



**Blue Cross  
of California \***

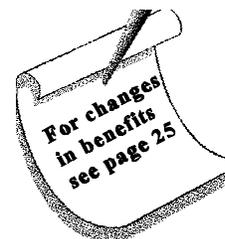
\* An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross Association

**CaliforniaCare**

1998

[www.bluecrossca.com](http://www.bluecrossca.com)

**A Health Maintenance Organization**



**Serving:**

You must live or work in the service area to enroll in this Plan.

**Enrollment Code:**

**M51 Self Only**

**M52 Self and Family**

**Service area:** Services from Plan providers are available only in the area described on page 10.

Authorized for distribution by the:



**United States  
Office of  
Personnel Management**



RI 73-517

# CaliforniaCare

CaliforniaCare, P.O. Box 4089, Woodland Hills, CA 91365, has entered into a contract (CS 2514) with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as authorized by the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) law, to provide a comprehensive medical plan herein called CaliforniaCare or the Plan.

This brochure is based on text included in the contract between OPM and this Plan and is intended to be a complete statement of benefits available to FEHB members. A person enrolled in the Plan is entitled to the benefits stated in this brochure. However if conflicts are discovered between the language of this brochure and the contract, the contract will control. If enrolled for Self and Family, each eligible family member is also entitled to these benefits.

Premiums are negotiated with each plan annually. Benefit changes are effective January 1, 1998, and are shown on the inside back cover of this brochure.

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**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## **Inspector General Advisory: Stop Health Care Fraud!**

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Fraud increases the cost of health care for everyone. Anyone who intentionally makes a false statement or a false claim in order to obtain FEHB benefits or increase the amount of FEHB benefits is subject to prosecution for FRAUD. This could result in CRIMINAL PENALTIES. Please review all medical bills, medical records and claims statements carefully. If you find that a provider, such as a doctor, hospital or pharmacy, charged your Plan for services you did not receive, billed for the same service twice, or misrepresented any other information, take the following actions:

- Call the provider and ask for an explanation - sometimes the problem is a simple error.
- If the provider does not resolve the matter, or if you remain concerned, call your Plan at 1-800-235-8631 and explain the situation.
- If the matter is not resolved after speaking to your Plan (and you still suspect fraud has been committed), call or write:

**THE HEALTH CARE FRAUD HOTLINE  
202/418-3300**

The Office of Personnel Management  
Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline  
1900 E Street, N.W., Room 6400  
Washington, D.C. 20415

The inappropriate use of membership identification cards, e.g., to obtain services for a person who is not an eligible family member or after you are no longer enrolled in the Plan, is also subject to review by the Inspector General and may result in an adverse administrative action by your agency.

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## **General Information**

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### **Confidentiality**

Medical and other information provided to the Plan, including claim files, is kept confidential and will be used only: 1) by the Plan and its subcontractors for internal administration of the Plan, coordination of benefit provisions with other plans, and subrogation of claims; 2) by law enforcement officials with authority to investigate and prosecute alleged civil or criminal actions; 3) by OPM to review a disputed claim or perform its contract administration functions; 4) by OPM and the General Accounting Office when conducting audits as required by the FEHB law; or 5) for bona fide medical research or education. Medical data that does not identify individual members may be disclosed as a result of the bona fide medical research or education. As part of its administration of the prescription drug benefits, the Plan may disclose information about a member's prescription drug utilization, including the names of prescribing physicians, to any treating physicians or dispensing pharmacies.

### **If you are a new member**

Use this brochure as a guide to coverage and obtaining benefits. There may be a delay before you receive your identification card and member information from the Plan. Until you receive your ID card, you may show your copy of the SF 2809 enrollment form or your annuitant confirmation letter from OPM to a provider or Plan facility as proof of enrollment in this Plan. If you do not receive your ID card within 60 days after the effective date of your enrollment, you should contact the Plan.

If you made your open season change by using Employee Express and have not received your new ID card by the effective date of your enrollment, call the Employee Express HELP number to request a confirmation letter. Use that letter to confirm your new coverage with Plan providers.

If you are a new member of this Plan, benefits and rates begin on the effective date of your enrollment, as set by your employing office or retirement system. As a member of this Plan, once your enrollment is effective, you will be covered only for services provided or arranged by a Plan doctor except in the case of emergency as described on page 17. If you are confined in a hospital on the effective date, you must notify the Plan so that it may arrange for the transfer of your care to Plan providers. See "If you are hospitalized" on page 4.

FEHB plans may not refuse to provide benefits for any condition you or a covered family member may have solely on the basis that it was a condition that existed before you enrolled in a plan under the FEHB Program

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## General Information (continued)

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### If you are hospitalized

If you change plans or options, benefits under your prior plan or option cease on the effective date of your enrollment in your new plan or option, unless you or a covered family member are confined in a hospital or other covered facility or are receiving medical care in an alternative care setting on the last day of your enrollment under the prior plan or option. In that case, the confined person will continue to receive benefits under the former plan or option until the earliest of (1) the day the person is discharged from the hospital or other covered facility (a move to an alternative care setting does not constitute a discharge under this provision), or (2) the day after the day all inpatient benefits have been exhausted under the prior plan or option, or (3) the 92nd day after the last day of coverage under the prior plan or option. However, benefits for other family members under the new plan will begin on the effective date. If your plan terminates participation in the FEHB Program in whole or in part, or if the Associate Director for Retirement and Insurance orders an enrollment change, this continuation of coverage provision does not apply; in such case, the hospitalized family member's benefits under the new plan begin on the effective date of enrollment.

### Your responsibility

**It is your responsibility to be informed about your health benefits.** Your employing office or retirement system can provide information about: when you may change your enrollment; who "family members" are; what happens when you transfer, go on leave without pay, enter military service, or retire; when your enrollment terminates; and the next open season for enrollment. Your employing office or retirement system will also make available to you an FEHB Guide, brochures and other materials you need to make an informed decision.

### Things to keep in mind

- The benefits in this brochure are effective on January 1 for those already enrolled in this Plan; if you changed plans or plan options, see "If you are a new member" above. In both cases, however, the Plan's new rates are effective the first day of the enrollee's first full pay period that begins on or after January 1 (January 1 for all annuitants).
- Generally, you must be continuously enrolled in the FEHB Program for the last five years before you retire to continue your enrollment for you and any eligible family members after you retire.
- The FEHB Program provides Self Only coverage for the enrollee alone or Self and Family coverage for the enrollee, his or her spouse, and unmarried dependent children under age 22. Under certain circumstances, coverage will also be provided under a family enrollment for a disabled child 22 years of age or older who is incapable of self-support.
- An enrollee with Self Only coverage who is expecting a baby or the addition of a child may change to a Self and Family enrollment up to 60 days after the birth or addition. The effective date of the enrollment change is the first day of the pay period in which the child was born or became an eligible family member. The enrollee is responsible for his or her share of the Self and Family premium for that time period; both parent and child are covered only for care received from Plan providers, **except for emergency benefits.**
- You will not be informed by your employing office (or your retirement system) or your Plan when a family member loses eligibility.
- You must direct questions about enrollment and eligibility, including whether a dependent age 22 or older is eligible for coverage, to your employing office or retirement system. The Plan does not determine eligibility and cannot change an enrollment status without the necessary information from the employing agency or retirement system.
- An employee, annuitant, or family member enrolled in one FEHB plan is not entitled to receive benefits under any other FEHB plan.
- Report additions and deletions (including divorces) of covered family members to the Plan promptly.
- If you are an annuitant or former spouse with FEHB coverage and you are also covered by Medicare Part B, you may drop your FEHB coverage and enroll in a Medicare prepaid plan when one is available in your area. If you later change your mind and want to reenroll in FEHB, you may do so at the next open season, or whenever you involuntarily lose coverage in the Medicare prepaid plan or move out of the area it serves.

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## General Information (continued)

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### Things to keep in mind (cont)

- Most Federal annuitants have Medicare Part A. If you do not have Medicare Part A, you may enroll in a Medicare prepaid plan, but you will probably have to pay for hospital coverage in addition to the Part B premium. Before you join the plan, ask whether they will provide hospital benefits and, if so, what you will have to pay.
- You may also remain enrolled in this Plan when you join a Medicare prepaid plan.
- Contact your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office for information on local Medicare prepaid plans (also known as Coordinated Care Plans or Medicare HMOs) or request it from SSA at 1-800/638-6833. Contact your retirement system for information on dropping your FEHB enrollment and changing to a Medicare prepaid plan. See page \*\* for information on the Medicare prepaid plan offered by this Plan.
- Federal annuitants are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B (or Part A) in order to be covered under the FEHB Program nor are their FEHB benefits reduced if they do not have Medicare Part B (or Part A).

### Coverage after enrollment ends

When an employee's enrollment terminates because of separation from Federal service or when a family member is no longer eligible for coverage under an employee or annuitant enrollment, and the person is not otherwise eligible for FEHB coverage, he or she generally will be eligible for a free 31-day extension of coverage. The employee or family member may also be eligible for one of the following:

### Former spouse coverage

When a Federal employee or annuitant divorces, the former spouse may be eligible to elect coverage under the spouse equity law. If you are recently divorced or anticipate divorcing, contact the employee's employing office (personnel office) or retiree's retirement system to get more facts about electing coverage.

### Temporary continuation of coverage (TCC)

If you are an employee whose enrollment is terminated because you separate from service, you may be eligible to temporarily continue your health benefits coverage under the FEHB Program in any plan for which you are eligible. Ask your employing office for RI 79-27, which describes TCC, and for RI 70-5, the FEHB Guide for individuals eligible for TCC. Unless you are separated for gross misconduct, TCC is available to you if you are not otherwise eligible for continued coverage under the Program. For example, you are eligible for TCC when you retire if you are unable to meet the five-year enrollment requirement for continuation of enrollment after retirement.

Your TCC begins after the initial free 31-day extension of coverage ends and continues for up to 18 months after your separation from service (that is, if you use TCC until it expires 18 months following separation, you will only pay for 17 months of coverage). Generally, you must pay the total premium (both the Government and employee shares) plus a 2 percent administrative charge. If you use your TCC until it expires, you are entitled to another free 31-day extension of coverage when you may convert to non-group coverage. If you cancel your TCC or stop paying premiums, the free 31-day extension of coverage and conversion option are not available.

Children or former spouses who lose eligibility for coverage because they no longer qualify as family members (and who are not eligible for benefits under the FEHB Program as employees or under the spouse equity law) also may qualify for TCC. They also must pay the total premium plus the 2 percent administrative charge. TCC for former family members continues for up to 36 months after the qualifying event occurs, for example, the child reaches age 22 or the date of the divorce. This includes the free 31-day extension of coverage. When their TCC ends (except by cancellation or nonpayment of premium), they are entitled to another free 31-day extension of coverage when they may convert to non-group coverage.

NOTE: If there is a delay in processing the TCC enrollment, the effective date of the enrollment is still the 32nd day after regular coverage ends. The TCC enrollee is responsible for premium payments retroactive to the effective date and coverage may not exceed the 18 or 36 month period noted above.

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## General Information (continued)

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### Notification and election requirements

**Separating Employees** \_ Within 61 days after an employee's enrollment terminates because of separation from service, his or her employing office must notify the employee of the opportunity to elect TCC. The employee has 60 days after separation (or after receiving the notice from the employing office, if later) to elect TCC.

**Children** \_ You must notify your employing office or retirement system when a child becomes eligible for TCC within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs, for example, the child reaches age 22 or marries.

**Former Spouses** \_ You or your former spouse must notify the employing office or retirement system of the former spouse's eligibility for TCC within 60 days after the termination of the marriage. A former spouse may also qualify for TCC if, during the 36-month period of TCC eligibility, he or she loses spouse equity eligibility because of remarriage before age 55 or loss of the qualifying court order. This applies even if he or she did not elect TCC while waiting for spouse equity coverage to begin. The former spouse must contact the employing office within 60 days of losing spouse equity eligibility to apply for the remaining months of TCC to which he or she is entitled.

The employing office or retirement system has 14 days after receiving notice from you or the former spouse to notify the child or the former spouse of his or her rights under TCC. If a child wants TCC, he or she must elect it within 60 days after the date of the qualifying event (or after receiving the notice, if later). If a former spouse wants TCC, he or she must elect it within 60 days after any of the following events: the date of the qualifying event or the date he or she receives the notice, whichever is later; or the date he or she loses coverage under the spouse equity law because of remarriage before age 55 or loss of the qualifying court order.

Important: The employing office or retirement system must be notified of a child's or former spouse's eligibility for TCC within the 60-day time limit. If the employing office or retirement system is not notified, the opportunity to elect TCC ends 60 days after the qualifying event in the case of a child and 60 days after the change in status in the case of a former spouse.

### Conversion to individual coverage

When none of the above choices are available \_ or chosen \_ when coverage as an employee or family member ends, or when TCC coverage ends (except by cancellation or nonpayment of premium), you may be eligible to convert to an individual, non-group contract. You will not be required to provide evidence of good health and the plan is not permitted to impose a waiting period or limit coverage for preexisting conditions. If you wish to convert to an individual contract, you must apply in writing to the carrier of the plan in which you are enrolled within 31 days after receiving notice of the conversion right from your employing agency. A family member must apply to convert within the 31-day free extension of coverage that follows the event that terminates coverage, e.g., divorce or reaching age 22. Benefits and rates under the individual contract may differ from those under the FEHB Program.

### Public Policy Participation

Blue Cross has established a Public Policy Committee (that we call our Consumer Relations Committee) to advise our Board of Directors. This Committee advises the Board about how to assure the comfort, dignity, and convenience of the people we cover. The Committee consists of members covered by our health plan, participating providers and a member of our Board of Directors. The Committee may review our financial information and information about the nature, volume, and resolution of the complaints we receive. The Consumer Relations Committee reports directly to our Board.

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## **Facts about this Plan**

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This Plan is a comprehensive medical plan, sometimes called a health maintenance organization (HMO). When you enroll in an HMO, you are joining an organized system of health care that arranges in advance with specific doctors, hospitals and other providers to give care to members and pays them directly for their services. Benefits are available only from Plan providers except during a medical emergency or when urgent care is needed. Members are required to select a personal doctor from among participating Plan primary doctors. Services of a specialty care doctor can only be received by referral from the selected primary care doctor. Services of a specialty care doctor can only be received by referral from the selected primary care doctor. There are no claim forms when Plan doctors are used.

**Your decision to join an HMO should be based on your preference for the plan's benefits and delivery system, not because a particular provider is in the plan's network. You cannot change plans because a provider leaves the HMO.**

Because the Plan provides or arranges your care and pays the cost, it seeks efficient and effective delivery of health services. By controlling unnecessary or inappropriate care, it can afford to offer a comprehensive range of benefits. In addition to providing comprehensive health services and benefits for accidents, illness and injury, the Plan places great emphasis on preventive benefits such as office visits, physicals, immunizations and well-baby care. You are encouraged to get medical attention at the first sign of illness.

### **Who provides care to Plan members?**

CaliforniaCare is a mixed-model HMO and members receive their medical care through an extensive network of physicians, health care professionals and hospitals located throughout Southern California and selected counties in Northern California. There are two types of physician organizations that participate in the CaliforniaCare provider network: Multispecialty (Participating) Medical Groups (PMG's) that have primary care doctors, specialists and most medical services located in one medical clinic site, and Independent Practice Associations which are groups of individual doctors who practice within their private offices. IPAs are associated with major hospitals.

CaliforniaCare subscribers and their enrolled family members are required to select a Participating Medical Group (PMG) or Independent Practice Association (IPA). Family members are not required to use the same PMG or IPA to receive their medical care. As a CaliforniaCare enrollee, members must select a Participating Medical Group (PMG) or Independent Practice Association (IPA) within a 30-mile radius of the member's home or work. If you select an IPA, you must choose a personal primary care doctor from the list of IPA doctors in the CaliforniaCare Provider Directory when you enroll. If you are enrolled in Self and Family, you are encouraged to have all family members choose their primary care doctor within the same PMG or IPA. This will facilitate the plan administration and strengthen your family's doctor/patient relationship.

You may change your primary care doctor within your PMG or IPA at anytime. You may transfer to another PMG or IPA, if you have an address change, the location of your work changes or at Open Season.

### **Role of a primary care doctor**

The first and most important decision each member must make is the selection of a primary care doctor. The decision is important since it is through this doctor that all other health services, particularly those of specialists, are obtained. It is the responsibility of your primary care doctor to obtain any necessary authorizations from the Plan before referring you to a specialist or making arrangements for hospitalization. Services of other providers are covered only when there has been a referral by the member's primary care doctor, with the following exception: a woman may see a Plan obstetrician/gynecologist directly for an annual routine gynecological exam, with no need to be referred by her primary care doctor. A member may see a Plan provider without the need to be referred for services received through the "American Chiropractic Network".

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## **Facts about this Plan (continued)**

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### **Choosing your doctor**

CaliforniaCare has added several new Medical Groups and IPAs. Please check the CaliforniaCare Provider Directory to see the complete list of all participating Medical Groups and IPAs.

The Plan's provider directory lists primary care doctors (generally family practitioners, pediatricians, and internists), with their locations and phone numbers, and notes whether or not the doctor is accepting new patients. Directories are updated on a regular basis and are available at the time of enrollment or upon request by calling the Customer Services Department at 1-800-235-8631; you can also find out if your doctor participates with this Plan by calling this number. If you are interested in receiving care from a specific provider who is listed in the directory, call the provider to verify that he or she still participates with the Plan and is accepting new patients. Important note: **When you enroll in this plan, services (except for emergency or urgent care) are provided through the Plan's delivery system; the continued availability and/or participation of any one doctor, hospital, or other provider, cannot be guaranteed.**

Should you decide to enroll, you will be asked to complete a primary care doctor selection form and send it directly to the Plan, indicating the name of the primary care doctor(s) you select for you and each member of your family. Members may change their doctor selection by notifying the Plan 30 days in advance.

In the event a member is receiving services from a doctor who terminates a participating agreement, the Plan will provide payment for covered services until the Plan can make reasonable and medically appropriate provisions for the assumption of such services by a participating doctor.

### **Referrals for specialty care**

Except in a medical emergency, for urgent care, or when a primary care doctor has designated another doctor to see patients when he or she is unavailable, you must receive a referral from your primary care doctor before seeing any other doctor or obtaining special services. Referral to a participating specialist is given at the primary care doctor's discretion; if specialists or consultants are required beyond those participating in the Plan, the primary care doctor will make arrangements for appropriate referrals. In most cases, the specialist will be a member of your Medical Group or will have an arrangement with your Medical Group to provide needed care for its patients. Referrals are made at the sole and absolute discretion of your primary care physician and your Medical Group.

When you receive a referral from your primary care doctor, you must return to the primary care doctor after the consultation. All follow-up care must be provided or authorized by the primary care doctor. On referrals, the primary care doctor will give specific instructions to the consultant as to what services are authorized. If additional services or visits are suggested by the consultant, you must first check with your primary care doctor. Do not go to the specialist unless your primary care doctor has arranged for and the Plan has issued an authorization for the referral in advance.

### **Authorizations**

The Plan will provide benefits for covered services only when the services are medically necessary to prevent, diagnose or treat your illness or condition.

### **Second Opinions**

You may receive a second medical opinion when your primary care doctor or a contracted specialist to whom you were referred has recommended an elective treatment or surgical procedure. You must request a second opinion through your primary care doctor. Your request must be approved by your Medical Group. If your request is approved, the second opinion will be provided by another primary care doctor or specialist who contracts with your Medical Group. If your request is denied, you may appeal the denial through the Plans grievance procedures (see HOW TO OBTAIN BENEFITS). Your grievance will be reviewed by an appropriate health care professional.

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**Facts about this Plan (continued)**

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**For new members**

If you are already under the care of a specialist who is a Plan participant, you must still obtain a referral from a Plan primary care doctor for the care to be covered by the Plan. If the doctor who originally referred you prior to your joining this Plan is now your Plan primary care doctor, you need only call to explain that you now belong to this Plan and ask that a "referral form" be sent to the specialist for your next appointment.

If you are selecting a new primary care doctor, you must schedule an appointment so the primary care doctor can decide whether to treat the condition directly or refer you back to the specialist.

**Hospital care**

If you require hospitalization, your primary care doctor or authorized specialist will make the necessary arrangements and continue to supervise your care.

**Out-of-pocket maximum**

Copayments are required for a few benefits. However, copayments will not be required for the remainder of the calendar year after your out-of-pocket expenses for services provided or arranged by the Plan reach \$1,000 per Self Only enrollment or \$3,000 per Self and Family enrollment. This copayment maximum does not include costs of prescription drugs or infertility treatment.

You should maintain accurate records of the copayments made, as it is your responsibility to determine when the copayment maximum is reached. You are assured a predictable maximum in out-of-pocket costs for covered health and medical needs. Copayments are due when service is rendered, except for emergency or urgent care.

**Deductible carryover**

If you changed to this Plan during open season from a plan with a deductible and the effective date of the change was after January 1, any expenses that would have applied to that plan's deductible will be covered by your old plan if they are for care you got in January before the effective date of your coverage in this Plan. If you have already met the deductible in full, your old plan will reimburse these covered expenses. If you have not met it in full, your old plan will first apply your covered expenses to satisfy the rest of the deductible and then reimburse you for any additional covered expenses. The old plan will pay these covered expenses according to this year's benefits; benefit changes are effective January 1.

**Submit claims promptly**

When you are required to submit a claim to this Plan for covered expenses, submit your claim promptly. The Plan will not pay benefits for claims submitted later than December 31 of the calendar year following the year in which the expense was incurred, unless timely filing was prevented by administrative operations of Government or legal incapacity, provided the claim was submitted as soon as reasonably possible.

**Other considerations**

Plan providers will follow generally accepted medical practice in prescribing any course of treatment. Before you enroll in this Plan, you should determine whether you will be able to accept treatment or procedures which may be recommended by Plan providers.

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## Facts about this Plan (continued)

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**The Plan's service area** The service area for this Plan, where Plan providers and facilities are located, is shown below. You must live or work in the service area to enroll in this Plan.

### The Service Area for this Plan includes the following counties:

#### Northern California

•Amador •Fresno •Marin •Nevada •San Francisco •Sonoma  
•Alameda •Humboldt •Mendocino •Placer •San Joaquin •Stanislaus  
•Butte •Kings •Merced •Plumas •San Mateo •Tehama  
•Contra Costa •Lake •Modoc •Sacramento •Santa Cruz •Tulare  
•Del Norte •Lassen •Monterey •San Benito •Shasta •Tuolumne  
•El Dorado •Madera •Napa •Santa Clara •Solano •Yolo

#### Southern California

•Los Angeles •Santa Barbara  
•Orange •Ventura  
•San Diego  
•San Luis Obispo

### Portions of the following counties, as indicated by zip codes, are also within the Service Area:

**KERN:** 93203, 93205-06, 93215-17  
93220, 93222, 93224-26, 93238,  
93240-41, 93243, 93249-52, 93255,  
93263, 93276, 93280, 93283, 93285,  
93287, 93300-09, 93311-13, 93380-89,  
93399, 93504-05, 93516, 93518-19,  
93523-24, 93528, 93531, 93554,  
93555, 93556, 93560-61, 93570,  
93581-82, 93596

**SAN BERNARDINO:** 91701, 91708-10,  
91729-30, 91737, 91739, 91743, 91758,  
91761-64, 91784-86, 91798, 92337, 92252,  
92256, 92268, 92277-78, 92284-86, 92301,  
92305, 92307-08, 92311-13, 92314-18,  
92321-22, 92324-27, 92329, 92333-37,  
92339-42, 92345-47, 92350, 92352, 92354,  
92356-59, 92365, 92368-69, 92371-78,  
92382, 92385-86, 92391-94, 92397, 92398,  
92399, 92400-18, 92420, 92423-24, 92427

**RIVERSIDE:** 91718-20, 91752,  
91753, 91760, 92201-03, 92210,  
92211, 92220, 92223, 92230,  
92234-36, 92240, 92241,  
92253-55, 92258, 92260-64, 92270,  
92276, 92282, 92292, 92303, 92320,  
92330-31, 92343-44, 92348, 92353,  
92355, 92360, 62, 92367, 92370,  
92379-81, 92383, 92387-88, 92390,  
92395-96, 92500-09, 92513-19,  
92521-23, 92530-32, 92542-46, 92548,  
92550, 92552-57, 92562-64, 92567,  
9257-72, 92581-87, 92589-93,  
92595-96, 92599

**Benefits for care outside the service area are limited to emergency or urgent care services, as described on pages 17 and 18.**

**If you or a covered family member move outside the service area, you may enroll in another approved plan. It is not necessary to wait until you move or for the open season to make such a change; contact your employing office or retirement system for information if you are anticipating a move.**

### **Provider Reimbursement**

Participating Medical Groups are generally paid a capitation fee, a set and agreed to dollar amount per member each month, for medical services. Participating Medical Groups may also receive additional reimbursement for certain types of specialty care or for overall efficiency. Hospitals and other health care facilities are paid negotiated fixed fees or on the basis of a negotiated discount from their standard fee-for-service rates.

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## General Limitations

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### **Important notice**

Although a specific service may be listed as a benefit, it will be covered for you only if, in the judgment of your Plan, it is medically necessary for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your illness or condition. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the benefits, limitations and exclusions of this brochure, convey or void any coverage, increase or reduce any benefits under this Plan or be used in the prosecution or defense of a claim under this Plan. This brochure is based on text included in the contract between OPM and this Plan and is intended to be a complete statement of benefits available to FEHB members. You should use this brochure to determine your entitlement to benefits. However, if conflicts are discovered between the language of this brochure and the contract, the contract will control.

### **Circumstances beyond Plan control**

In the event of major disaster, epidemic, riot, civil insurrection, disability of a significant number of Plan providers, complete or partial destruction of facilities, or other circumstances beyond the Plan's control, the Plan will make a good faith effort to provide or arrange for covered services. However, the Plan will not be responsible for any delay or failure in providing service due to lack of available facilities or personnel.

### **Arbitration of claims**

Any claim for damages for personal injury, mental disturbance or wrongful death arising out of the rendition or failure to render services under this contract must be submitted to binding arbitration.

### **Other sources of benefits**

This section applies when you or your family members are entitled to benefits from a source other than this Plan. You must disclose information about other sources of benefits to the Plan and complete all necessary documents and authorizations requested by the Plan.

### **Medicare**

If you or a covered family member is enrolled in this Plan and Part A, Part B, or Parts A and B of Medicare, benefits will be coordinated with Medicare according to Medicare's determination of which coverage is primary. Generally, you do not need to take any action after informing the Plan of your or your family member's eligibility for Medicare. Your Plan will provide you with further instructions if a Medicare claim needs to be filed.

### **Group health insurance and automobile insurance**

This coordination of benefits (double coverage) provision applies when a person covered by this Plan also has, or is entitled to benefits from, any other group health coverage, or is entitled to the payment of medical and hospital costs under no-fault or other automobile insurance that pays benefits without regard to fault. Information about the other coverage must be disclosed to this Plan.

When there is double coverage for covered benefits, other than emergency services from non-Plan providers, this Plan will continue to provide its benefits in full, but is entitled to receive payment for the services and supplies provided, to the extent that they are covered by the other coverage, no-fault or other automobile insurance or any other primary plan.

One plan normally pays its benefits in full as the primary payer, and the other plan pays a reduced benefit as the secondary payer. When this Plan is the secondary payer, it will pay the lesser of (1) its benefits in full, or (2) a reduced amount which, when added to the benefits payable by the other coverage, will not exceed reasonable charges. The determination of which health coverage is primary (pays its benefits first) is made according to guidelines provided by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. When benefits are payable under automobile insurance, including no-fault, the automobile insurer is primary (pays its benefits first) if it is legally obligated to provide benefits for health care expenses without regard to other health benefits coverage the enrollee may have. This provision applies whether or not a claim is filed under the other coverage. When applicable, authorization must be given to this Plan to obtain information about benefits or services available from the other coverage, or to recover overpayments from other coverages.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## General Limitations (continued)

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### **CHAMPUS**

If you are covered by both this Plan and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS), this Plan will pay benefits first. As a member of a prepaid plan, special limitations on your CHAMPUS coverage apply; your primary provider must authorize all care. See your CHAMPUS Health Benefits Advisor if you have questions about CHAMPUS coverage.

### **Medicaid**

If you are covered by both this Plan and Medicaid, this Plan will pay benefits first.

### **Workers' compensation**

The Plan will not pay for services required as the result of occupational disease or injury for which any medical benefits are determined by the Office of Workers Compensation Programs (OWCP) to be payable under workers' compensation (under section 8103 of title 5, U.S.C.) or by a similar agency under another Federal or State law. This provision also applies when a third party injury settlement or other similar proceeding provides medical benefits in regard to a claim under workers' compensation or similar laws. If medical benefits provided under such laws are exhausted, this Plan will be financially responsible for services or supplies that are otherwise covered by this Plan. The Plan is entitled to be reimbursed by OWCP (or the similar agency) for services it provided that were later found to be payable by OWCP (or the agency).

### **DVA facilities, DoD facilities, and Indian Health Service**

Facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and the Indian Health Service are entitled to seek reimbursement from the Plan for certain services and supplies provided to you or a family member to the extent that reimbursement is required under the Federal statutes governing such facilities.

### **Other Government agencies**

The Plan will not provide benefits for services and supplies paid for directly or indirectly by any other local, State, or Federal Government agency.

### **Liability insurance and third party actions**

If a covered person is sick or injured as a result of the act or omission of another person or party, the Plan requires that it be reimbursed for the benefits provided in an amount not to exceed the amount of the recovery, or that it be subrogated to the person's rights to the extent of the benefits received under this Plan, including the right to bring suit in the person's name. If you need more information about subrogation, the Plan will provide you with its subrogation procedures.

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## General Exclusions

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All benefits are subject to the limitations and exclusions in this brochure. Although a specific service may be listed as a benefit, it will not be covered for you unless your Plan doctor determines it is medically necessary to prevent, diagnose or treat your illness or condition. The following are excluded:

- Care by non-Plan doctors or hospitals except for authorized referrals or emergency/urgent care (see Emergency benefits)
- Services furnished or billed by a provider or facility barred from the FEHB Program
- Services not required according to accepted standards of medical, dental, or psychiatric practice
- Procedures, treatments, drugs or devices that are experimental or investigational
- Procedures, services, drugs and supplies related to sex transformations
- Procedures, services, drugs and supplies related to abortions except when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or when pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest
- Expenses incurred while not covered by this Plan

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## Medical and Surgical Benefits

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**What is covered** A comprehensive range of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services are provided by Plan doctors and other Plan providers. This includes all necessary office visits; **you pay** an \$5 office visit copay, unless otherwise noted below but no additional copay for laboratory tests and X-rays by Participating providers. The \$5 office visit copay is not charged for the well-baby care. Within the Service Area, house calls will be provided if in the judgment of the Plan such care is necessary and appropriate; **you pay** a \$5 copay for a doctor's house call and nothing for visits by nurses and health aides.

The following services are included and the copayments indicated below will apply:

- Physician office visits . . . . . \$5 copay
- Physician home visits, if within the Medical Group's area and medically necessary . . . . . \$5 copay
- Preventive care and periodic check-ups . . . . . \$5 copay
- Well-baby care/child care (for all enrolled children) . . . . . No copay
- Routine mammograms as recommended by your Plan doctor and medically necessary mammograms to diagnose or treat an illness . . . . . No copay
- Routine immunizations and boosters . . . . . No copay
- Routine vision exams . . . . . No copay
- Routine hearing exams . . . . . No copay
- Consultations by specialists . . . . . \$5 copay
- Diagnostic procedures, such as laboratory tests and X-rays . . . . . No copay
- Family planning services . . . . . \$5 copay
- Voluntary sterilization . . . . . \$150 copay for tubal ligations  
\$50 copay for vasectomies
- Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye . . . . . \$5 copay
- Allergy testing and treatment, which includes the cost of the testing and treatment materials (such as allergy serum) . . . . . \$5 copay
- The insertion of internal prosthetic devices, such as pacemakers and artificial joints. . . . . No copay

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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**Medical and Surgical Benefits** (continued)

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- Mastectomies. Women who undergo mastectomies. . . . . No copay  
may, at their option, have this procedure performed  
on an inpatient basis and remain in the hospital up  
to 48 hours after the procedure. Benefits for inpatient  
stays will be extended if medically necessary.
- Dialysis . . . . . No copay
- Chemotherapy, radiation therapy,  
and inhalation therapy . . . . . No copay
- Surgical treatment of morbid obesity . . . . . No copay
- Orthopedic devices such as braces . . . . . No copay
- Prosthetic devices, such as artificial limbs  
and lenses following cataract removal . . . . . No copay
- Home health services of nurses and health aides up . . . . . No copay  
to (3) two-hour visits each day, including intravenous  
fluids and medications when prescribed by your Plan doctor,  
who will periodically review the program for continuing  
appropriateness and need
- All necessary medical or surgical care in a  
hospital or extended care facility from Plan  
doctors and other Plan providers . . . . . No copay
- Acupuncture services (if referred by PCP) . . . . . \$5 copay
- Complete obstetrical (maternity) care for . . . . . \$5 copay  
all covered females, including prenatal, delivery  
and postnatal care by a Plan doctor. The mother,  
at her option, may remain in the hospital up to  
48 hours after a regular delivery and 96 hours  
after a cesarean delivery. Benefits for inpatient  
stays will be extended if medically necessary.  
If enrollment in the Plan is terminated during pregnancy,  
benefits will not be provided after coverage under the Plan  
has ended. Ordinary nursery care of the newborn  
child during the covered portion of the mother's hospital  
confinement for maternity will be covered under either a Self Only  
or Self and Family enrollment; other care of an infant who requires  
definitive treatment will be covered only if the infant is covered  
under a Self and Family enrollment.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## Medical and Surgical Benefits (continued)

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- Cornea, heart, lung, kidney and pancreas . . . . . \$5 copay  
transplants, and liver transplants; allogenic  
(donor) bone marrow transplants;  
autologous bone marrow transplants  
(autologous stem cell and peripheral stem cell support)  
for the following conditions: acute lymphocytic or non-lymphatic  
leukemia, advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma, advanced non-Hodgkins  
lymphoma, advanced neuroblastoma, testicular, mediastinal,  
retroperitoneal, multiple myeloma, epithelial ovarian cancer,  
and ovarian germ cell tumors and breast cancer, when approved  
by the Plan medical director. Related medical and hospital expenses  
of the donor are covered when the recipient is covered by this Plan.

### Limited benefits

**Oral and maxillofacial surgery** is provided for non-dental surgical and hospitalization procedures for congenital defects, such as cleft lip and cleft palate, and for medical or surgical procedures occurring within or adjacent to the oral cavity or sinuses including, but not limited to, the removal of impacted teeth, the treatment of fractures and the excision of tumors and cysts. All other procedures involving the teeth or intra-oral areas surrounding the teeth are not covered, including any dental care involved in treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) pain dysfunction syndrome.

**Reconstructive surgery** will be provided to correct a condition resulting from a functional defect or from an injury or surgery that has produced a major effect on the member's appearance and if the condition can reasonably be expected to be corrected by such surgery.

**Short-term rehabilitative therapy** (physical, speech and occupational) is provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis; **you pay nothing**. Speech therapy is limited to treatment of certain speech impairments of organic origin. Occupational therapy is limited to services that assist the member to achieve and maintain self-care and improved functioning in other activities of daily living.

**Diagnosis and treatment of infertility is covered; you pay 50%** of charges. The following types of artificial insemination are covered: intravaginal insemination (IVI); intracervical insemination (ICI); and intrauterine insemination (IUI). Other assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures that enable a woman with otherwise untreatable infertility to become pregnant through other artificial conception procedures such as in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer are not covered. Cost of donor sperm is not covered. Drugs used primarily for the purpose of treating infertility are not covered under your Medical and Surgical Benefits.

**Cardiac rehabilitation** following a heart transplant, by pass surgery or a myocardial infarction, is provided for up to 60 days; **you pay nothing**.

**Durable medical equipment** is covered up to \$2,000 per calendar year, **you pay nothing**.

**Chiropractic services** are covered up to 20 visits per calendar year, **you pay a \$5 copay** per visit when services are provided by the American Chiropractic Network (ACN).

In addition, the Plan will also provide up to \$50 in rental or purchase charges for medical equipment and supplies which are ordered by an ACN chiropractor, and pre-certified as medically necessary by ACN. Such medical equipment includes: (1) elbow, back, thoracic, lumbar, rib or wrist supports; (2) cervical collars or pillows; (3) ankle, knee, lumbar, or wrist braces; (4) heel lifts; (5) hot or cold packs; (6) lumbar cushions; (7) orthotics; and (8) home traction units for treatment of the cervical or lumbar regions.

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## Medical and Surgical Benefits (continued)

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CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS

<b>What is not covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical examinations that are not necessary for medical reasons, such as those required for obtaining or continuing employment or insurance, attending school or camp, or travel</li> <li>• Reversal of voluntary, surgically-induced sterility</li> <li>• Plastic surgery primarily for cosmetic purposes</li> <li>• Transplants not listed as covered</li> <li>• Hearing aids</li> <li>• Long-term rehabilitative therapy</li> <li>• Homemaker services</li> <li>• Shoe insole</li> </ul>
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## Hospital/Extended Care Benefits

### What is covered

<b>Hospital care</b>	<p>The Plan provides a comprehensive range of benefits with no dollar or day limit when you are hospitalized under the care of a Plan doctor. <b>You pay nothing</b> per inpatient admission. All necessary services are covered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semiprivate room accommodations; when a Plan doctor determines it is medically necessary, the doctor may prescribe private accommodations or private duty nursing care</li> <li>• Specialized care units, such as intensive care or cardiac care units</li> </ul>
<b>Extended care</b>	<p>The Plan provides a comprehensive range of benefits up to 100 days each calendar year when full-time skilled nursing care is necessary and confinement in a skilled nursing facility is in lieu of hospitalization. You pay nothing. All necessary services are covered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed, board and general nursing care</li> <li>• Drugs, biologicals, supplies, and equipment ordinarily provided or arranged by the skilled nursing facility when prescribed by a Plan doctor.</li> </ul>
<b>Hospice care</b>	<p>Supportive and palliative care for terminally ill members is covered in the home or hospice facility up to 180 days. Services include inpatient and outpatient care, and family counseling; these services are provided under the direction of a Plan doctor who certifies that the patient is in the terminal stages of illness, with a life expectancy of approximately six months or less.</p>
<b>Ambulance service</b>	<p>Benefits are provided for ambulance transportation ordered or authorized by a Plan doctor.</p>

### Limited Benefits

<b>Inpatient dental procedures</b>	<p>Hospitalization for certain dental procedures is covered when a Plan doctor determines there is a need for hospitalization for reasons totally unrelated to the dental procedure; the Plan will cover the hospitalization, but not the cost of the professional dental services. Conditions for which hospitalization would be covered include hemophilia and heart disease; the need for anesthesia, by itself, is not such a condition.</p>
<b>Acute inpatient detoxification</b>	<p>Hospitalization for medical treatment of substance abuse is limited to emergency care, diagnosis, treatment of medical conditions, and medical management of withdrawal symptoms (acute detoxification) if the Plan doctor determines that outpatient management is not medically appropriate. See Page 19 for non-medical substance abuse benefits.</p>
<b>What is not covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal comfort items, such as telephone and television</li> <li>• Custodial care, rest cures, domiciliary or convalescent care</li> </ul>

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## Emergency Benefits

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### What is a medical emergency?

A medical emergency is the sudden and unexpected onset of a condition or an injury that requires immediate medical or surgical care. Some problems are emergencies because, if not treated promptly, they might become more serious; examples include deep cuts and broken bones. Others are emergencies because they are potentially life-threatening, such as heart attacks, strokes, poisonings, gunshot wounds, or sudden inability to breathe. There are many other acute conditions that the Plan may determine are medical emergencies-what they all have in common is the need for quick action.

### What is Urgent Care

We provide coverage for medically necessary care provided by non-Plan providers to prevent serious deterioration of your health resulting from an unforeseen illness or injury when you are more than 20 miles from your Medical Group (or your Medical Group's enrollment area hospital if you are enrolled in an independent practice association), and seeking health services cannot be delayed until you return.

If you need urgent care you should seek medical attention immediately. If you are admitted to a hospital for urgently needed care, you should contact your primary care doctor or Medical Group within 48 hours, unless extraordinary circumstances prevent such notification. Follow-up care will be covered when the care required continues to meet our definition of "Urgent Care". Urgent care is defined as services received for a sudden, serious, or unexpected illness, injury or condition, which is not an emergency, but which requires immediate care for the relief of pain or diagnosis and treatment of such condition.

### Emergencies within the area

**If you are in an emergency or urgent situation, and you are within 20 miles of your Medical Group or 20 miles of your Medical Group's assigned hospital, please call your primary care doctor.** If you are unable to contact your doctor, contact the local emergency system (e.g., the 911 telephone system) or go to the nearest hospital emergency room. Be sure to tell the emergency room personnel that you are a Plan member so they can notify the Plan. You or a family member should notify the Plan within 48 hours, **unless it is not reasonably possible to do so.** It is your responsibility to ensure that the Plan has been timely notified.

**If you need to be hospitalized in a non-Plan facility, the Plan must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission unless it was reasonably possible to notify the Plan within that time.** If you are hospitalized in non-Plan facilities and Plan doctors believe care can be better provided in a Plan hospital, you will be transferred when medically feasible with any ambulance charges covered in full.

Your primary care doctor will provide the necessary care, refer you to other Plan provider, or make arrangements with other providers. Benefits are available for care from non-Plan providers in a medical emergency or for urgent care only if delay in reaching a Plan provider would result in death, disability or significant jeopardy to your condition.

**To be covered by this Plan, any follow-up care recommended by non-Plan providers must be approved by the Plan or provided by Plan providers.**

**Plan pays** reasonable charges for emergency services to the extent the services would have been covered if received from Plan providers.

**You pay** \$25 per hospital emergency room visit or urgent care center visit for emergency services which are covered benefits of this Plan. If the emergency results in admission to a hospital, the emergency care copay is waived.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## Emergency Benefits (continued)

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### Emergencies outside of area

If you need emergency treatment and you are more than 20 miles from your Medical Group or your Medical Group's assigned hospital, benefits are available for medically necessary health services that are immediately required because of injury or unforeseen illness.

If you need to be hospitalized, the Plan must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission, unless it was not reasonably possible to notify the Plan within that time. If a Plan doctor believes care can be better provided in a Plan hospital, you will be transferred when medically feasible with any ambulance charges covered in full.

To be covered by this Plan, any follow-up care recommended by non-Plan providers must be approved by the Plan or provided by Plan providers.

**Plan pays** reasonable charges for emergency care services to the extent the services would have been covered if received from Plan providers.

**You pay** \$25 per hospital emergency room visit or urgent care center visit for emergency services which are covered benefits of this Plan. If the emergency results in admission to a hospital, the emergency care copay is waived.

### What is covered

- Emergency care or urgent care at a doctor's office or an urgent care center
- Emergency care or urgent care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctors' services
- Ambulance service approved by the Plan

### What is not covered

- Elective care or non-emergency/urgent care
- Emergency care or urgent care provided outside the service area if the need for care could have been foreseen before leaving the service area
- Medical and hospital costs resulting from a normal full-term delivery of a baby outside the service-area.

### Filing claims for non-Plan providers

With your authorization, the Plan will pay benefits directly to the providers of your emergency care upon receipt of their claims. Physician claims should be submitted on the HCFA 1500 claim form. If you are required to pay for the services, submit itemized bills and your receipts to the Plan along with an explanation of the services and the identification information from your ID card.

Payment will be sent to you (or the provider if you did not pay the bill), unless the claim is denied. If it is denied, you will receive notice of the decision, including the reasons for the denial and the provisions of the contract on which denial was based. If you disagree with the Plan's decision, you may request reconsideration in accordance with the disputed claims procedure described on page 23.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## **Mental Conditions/Substance Abuse Benefits**

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### **Mental Conditions**

- What is covered** To the extent shown below, the Plan provides the following services necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of acute psychiatric conditions, including the treatment of mental illness or disorders:
- Diagnostic evaluation
  - Psychological testing
  - Psychiatric treatment (including individual or group therapy)
  - Hospitalization (including inpatient professional services)
- Outpatient care** Up to 40 outpatient visits to Plan doctors, consultant, or other psychiatric personnel each calendar year, **you pay** a \$20 copay for each covered visit-all charges thereafter.
- Inpatient Care** Inpatient hospital care if determined by a Plan doctor to be necessary and appropriate, you pay nothing. -
- What is not Covered** Care for psychiatric conditions which in the professional judgment of Plan doctors are not subject to significant improvement through relatively short-term treatment.
- Psychiatric evaluation or therapy on court order or as a condition of parole or probation, unless determined by a Plan doctor to be necessary and appropriate.
  - Psychological testing when not medically necessary to determine the appropriate treatment of a short-term psychiatric condition.

### **Substance Abuse**

- What is covered** This Plan provides medical and hospital services such as acute detoxification services for the medical, non-psychiatric aspects of substance abuse, including alcoholism and drug addiction, the same as for any other illness or condition. Outpatient visits to Plan providers for treatment are covered, as well as inpatient services necessary for diagnosis and treatment. The Outpatient Mental conditions benefits visit limitations apply to any covered substance abuse care. **You pay** a \$20 copay for each covered visit-all charges thereafter. Inpatient mental condition benefit associated with substance abuse is limited to 30 days. **You pay** nothing.
- What is not covered** Treatment that is not authorized by a Plan doctor.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## Prescription Drug Benefits

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**What is covered** Prescription drugs prescribed by a Plan or referral doctor and obtained at a pharmacy will be dispensed for up to a 30 day supply or 100 unit supply, whichever is less, or one commercially prepared unit (i.e., one inhaler, one vial ophthalmic medication or insulin). Drugs are prescribed by Plan doctors and dispensed in accordance with the Plan's drug formulary. Non-formulary drugs will be covered when prescribed by a Plan doctor. You pay the following copays per prescription unit or refill:

*For Blue Cross participating pharmacies:*

Formulary generic drugs and name brand drugs **You pay** a \$5 copay per prescription or refill

- Non-formulary name brand drugs **You pay** a \$10 copay per prescription or refill
- Non-formulary generic drugs **You pay** a \$5 copay per prescription or refill

*For non-participating pharmacies:*

- Generic drugs and name brand drugs Reimbursement is at 50% of the Drug Limited Fee Schedule minus your \$5 copay

*For designated mail order pharmacies:*

- Generic and name brand drugs **You pay** a \$5 copay for up to a 90-day supply

**Covered medication and accessories include:**

- Drugs for which a prescription is required by law.
- Oral and injectable contraceptive drugs-up to a three-cycle supply may be obtained for a single copay charge.
- Insulin, with a copay charge applied to each vial.
- Diabetic supplies including insulin syringes, needles, glucose test tablets and test tape. Benedict's solution or equivalent and acetone test tablets.
- Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting covered prescribed medication.
- Drugs used primarily for the purpose of treating infertility.
- Smoking cessation drugs and medications, only if a prescription is required by law.

Intravenous fluids and medications for home use, implanted time-release medications, such as Norplant, and some injectable drugs, such as Depo Provera, are not covered under your Prescription Drug Benefits but are covered under Medical and Surgical benefits with no additional copay.

**What is not covered**

- Drugs available without a prescription or for which there is a non-prescription equivalent available.
- Vitamins and nutritional substances which can be purchased without a prescription.
- Medical supplies such as dressings and antiseptics.
- Contraceptive devices.
- Drugs for cosmetic purposes.
- Drugs to enhance athletic performance.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## **Other Benefits**

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### **Accidental injury benefit**

**What is covered** Restorative services and supplies necessary for the initial repair (but not replacement) of sound natural teeth. **You pay** nothing.

**What is not covered**

- **Restoration** of the damaged tooth when defined as cosmetic
- Damage to teeth resulting from eating food

### **Vision Care**

**What is covered** In addition to the medical and surgical benefits provided for diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye, annual eye refractions (which include the written lens prescription) may be obtained from Plan providers. **You pay** nothing.

**What is not covered**

- Corrective lenses or frames
- Eye exercises

### **Health Education and Wellness Programs**

- As part of our continuous effort to support the health and well being of our members, CaliforniaCare offers a wide range of Health Education and Wellness Programs at discounted rates. Separate copays may apply to some programs.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

## Non-FEHB Benefits Available to Plan Members

The benefits described on this page are neither offered nor guaranteed under the contract with the FEHB, but are made available to all enrollees and family members who are members of this Plan. The cost of the benefits described on this page is not included in the FEHB premium; any charges for these services do not count toward any FEHB deductibles, out-of-pocket maximum copay charges, etc. These benefits are not subject to the FEHB disputed claims procedure.

**Optional Dental Benefits** - Separate benefit package that requires an additional premium.

### HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE YOUR TOTAL HEALTH CARE PACKAGE BY ADDING COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL BENEFITS

- (1) **Dental Net - Dental Maintenance Organization Option:** A plan that offers members a broad range of dental coverage at a lower cost. Members choose their own dentist from a network of providers, and may change their dentist at any time. Once you have enrolled in Dental Net, your provider will perform preventive and diagnostic services and other dental services free of charge or at a greatly reduced rate.

Key Dental Net Advantages

- Diagnostic and Preventive Services are FREE
- No Deductibles and No Claim Forms
- Benefits include Orthodontic Coverage

(2)

### **Eyewear Savings Program for Blue Cross CaliforniaCare Members at no extra premium**

- Instant savings on eyewear As a Federal Employee and a member of the CaliforniaCare, HMO you are now entitled to special savings on frames, lenses (including contact lenses), as well as other important eye care accessories. These savings are available through optical departments located in selected Sears, Montgomery Ward and J.C. Penney stores.
- No Claim Forms There are currently more than 135 participating optical Toll Free Customer departments located throughout California. To receive your eyewear discount, just present your CaliforniaCare ID card to the optical department of the stores listed above.

**Blue Cross Senior Secure** - Medicare prepaid plan (HMO) provides complete coverage for medically necessary hospital and doctor services with no monthly premium, no deductibles and a prescription drug benefit.

Coverage includes:

•Prescription Drug	•Chiropractic Care
•Vision	•Hearing
•Dental	•Podiatry

Blue Cross Senior Secure features all of the health coverage services offered by Medicare plus some extra services Medicare does not offer. Contact Customer Service, toll free 1-888-230-7338 to obtain detailed benefits and a list of providers in your area. As indicated on page 5, you may remain enrolled in FEHBP when you enroll in a Medicare Prepaid Plan.

**Benefits on this page are not part of the FEHB contract**

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## How to Obtain Benefits

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### Questions

If you have a question concerning Plan benefits or how to arrange for care, contact the Plan's Customer Services Office at 1-800-235-8631, or you may write to the Plan at P.O. Box 4089, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

### Disputed Claims Review Plan Reconsideration

If a claim for payment or services is denied by the Plan, you must ask the Plan, in writing and within six months of the date of the denial, to reconsider its denial before you request a review by OPM. (This time limit may be extended if you show you were prevented by circumstances beyond your control from making your request within the time limit.) OPM will not review your request unless you demonstrate that you gave the Plan an opportunity to reconsider your claim. Your written request to the Plan must state why, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure, you believe the denied claim for payment or service should have been paid or provided.

Within 30 days after receipt of your request for reconsideration, the Plan must affirm the denial in writing to you, pay the claim, provide the service, or request additional information reasonably necessary to make a determination. If the Plan asks a provider for information it will send you a copy of this request at the same time. The Plan has 30 days after receiving the information to give its decision. If this information is not supplied within 60 days, the Plan will base its decision on the information it has on hand.

### OPM Review

If the Plan affirms its denial, you have the right to request a review by OPM to determine whether the Plan's actions are in accordance with the terms of its contract. You must request the review within 90 days after the date of the Plan's letter affirming its initial denial.

You may also ask OPM for a review if the Plan fails to respond within 30 days of your written request for reconsideration or 30 days after you have supplied additional information to the Plan. In this case, OPM must receive a request for review within 120 days of your request to the Plan for reconsideration or of the date you were notified that the Plan needed additional information, either from you or from your doctor or hospital.

This right is available only to you or the executor of a deceased claimant's estate. Providers, legal counsel, and other interested parties may act as your representative only with your specific written consent to pursue payment of the disputed claim. OPM must receive a copy of your written consent with their request for review.

Your written request for an OPM review must state why, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure, you believe the denied claim for payment or service should have been paid or provided. If the Plan has reconsidered and denied more than one unrelated claim, clearly identify the documents for each claim.

Your request must include the following information or it will be returned by OPM:

- A copy of your letter to the Plan requesting reconsideration;
- A copy of the Plan's reconsideration decision (if the Plan failed to respond, provide instead (a) the date of your request to the Plan or (b) the dates the Plan requested and you provided additional information to the Plan);
- Copies of documents that support your claim, such as doctors' letters, operative reports, bills, medical records, and explanation of benefit (EOB) forms; and
- Your daytime phone number.

Medical documentation received from you or the Plan during the review process becomes a permanent part of the disputed claim file, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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**How to Obtain Benefits** (continued)

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**OPM review**  
(continued)

Send your request for review to: Office of Personnel Management, Office of Insurance Programs, Contracts Division, P.O. Box 436, Washington, DC 20044.

You (or a person acting on your behalf) may not bring a lawsuit to recover benefits on a claim for treatment, services, supplies or drugs covered by this Plan until you have exhausted the OPM review procedure, established at section 890.105, title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). If OPM upholds the Plan's decision on your claim, and you decide to bring a lawsuit based on the denial, the lawsuit must be brought no later than December 31 of the third year after the year in which the services or supplies upon which the claim is predicated were provided. Pursuant to section 890.107, title 5, CFR, such a lawsuit must be brought against the Office of Personnel Management in Federal court.

Federal law exclusively governs all claims for relief in a lawsuit that relates to this Plan's benefits or coverage or payments with respect to those benefits. Judicial action on such claims is limited to the record that was before OPM when it rendered its decision affirming the Plan's denial of the benefit. The recovery in such a suit is limited to the amount of benefits in dispute.

**Privacy Act**  
**statement**

If you ask OPM to review a denial of a claim for payment or service, OPM is authorized by chapter 89 of title 5, U.S.C., to use the information collected from you and the Plan to determine if the Plan has acted properly in denying you the payment or service, and the information so collected may be disclosed to you and/or the Plan in support of OPM's decision on the disputed claim.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

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## How CaliforniaCare Changes January 1998

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*Do not rely on this page; it is not an official statement of benefits.*

### Program-wide Changes:

This year, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) instituted minimum benefit levels in all plans for normal deliveries (48 hours of inpatient care), caesarian sections (96 hours of inpatient care) and mastectomies (48 hours of inpatient care). See page 14 for this Plan's benefits

OPM also requires each prepaid plan to list the specific artificial insemination procedures that it covers. See page 15 for this Plan's benefits.

### Changes to the Plan:

#### **Benefit changes**

- Under your Mental or Nervous benefits, the inpatient maximum of 30 days per calendar year no longer applies.
- Under Medical and Surgical Benefits (Limited Benefits), short-term rehabilitative therapy is no longer limited to 60 days.

**CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS**

## Summary of Benefits for CaliforniaCare 1998

**Do not rely on this chart alone. All benefits are provided in full unless otherwise indicated subject to the limitations and exclusions set forth in the brochure. This chart merely summarizes certain important expenses covered by the Plan. If you wish to enroll or change your enrollment in this Plan, be sure to indicate the correct enrollment code on your enrollment form (codes appear on the cover of this brochure). ALL SERVICES COVERED UNDER THIS PLAN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EMERGENCY OR URGENT CARE, ARE COVERED ONLY WHEN PROVIDED OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS.**

Benefits	Plan pays/provides	Page
<b>Inpatient care</b>	<b>Hospital</b> Comprehensive range of medical, surgical services without dollar or day limit. Includes in-hospital doctor care, room and board, general nursing care, private room and private nursing care if medically necessary, diagnostic tests, drugs and medical supplies, use of operating room, intensive care and complete maternity care. <b>You pay</b> nothing . . . . .	16
	<b>Extended Care</b> All necessary services. Up to 100 days per year. <b>You pay</b> nothing. . . . .	16
	<b>Mental Conditions</b> Diagnosis and treatment of acute psychiatric conditions. <b>You pay</b> nothing	19
	<b>Substance Abuse</b> <b>Up to 30 days per year. You pay nothing</b>	19
<b>Outpatient care</b>	Comprehensive range of services such as diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury, including specialist's care; preventive care, including well-baby care (no copay), periodic check-ups and routine immunizations; laboratory tests and X-rays; complete maternity care. <b>You pay</b> a \$5 copay per office visit; a \$5 copay per house call by a doctor . . . . .	13
	<b>Home Health Care</b> All necessary visits by nurses and health aides, up to <b>3 two hour</b> visits each day. <b>You pay</b> nothing . . . . .	14
	<b>Mental Conditions</b> Up to 40 outpatient visits per year. <b>You pay</b> a \$20 copay per visit	19
	<b>Substance Abuse</b> Covered under Mental conditions . . . . .	19
<b>Emergency care</b>	<b>You pay</b> a \$25 copay to the hospital for each emergency room visit or urgent care center visit and any charges for services which are not covered benefits of this plan	17
<b>Prescription drugs</b>	<b>You pay</b> a \$5 copay for formulary generic and name brand drugs; a \$10 copay for brand name non-formulary drugs and a \$5 copay for generic or brand mail order prescriptions when prescribed by a Plan doctor and obtained at Plan pharmacy. . . . .	20
<b>Out-of-pocket maximum</b>	After your out-of-pocket expenses reach a maximum of \$1,000 per Self Only or \$3,000 per Self and Family enrollment per calendar year, covered benefits will be provided at 100%. This copay maximum does not include prescription drug or infertility treatment services.	9

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