



Important information

About changes to your
Medicare drug and health plan

Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan (HMO) offered by California Physicians' Service (dba Blue Shield of California)

Annual Notice of Change for 2027

You're enrolled as a member of Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan.

This material describes changes to our plan's costs and benefits next year.

- **You have from October 15 – December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.** If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2026, you'll stay in Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan.
- To change to a **different plan**, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You 2027* handbook.
- Note this is only a summary of changes. More information about costs, benefits, and rules is in the *Evidence of Coverage*. Get a copy at blueshieldca.com/MAPDdocuments2027 or call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) to get a copy by mail.

More Resources

- This material is available for free in Spanish.
- Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) for more information. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PT, seven days a week. This call is free.
- This information may be available in a different format, including Braille, large print, audio cd, and data cd. Please call Customer Service at the number listed above if you need plan information in another format.
- If you would like to receive your plan materials digitally, log in to your account at blueshieldca.com/login, click the *My profile* button in the header, scroll to the Communication preferences section, and select "Electronic delivery" as your delivery preference. You can also log into the Blue Shield of California mobile app and navigate to Communication preferences via the *More* tab. If you do not have an account, go to blueshieldca.com/login and click *Get started* to register. You can set up your delivery preference as you register.

About Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan

- Blue Shield of California is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Shield of California depends on contract renewal.
- Blue Shield of California's pharmacy network includes limited lower-cost pharmacies with preferred cost sharing in certain counties within California. The lower costs

advertised in our plan materials for these pharmacies may not be available at the pharmacy you use. For up-to-date information about our network pharmacies, including whether there are any lower-cost pharmacies with preferred cost sharing in your area, please call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466, (TTY: 711), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PT, seven days a week, or consult the online pharmacy directory at blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2027.

- When this material 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 AdvantageOptimum Plan.
- **If you do nothing by December 7, 2026, you’ll automatically be enrolled in Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan.** Starting January 1, 2027, you’ll get your medical and drug coverage through Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan. Go to Section 2 for more information about how to change plans and deadlines for making a change.

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Summary of Important Costs for 2027

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium can be higher than this amount. Go to Section 1.1 for details.	\$0	\$0
Maximum out-of-pocket amount This is the <u>most</u> you'll pay out of pocket for covered Part A and Part B services. (Go to Section 1.2 for details.)	\$3,100	\$3,600
Primary care office visits	\$0 copayment per visit	\$0 copayment per visit
Specialist office visits	\$0 copayment per visit	\$0 copayment per visit
Inpatient hospital stays Includes various inpatient hospital stays such as acute care, rehabilitation and long-term care. An inpatient hospital stay starts the day you're formally admitted with a doctor's order and ends the day before you're discharged.	For each Medicare-covered stay in a network hospital you pay: \$50 copayment per day for days 1 to 5 \$0 copayment per day for days 6 and over	For each Medicare-covered stay in a network hospital you pay: \$50 copayment per day for days 1 to 5 \$0 copayment per day for days 6 and over
Part D drug coverage (Go to Section 1.7 for details, including Yearly Deductible, Initial Coverage, and Catastrophic Coverage Stages.)	Part D drug coverage deductible \$425, except for Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs and Tier 2: Generic Drugs, covered insulin	Part D drug coverage deductible \$350, except for Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs and Tier 2: Generic Drugs, covered

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Part D drug coverage (cont'd)	products and most adult Part D vaccines Copayment/ Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage: Drug Tier 1: \$0 or \$5* Drug Tier 2: \$3 or \$10* Drug Tier 3: 20% of the total cost You pay no more than the lesser of \$35 or 20% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. Drug Tier 4: 25% of the total cost You pay no more than the lesser of \$35 or 25% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. Drug Tier 5: 28% of the total cost * The first amount listed is what you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with preferred cost sharing. The second amount listed is what you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with standard	insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines Copayment/ Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage: Drug Tier 1: \$0 or \$5* Drug Tier 2: \$0 or \$10* Drug Tier 3: 15% of the total cost You pay no more than the lesser of \$35 or 15% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. Drug Tier 4: 25% of the total cost You pay no more than the lesser of \$35 or 25% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. Drug Tier 5: 29% of the total cost * The first amount listed is what you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with preferred cost sharing. The second amount listed is what you will

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Part D drug coverage (cont'd)	cost sharing. See Section 1 below for more information. Catastrophic Coverage Stage: During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.	pay if you use a network pharmacy with standard cost sharing. See Section 1 below for more information. Catastrophic Coverage Stage: During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits & Costs for Next Year

Section 1.1 Changes to the Monthly Plan Premium

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Monthly plan premium (You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.)	\$0	\$0

Factors that could change your Part D Premium Amount

- Late Enrollment Penalty - Your monthly plan premium will be *more* if you’re required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without Part D or other drug coverage that’s at least as good as Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as creditable coverage) for 63 days or more.
- Higher Income Surcharge - If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for Medicare drug coverage.

Section 1.2 Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount

Medicare requires all health plans to limit how much you pay out of pocket for the year. This limit is called the maximum out-of-pocket amount. Once you’ve paid this amount, you generally pay nothing for covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the calendar year.

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Maximum out-of-pocket amount Your costs for covered medical services (such as copayments) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount. Your costs for prescription drugs don't count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.	\$3,100	\$3,600 Once you've paid \$3,600 out of pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you'll pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the calendar year.

Section 1.3 Changes to the Provider Network

Our network of providers has changed for next year. Review the 2027 *Provider Directory* blueshieldca.com/medicare/providerdirectory to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network. Here's how to get an updated *Provider Directory*:

- Visit our website at blueshieldca.com/medicare/providerdirectory.
- Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) to get current provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Provider Directory*.

We can make changes to the hospitals, doctors, and specialists (providers) that are part of our plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our providers affects you, call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) for help. You may have a special enrollment period if your provider leaves the plan network. For more information on your rights when a network provider leaves our plan, go to Chapter 3, Section 2.3 of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

Section 1.4 Changes to the Pharmacy Network

Amounts you pay for your prescription drugs can depend on which pharmacy you use. Medicare drug plans have a network of pharmacies. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies. Our network includes pharmacies with preferred cost sharing, which may offer you lower cost sharing than the standard cost sharing offered by other network pharmacies for some drugs.

Our network of pharmacies has changed for next year. Review the 2027 *Pharmacy Directory* blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2027 to see which pharmacies are in our network. Here's how to get an updated *Pharmacy Directory*:

- Visit our website at blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2027.
- Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) to get current pharmacy information or to ask us to mail you a *Pharmacy Directory*.

We can make changes to the pharmacies that are part of our plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our pharmacies affects you, call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) for help.

Section 1.5 Changes to Benefits & Costs for Medical Services

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Dental services (non-Medicare covered)	ADA code D9219 has no frequency limitations.	ADA code D9219 is limited to one service every 12 months.
Over-the-Counter (OTC) items	You have a \$65 allowance per quarter for covered items. You can place two orders per quarter and cannot roll over your unused allowance into the next quarter. Some limitations may apply. Refer to the OTC Items catalog for more information.	Over-the-Counter (OTC) items are <u>not</u> covered.
Transportation services (non-Medicare covered)	\$0 copayment for each one-way trip to plan-approved health-related locations (limited to 14 one-way trips per year and each trip may not exceed 70 miles).	\$0 copayment for each one-way trip to plan-approved health-related locations (limited to 10 one-way trips per year and each trip may not exceed 70 miles).

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Vision care, non-Medicare covered (obtained from a non-network provider) Routine eye exam, refraction and prescription for eyeglass lenses Eyeglass frames Eyeglass lenses or contact lenses. If you choose eyeglass lenses, you may elect single, lined bifocal, lined trifocal, or lenticular lenses. If you opt for other lens types not listed or add-on treatments, you will be responsible for paying the additional costs, even if the total costs remain within the allowance.	You are reimbursed up to \$30 for one exam every year. You are reimbursed up to \$35 for one pair of eyeglass frames every 2 years. You are reimbursed up to \$35 for either one pair of prescription eyeglass lenses (regardless of size or power) or for contact lenses every year.	Vision care services obtained from non-network providers are <u>not</u> covered.

Section 1.6 Changes to Part D 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 and posted online at blueshieldca.com/medformulary2027.

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, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules that will affect you during the calendar year. We update our online Drug List at least monthly to provide the most up-to-date list of drugs. If we make a change that will affect your access to a drug you're taking, we'll send you a notice about the change.

If you're affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, review Chapter 9 of your *Evidence of Coverage* and talk to your prescriber to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception, and/or working to find a new drug. Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) for more information.

Section 1.7 Changes to Prescription Drug Benefits & Costs

Do you get Extra Help to pay for your drug coverage costs?

If you're in a program that helps pay for your drugs (Extra Help), **the information about costs for Part D drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate material, called the *Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs*, which tells you about your drug costs. If you get Extra Help and you don't get this material by September 30, 2026, call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the *LIS Rider*.

Drug Payment Stages

There are **3 drug payment stages**: the Yearly Deductible Stage, the Initial Coverage Stage, and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

- **Stage 1: Yearly Deductible**

You start in this payment stage each calendar year. During this stage, you pay the full cost of your Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs, Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs and Tier 5: Specialty Tier Drugs until you've reached the yearly deductible.

- **Stage 2: Initial Coverage**

Once you pay the yearly deductible, you move to the Initial Coverage Stage. In this stage, our plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share of the cost. You generally stay in this stage until your year-to-date total drug costs reach \$2,400.

- **Stage 3: Catastrophic Coverage**

This is the third and final drug payment stage. In this stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs. You generally stay in this stage for the rest of the calendar year.

Drug Costs in Stage 1: Yearly Deductible

The table shows your cost per prescription during this stage.

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Yearly Deductible	\$425 During this stage, you pay \$5 (standard cost-sharing) or \$0 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs, \$10 (standard cost-sharing) or \$3 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 2: Generic Drugs, and the full cost of drugs on Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs, Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs and Tier 5: Specialty Tier Drugs until you've reached the yearly deductible.	\$350 During this stage, you pay \$5 (standard cost-sharing) or \$0 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs, \$10 (standard cost-sharing) or \$0 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 2: Generic Drugs, and the full cost of drugs on Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs, Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs and Tier 5: Specialty Tier Drugs until you've reached the yearly deductible.

Drug Costs in Stage 2: Initial Coverage

The table shows your cost per prescription for a one-month (30-day) supply filled at a network pharmacy with standard and preferred cost sharing.

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. Most adult Part D vaccines are covered at no cost to you. For more information about the costs of vaccines, or information about the costs for a long-term supply; or for home delivery prescriptions, go to Chapter 6 of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

Once you've paid \$2,400 out of pocket for covered Part D drugs, you'll move to the next stage (the Catastrophic Coverage Stage).

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
Tier 1 Preferred Generic Drugs:	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay \$5 <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay \$0	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay \$5 <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay \$0
Tier 2 Generic Drugs:	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay \$10 <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay \$3	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay \$10 <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay \$0
Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs:	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 20% of the total cost You pay the lesser of \$35 or 20% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 20% of the total cost You pay the lesser of \$35 or 20% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 15% of the total cost You pay the lesser of \$35 or 15% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 15% of the total cost You pay the lesser of \$35 or 15% of the total cost per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.
Tier 4 Non-Preferred Drugs:	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost

	2026 (this year)	2027 (next year)
	<i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost	<i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost
Tier 5 Specialty Tier Drugs:	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 28% of the total cost <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 28% of the total cost	<i>Standard cost sharing:</i> You pay 29% of the total cost <i>Preferred cost sharing:</i> You pay 29% of the total cost

SECTION 2 How to Change Plans

To stay in Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan, you don't need to do anything. Unless you sign up for a different type of Medicare health plan or change to Original Medicare by December 7, you'll automatically be enrolled in Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan.

If you want to change plans for 2027, follow these steps:

- **To change to a different Medicare health plan,** enroll in the new plan. You'll be automatically disenrolled from Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan. Remember, not all Medicare health plans cover prescription drugs. Also, be aware that for many plans, you can't join a Medicare health plan and simultaneously purchase a prescription drug plan.
- **To change to Original Medicare with Medicare separate drug coverage,** you can enroll in a Part D plan, and you'll automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan.
- **To change to Original Medicare without a drug plan,** you can send us a written request to disenroll. Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) for more information on how to do this. Or call **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. If you don't enroll in a Medicare drug plan, you may pay a Part D late enrollment penalty (go to Section 1).
- **To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans,** visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), check the *Medicare & You 2027* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (go to Section 4), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). As a reminder, California Physicians' Service (dba Blue Shield of California)

offers other Medicare health plans and Medicare drug plans. These other plans can have different coverage, monthly plan premiums, and cost-sharing amounts.

Section 2.1 Deadlines for Changing Plans

People with Medicare can make changes to their coverage from **October 15 – December 7** each year.

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2027, and don't like your plan choice, you can switch to another Medicare health plan (with or without Medicare drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (with or without separate Medicare drug coverage) between January 1 – March 31, 2027.

Section 2.2 Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, people may have other chances to change their coverage during the year. Examples include people who:

- Have Medicaid
- Get Extra Help paying for their drugs
- Have or are leaving employer coverage
- Move out of our plan's service area

If you recently moved into, or currently live in, 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 (with or without Medicare drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (with or without separate Medicare drug coverage) at any time. If you recently moved out of an institution, you have an opportunity to switch plans or switch to Original Medicare for 2 full months after the month you move out.

SECTION 3 Get Help Paying for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Different kinds of help are available:

- **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 drug plan premiums, yearly deductibles, and coinsurance. Also, people who qualify won't have a late enrollment penalty. To see if you qualify, call:
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday – Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.
- Your State Medicaid Office.
- **Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS.** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible people living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. To be eligible for the ADAP operating in your state, you 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 drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing help through the ADAP in California. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, how to enroll in the program, or, if you're currently enrolled, how to continue getting help, call the California ADAP Call Center at (844) 421-7050, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), or visit their website at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_adap_eligibility.aspx. Be sure, when calling, to inform them of your Medicare Part D plan name or policy number.
- **The 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. 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 2027 you do not need to submit a new election request to continue participating in 2027. **This payment option might help you manage your expenses, but it doesn't save you money or lower your drug costs.**

Extra Help from Medicare and help from your ADAP, for those who qualify, is more advantageous than participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. To learn more about this payment option, call us at (833) 696-2087 (TTY users call 711) or visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

SECTION 4 Questions?

Get Help from Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan

- **Call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466. (TTY users call 711.)**

We're available for phone calls 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PT, seven days a week. Calls to these numbers are free.

- **Read your 2027 Evidence of Coverage**

This *Annual Notice of Change* gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2027. For details, go to the 2027 *Evidence of Coverage* for Blue Shield AdvantageOptimum Plan. The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of our plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. Get the *Evidence of Coverage* on our website at blueshieldca.com/MAPDdocuments2027 or call Customer Service at (800) 776-4466 (TTY users call 711) to ask us to mail you a copy.

- **Visit blueshieldca.com/medicare**

Our website has the most up-to-date information about our provider network (*Provider Directory/Pharmacy Directory*) and our *List of Covered Drugs* (formulary/Drug List).

Get 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).

Call HICAP to get free personalized health insurance counseling. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. Call HICAP at (800) 434-0222. Learn more about HICAP by visiting <https://www.cahealthadvocates.org/hicap/>.

Get Help 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 can call 1-877-486-2048.

- **Chat live with [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)**

You can chat live at [Medicare.gov/talk-to-someone](https://www.medicare.gov/talk-to-someone).

- **Write to Medicare**

You can write to Medicare at PO Box 1270, Lawrence, KS 66044

- **Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)**

The official Medicare website has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star Ratings to help you compare Medicare health plans in your area.

- **Read *Medicare & You 2027***

The *Medicare & You 2027* handbook is mailed to people with Medicare every fall. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. Get a copy at [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.



blueshieldca.com/medicare

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