs of plans in your area. Use the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov/plan-compare website or review the list in the back of your Medicare & You 2024 handbook.
   - Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan’s website.

3. **CHOOSE**: Decide whether you want to change your plan
   - If you don’t join another plan by December 7, 2023, you will stay in Blue Shield Select.
   - To change to a different plan, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on January 1, 2024. This will end your enrollment with Blue Shield Select.
   - If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can switch plans or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time.
Additional Resources

- This document is available for free in Spanish.

- Please contact our Customer Service number at (800) 776-4466 for additional information. (TTY users should call TTY.) Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. This call is free.

- If you would like to receive your plan materials online, log in to your account at blueshieldca.com/login, click My profile on the top right under your initials, go to Communication preferences and select “Electronic Delivery” as your delivery preference. If you do not have an account, go to blueshieldca.com/login and click Create account and you can select your delivery preference as you create your account.

- This information may be available in a different format, including large print. Please call Customer Service at the number listed above if you need plan information in another format.

- Coverage under this Plan qualifies as Qualifying Health Coverage (QHC) and satisfies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) individual shared responsibility requirement. Please visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families for more information.

About Blue Shield Select

- Blue Shield of California is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Shield of California depends on contract renewal.

- When this document says “we,” “us,” or “our”, it means California Physicians’ Service (dba Blue Shield of California). When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means Blue Shield Select.
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**Summary of Important Costs for 2024**

The table below compares the 2023 costs and 2024 costs for Blue Shield Select in several important areas. Please note this is only a summary of costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly plan premium</strong></td>
<td>$67</td>
<td>$57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Your premium may be higher or lower than this amount. See Section 1.1 for details.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deductible</strong></td>
<td>$0 (in-network)</td>
<td>$0 (in-network)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750 (out-of-network)</td>
<td>$750 (out-of-network) except for insulin furnished through an item of durable medical equipment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum out-of-pocket amounts</strong></td>
<td>From network providers: $4,200</td>
<td>From network providers: $4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is the most you will pay out-of-pocket for your covered Part A and Part B services. (See Section 1.2 for details.)</td>
<td>From network and out-of-network providers combined: $8,950</td>
<td>From network and out-of-network providers combined: $8,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctor office visits</strong></td>
<td>From network providers:</td>
<td>From network providers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From out-of-network providers:</td>
<td>Primary care visits: $10 copay per visit</td>
<td>Primary care visits: $10 copay per visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist visits: $25 copay per visit</td>
<td>Specialist visits: $25 copay per visit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% of the total cost per visit (deductible applies)</td>
<td>30% of the total cost per visit (deductible applies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>2023 (this year)</td>
<td>2024 (next year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inpatient hospital stays</strong></td>
<td>For each Medicare-covered stay in a network hospital you pay:</td>
<td>For each Medicare-covered stay in a network hospital you pay:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From network providers:</td>
<td>• $125 copay per day for days 1 to 7</td>
<td>• $125 copay per day for days 1 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• $0 copay per day for days 8 and over</td>
<td>• $0 copay per day for days 8 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From out-of-network providers:</td>
<td>30% of the total cost per visit (deductible applies)</td>
<td>30% of the total cost per visit (deductible applies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part D prescription drug coverage</strong></td>
<td>Deductible: $0</td>
<td>Deductible: $0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See Section 1.5 for details.)</td>
<td>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</td>
<td>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug Tier 1: $0 or $5* copay</td>
<td>• Drug Tier 1: $0 or $5* copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug Tier 2: $10 or $20* copay</td>
<td>• Drug Tier 2: $10 or $20* copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug Tier 3: $40 or $47* copay</td>
<td>• Drug Tier 3: $40 or $47* copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You pay $35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</td>
<td>You pay $35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug Tier 4: $95 or $100* copay</td>
<td>• Drug Tier 4: $95 or $100* copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug Tier 5: 33% coinsurance</td>
<td>• Drug Tier 5: 33% coinsurance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Part D Prescription Drug Coverage (continued)

* The first copay listed is the amount you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with preferred cost sharing.

The second copay listed is the amount you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with standard cost-sharing. See Section 1.5 below for more information.

Catastrophic Coverage:
- During this payment stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your covered drugs.
- For each prescription, you pay whichever of these is larger: a payment equal to 5% of the cost of the drug (this is called coinsurance), or a copayment ($4.15 for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic, and $10.35 for all other drugs.).

### Section 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

#### Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly premium</td>
<td>$67</td>
<td>$57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.)
Monthly premium for the optional supplemental Dental PPO plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$42.30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Your monthly plan premium will be *more* if you are required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without other drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as creditable coverage) for 63 days or more.
- If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for your Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Your monthly premium will be *less* if you are receiving “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs. Please see Section 6 regarding “Extra Help” from Medicare.

**Section 1.2 – Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amounts**

Medicare requires all health plans to limit how much you pay out-of-pocket for the year. These limits are called the maximum out-of-pocket amounts. Once you reach this amount, you generally pay nothing for covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-network maximum out-of-pocket amount</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined maximum out-of-pocket amount</td>
<td>$8,950</td>
<td>$8,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays and deductibles) from network providers count toward your in-network maximum out-of-pocket amount.
- Your plan premium and your costs for prescription drugs do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.
- Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays and deductibles) from in-network and out-of-network providers count toward your combined maximum out-of-pocket amount.
- Your plan premium and costs for outpatient prescription drugs do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount for medical services.

- Once you have paid $4,200 out-of-pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you will pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services from network providers for the rest of the calendar year.
- Once you have paid $8,950 out-of-pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you will pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services from network or out-of-network providers for the rest of the calendar year.
Section 1.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks

Updated directories are located on our website at blueshieldca.com/medicare/providerdirectory for Provider Directories and blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2024. You may also call Customer Service for updated provider and/or pharmacy information or to ask us to mail you a directory, which we will mail within three business days.

There are changes to our network of providers for next year. Please review the 2024 Provider Directory to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network.

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. Please review the 2024 Pharmacy Directory to see which pharmacies are in our network.

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers), and pharmacies that are part of your plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our providers affects you, please contact Customer Service so we may assist.

Section 1.4 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services

We are making changes to costs and benefits for certain medical services next year. The information below describes these changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acupuncture (non-Medicare covered)</td>
<td>In-network&lt;br&gt;You pay a $0 copay per visit (limited to 12 visits per year).</td>
<td>Acupuncture (non-Medicare covered) is not covered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out-of-network&lt;br&gt;You pay 30% of the total cost per visit (limited to 12 visits per year) after you pay your $750 deductible.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac rehabilitation services</td>
<td>In-network&lt;br&gt;You pay a $40 copay per visit.</td>
<td>In-network&lt;br&gt;You pay a $35 copay per visit for cardiac rehabilitation services. You pay a $50 copay per visit for intensive cardiac rehabilitation services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>2023 (this year)</td>
<td>2024 (next year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Emergency care**            | **In- and Out-of-network**
You pay a $110 copay per visit to an emergency room (waived if admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).                                                                 | **In- and Out-of-network**
You pay a $120 copay per visit to an emergency room (waived if admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).                                                                 |
| **Hearing services**          | **In-network**
You pay a $10 copay per visit if performed at your Physician of Choice's office.
You pay a $25 copay per visit if performed at a specialist's office.                                                                                                                                      | **In-network**
You pay a $0 copay per visit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| **Hearing aids**              | **In- and Out-of-network**
You will be reimbursed up to $1,000 every two years for hearing aids, hearing aid fitting and evaluation (applies to both ears combined). Costs for hearing aids do not apply to the plan's maximum out-of-pocket limit.
You may obtain hearing aids at the provider of your choice.                                                                                                                                                    | **In- and Out-of-network**
You will be reimbursed up to $1,000 every two years for two hearing aids and two hearing aid fitting and evaluations (applies to both ears combined). Costs for hearing aids do not apply to the plan's maximum out-of-pocket limit.
You may obtain hearing aids at the provider of your choice.                                                                                                                                               |
| **Medicare Part B prescription drugs** | **Out-of-network**
You pay 30% of the total cost after you pay your $750 deductible.                                                                                                                                              | **Out-of-network**
You pay 0% to 20% of the total cost after you pay your $750 deductible.                                                                                                                                               |
| **Optional Supplemental Dental PPO plan** | **Dental implants are not covered. This plan is available for an extra monthly premium of $42.30. Please refer to your Evidence of Coverage for additional information/details.** | **Dental implants are covered. This plan is available for an extra monthly premium of $45. Please refer to your Evidence of Coverage for additional information/details.** |
### Outpatient hospital services
Services in an emergency department or outpatient clinic, such as observation services or outpatient surgery

**In- and Out-of-network**
- You pay a $110 copay per visit to an emergency room (waived if admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

**In- and Out-of-network**
- You pay a $120 copay per visit to an emergency room (waived if admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

### Pulmonary rehabilitation services

**In-network**
- You pay a $20 copay per visit.

**In-network**
- You pay a $15 copay per visit.

### Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET)

**In-network**
- You pay a $30 copay per visit.

**In-network**
- You pay a $25 copay per visit.

### Urgently needed services

**In- and Out-of-network**
- You pay a $110 copay for each visit to an emergency room outside of the plan service area but within the United States and its territories (waived if you are admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

**Worldwide urgent coverage:**
- You pay a $110 copay per visit to an emergency room or urgent care center that is outside the United States and its territories (waived if you are admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

**In- and Out-of-network**
- You pay a $120 copay for each visit to an emergency room outside of the plan service area but within the United States and its territories (waived if you are admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

**Worldwide urgent coverage:**
- You pay a $120 copay per visit to an emergency room or urgent care center that is outside the United States and its territories (waived if you are admitted to the hospital within one day for the same condition).

### Section 1.5 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

#### Changes to Our “Drug List”

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or “Drug List.” A copy of our “Drug List” is provided electronically.

We made changes to our “Drug List,” which could include removing or adding drugs, changing the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs or moving them to a different cost-sharing tier.
Review the “Drug List” to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions, or if your drug has been moved to a different cost-sharing tier.

Most of the changes in the “Drug List” are new for the beginning of each year. However, during the year, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules. For instance, we can immediately remove drugs considered unsafe by the FDA or withdrawn from the market by a product manufacturer. We update our online “Drug List” to provide the most up to date list of drugs.

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, please review Chapter 9 of your Evidence of Coverage and talk to your doctor to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception and/or working to find a new drug. You can also contact Customer Service for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

**Note:** If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs (“Extra Help”), the information about 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 called the Low-Income Subsidy Rider or the LIS Rider), which tells you about your drug costs. If you receive “Extra Help” and you haven’t received this insert by September 30, 2023, please call Customer Service and ask for the LIS Rider.

There are four drug payment stages. The information below shows the changes to the first two stages – the Yearly Deductible Stage and the Initial Coverage Stage. (Most members do not reach the other two stages – the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.)

### Changes to the Deductible Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage</td>
<td>Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.</td>
<td>Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>2023 (this year)</th>
<th>2024 (next year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage</td>
<td>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</td>
<td>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                               | **Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs:**  
|                               | Standard cost sharing: You pay $5 per prescription.  | Standard cost sharing: You pay $5 per prescription.  |
|                               | Preferred cost sharing: You pay $0 per prescription.  | Preferred cost sharing: You pay $0 per prescription.  |
### Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage (continued)

Pharmacy. For information about the costs for a long-term supply or for mail service prescriptions, look in Chapter 6, Section 5 of your Evidence of Coverage.

Most adult Part D vaccines are covered at no cost to you.

We changed the tier for some of the drugs on our "Drug List." To see if your drugs will be in a different tier, look them up on the "Drug List."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 2: Generic Drugs:</th>
<th>Tier 2: Generic Drugs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $20 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $20 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $10 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $10 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs:</th>
<th>Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $47 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $47 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $40 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $40 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You pay $35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs:</th>
<th>Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $100 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $100 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay $95 per prescription.</td>
<td>You pay $95 per prescription.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You pay $35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 5: Specialty Tier Drugs:</th>
<th>Tier 5: Specialty Tier Drugs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
<td>Standard cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay 33% of the total cost.</td>
<td>You pay 33% of the total cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
<td>Preferred cost sharing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You pay 33% of the total cost.</td>
<td>You pay 33% of the total cost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once your total drug costs have reached $4,660, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).

### Changes to the Coverage Gap and Catastrophic Coverage Stages

The other two drug coverage stages – the Coverage Gap Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage – are for people with high drug costs. **Most members do not reach the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.**
Beginning in 2024, if you reach the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you pay nothing for covered Part D drugs. You may have cost sharing for excluded drugs that are covered under our enhanced benefit.

For specific information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 6, Sections 6 and 7, in your Evidence of Coverage.

SECTION 2 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 2.1 – If you want to stay in Blue Shield Select

To stay in our plan, you don’t need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan or change to Original Medicare by December 7, you will automatically be enrolled in our Blue Shield Select.

Section 2.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2024 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare health plan,
- OR – You can change to Original Medicare. If you change to Original Medicare, you will need to decide whether to join a Medicare drug plan. If you do not enroll in a Medicare drug plan, please see Section 1.1 regarding a potential Part D late enrollment penalty.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder (www.medicare.gov/plan-compare), read the Medicare & You 2024 handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 4), or call Medicare (see Section 6.2).

As a reminder, California Physicians’ Service (dba Blue Shield of California) offers other Medicare health plans. These other plans may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and cost-sharing amounts.

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To change to a different Medicare health plan, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield Select.
- To change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield Select.
- To change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan, you must either:
  - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do so.
  - OR – Contact Medicare, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 3 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different plan or to Original Medicare for next year, you can do it from October 15 until December 7. The change will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. Examples include people with Medicaid, those who get “Extra Help” paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area.

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan for January 1, 2024, and don’t like your plan choice, you can switch to another Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or
switch to Original Medicare (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) between January 1 and March 31, 2024.

If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can change your Medicare coverage at any time. You can change to any other Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time.

SECTION 4 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In California, the SHIP is called Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP).

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. HICAP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call HICAP at (800) 434-0222. You can learn more about HICAP by visiting their website (http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/hicap/).

SECTION 5 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Below we list different kinds of help:

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. To see if you qualify, call:
  - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
  - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users should call, 1-800-325-0778; or
  - Your State Medicaid Office (applications).

- **Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS.** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of State residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the State, and uninsured/under-insured status. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the ADAP in California. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the California ADAP Call Center at (844) 421-7050, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit their website at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_adap_eligibility.aspx.

SECTION 6 Questions?

Section 6.1 – Getting Help from Blue Shield Select

Questions? We’re here to help. Please call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466. (TTY only, call 711.) We are available for phone calls 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2024 Evidence of Coverage (it has details about next year’s benefits and costs)
This Annual Notice of Changes gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2024. For
details, look in the 2024 Evidence of Coverage for Blue Shield Select. The Evidence of Coverage is the legal,
detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get
covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the Evidence of Coverage is located on our website at
blueshieldca.com/MAPDdocuments2024. You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an
Evidence of Coverage.

Visit our Website
You can also visit our website at blueshieldca.com/medicare. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our provider network (Provider Directory) and our List of Covered Drugs
(Formulary/”Drug List”).

Section 6.2 – Getting Help from Medicare
To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-
877-486-2048.

Visit the Medicare Website
Visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star
Ratings to help you compare Medicare health plans in your area. To view the information about plans, go
to www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Read Medicare & You 2024
Read the Medicare & You 2024 handbook. Every fall, this document is mailed to people with Medicare. It
has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked
questions about Medicare. If you don’t have a copy of this document, you can get it at the Medicare
website (https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf) or by calling 1-800-
MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.