



January 1 – December 31, 2027

Evidence of Coverage for 2027:

Your Medicare Health Benefits and Services as a Member of Independent Health's Encompass 65® (HMO)

This document gives the details of your Medicare health coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2027. **This is an important legal document. Keep it in a safe place.**

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

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

For questions about this document, call Member Services at 716-250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502 (TTY users call 711). Hours are October 1 – March 31 Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and April 1 - September 30 Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. This call is free.

This plan, Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), is offered by Independent Health Association, Inc. (When this *Evidence of Coverage* says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means Independent Health Association, Inc. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO).)

Verbal translation of written materials is available for free interpreter services. For those with special needs, accessibility to benefit information or alternate formats of written materials are available upon request.

Benefits, premiums, deductibles, and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2028.

Our provider network may change at any time. You'll get notice about any changes that may affect you at least 30 days in advance.

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CHAPTER 1:

Get started as a member

SECTION 1 You're a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO)

Section 1.1 You're enrolled in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), which is a Medicare HMO

You're covered by Medicare, and you chose to get your Medicare health coverage through our plan, Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO). Our plan covers all Part A and Part B services. However, cost sharing and provider access in this plan are different from Original Medicare.

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) is a Medicare Advantage HMO Plan (HMO stands for Health Maintenance Organization) approved by Medicare and run by a private company. Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) doesn't include Part D drug coverage.

Section 1.2 Legal information about the *Evidence of Coverage*

This *Evidence of Coverage* is part of our contract with you about how Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) covers your care. Other parts of this contract include your enrollment form and any notices you get from us about changes to your coverage or conditions that affect your coverage. These notices are sometimes called *riders* or *amendments*.

The contract is in effect for the months you're enrolled in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027.

Medicare allows us to make changes to plans we offer each calendar year. This means we can change the costs and benefits of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) after December 31, 2027. We can also choose to stop offering our plan in your service area, after December 31, 2027.

Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) must approve Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) each year. You can continue to get Medicare coverage as a member of our plan as long as we choose to continue offering our plan and Medicare renews approval of our plan.

SECTION 2 Plan eligibility requirements

Section 2.1 Eligibility requirements

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

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

Section 2.2 Plan service area for Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO)

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) is only available to people who live in our plan service area. To stay a member of our plan, you must continue to live in our plan service area. The service area is described below.

Our service area includes these counties in New York: Allegany County, Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County, Erie County, Genesee County, Niagara County, Orleans County and Wyoming County.

If you move out of our plan's service area, you can't stay a member of this plan. Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) to see if we have a plan in your new area. When you move, you'll have a Special Enrollment Period to either switch to Original Medicare or enroll in a Medicare health plan in your new location.

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

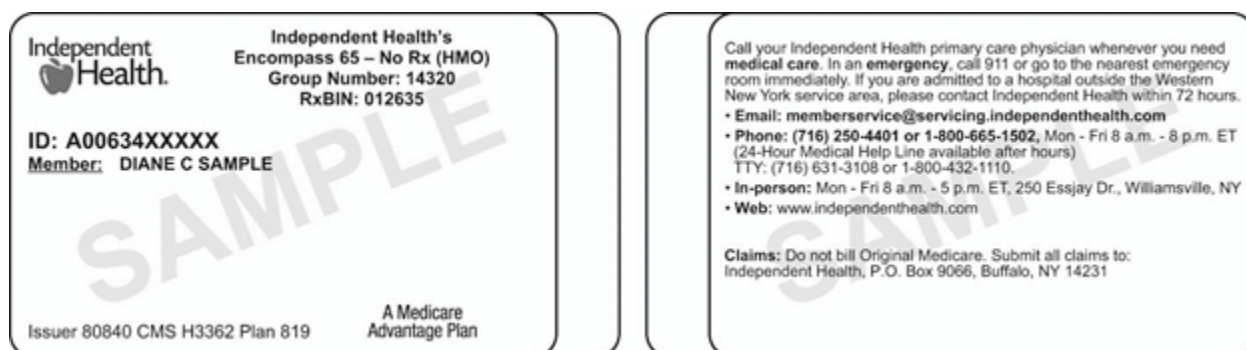
Section 2.3 U.S. citizen or national, or eligible noncitizen

You must be a U.S. citizen or national, or an eligible noncitizen to be a member of a Medicare health plan. Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) will notify Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) if you're not eligible to stay a member of our plan on this basis. Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) must disenroll you if you don't meet this requirement.

SECTION 3 Important membership material

Section 3.1 Our plan membership card

Use your membership card whenever you get services covered by our plan. You should also show the provider your Medicaid card, if you have one. Sample membership card:



DON'T use your red, white and blue Medicare card for covered medical services while you're a member of this plan. If you use your Medicare card instead of your Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) membership card, you may have to pay the full cost of medical services yourself. Keep your Medicare card in a safe place. You may be asked to show it if you need hospital services, hospice services, or participate in Medicare-approved clinical research studies (also called clinical trials).

If our plan membership card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) right away and we'll send you a new card.

Section 3.2 Physician/Provider Directory

The *Physician/Provider Directory* independenthealth.com/individuals-and-families/medicare/find-a-medicare-provider lists our current network providers and durable medical equipment suppliers. **Network providers** are the doctors and other health care professionals, medical groups, durable medical equipment suppliers, hospitals, and other health care facilities that have an agreement with us to accept our payment and any plan cost sharing as payment in full.

You must use network providers to get your medical care and services. If you go elsewhere without proper authorization, you'll have to pay in full. The only exceptions are emergencies, urgently needed services when the network isn't available (that is, situations where it's unreasonable or not possible to get services in-network), out-of-area dialysis services, and cases when Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) authorizes use of out-of-network providers.

Chapter 1 Get started as a member

If you don't have a *Physician/Provider Directory*, you can ask for a copy (electronically or in paper form) from Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). Requested paper *Provider Directories* will be mailed to you within 3 business days.

At independenthealth.com/individuals-and-families/medicare/find-a-medicare-provider you can view, print and download our physician/provider directories.

- Physician/Provider Directory (and medical dental and vision providers)
- LIBERTY Dental Plan Directory (for routine/preventive dental providers)
- EyeMed “Insight Network” Directory (link to on-line searchable directory for routine/refractive eye exam providers)
- SilverSneakers® Fitness Program participation facility list

For the latest up to date information use the search engine under the tab “Find a Doctor” on our website (independenthealth.com). You can search for a Provider or facility and print out your results. Both Member Services and the website can give you the most up-to-date information about changes in our network providers.

SECTION 4 Summary of Important Costs for 2027

	Your Costs in 2027
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium can be higher than this amount. Go to Section 4.1 for details.	\$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 Chapter 4 Section 1.2 for details.)	\$6,750

	Your Costs in 2027
Primary care office visits	\$0 copayment per visit
Specialist office visits	\$30 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.	\$300 copayment per day, days 1 through 5, then \$0 copayment per day, days 6 through 90, per benefit period. Annual copayment maximum of \$1,500 Unlimited days for Medicare covered stays.

Your costs may include the following:

- Plan Premium (Section 4.1)
- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium (Section 4.2)

Section 4.1 Plan premium

You don't pay a separate monthly plan premium for Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO).

Medicare Part B premiums differ for people with different incomes. If you have questions about these premiums, check your copy of the *Medicare & You 2027* handbook in the section called *2027 Medicare Costs*. Download a copy from the Medicare website ([Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you)) or order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 4.2 Monthly Medicare Part B Premium

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums.

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

Medicare Part B Premium Reduction

As you know, your Medicare Part B premium is automatically deducted from your monthly Social Security check. While you are enrolled in this plan, Independent Health will pay up to \$60 of your Medicare Part B premium. As a result, your monthly Social Security check will increase by this amount. You do not have to complete any paperwork to receive this benefit. We will take care of that for you. It could take several months for the Social Security Administration to complete their processing. This means you may not see the increase in your Social Security check for several months after the effective date of this plan. Any missed increases will be added to your next check after processing is complete. Please note that if you disenroll from this plan, your Medicare Part B premium give back will end on the date of disenrollment. As mentioned above, it could take several months for the Social Security Administration to complete their processing. Any premium reductions you receive after you disenroll will eventually be deducted from your Social Security check.

SECTION 5 More information about your monthly plan premium

Section 5.1 Your monthly plan premium won't change during the year

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

SECTION 6 Keep your plan membership record up to date

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

The doctors, hospitals, and other providers in your plan's network **use your membership record to know what services are covered and your cost-sharing amounts.** Because of this, it's very important to help us keep your information up to date.

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

- Changes to your name, address, or phone number

Chapter 1 Get started as a member

- Changes in any other health coverage you have (such as from your employer, your spouse or domestic partner's employer, workers' compensation, or Medicaid)
- Any liability claims, such as claims from an automobile accident
- If you're admitted to a nursing home
- If you get care in an out-of-area or out-of-network hospital or emergency room
- If your designated responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes
- If you participate in a clinical research study (**Note:** You're not required to tell our plan about clinical research studies you intend to participate in, but we encourage you to do so.)

If any of this information changes, let us know by calling Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

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

SECTION 7 How other insurance works with our plan

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

Once a year, we'll send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug coverage we know about. Read this information carefully. If it's correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information isn't correct, or if you have other coverage that's not listed, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). You may need to give our plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you confirm their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

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

These rules apply for employer or union group health plan coverage:

- If you have retiree coverage, Medicare pays first.
- If your group health plan coverage is based on your or a family member's current employment, who pays first depends on your age, the number of people employed by your employer, and whether you have Medicare based on age, disability, or End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD):

Chapter 1 Get started as a member

- If you're under 65 and disabled and you (or your family member) are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 100 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 100 employees.
- If you're over 65 and you (or your spouse or domestic partner) are still working, your group health plan pays first if the employer has 20 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 20 employees.
- If you have Medicare because of ESRD, your group health plan will pay first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare.

These types of coverage usually pay first for services related to each type:

- No-fault insurance (including automobile insurance)
- Liability (including automobile insurance)
- Black lung benefits
- Workers' compensation

Medicaid and TRICARE never pay first for Medicare-covered services. They only pay after Medicare, employer group health plans, and/or Medigap have paid.

CHAPTER 2:

Phone numbers and resources

SECTION 1 Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) contacts

For help with claims, billing, or member card questions, call or write to Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO). We'll be happy to help you.

Member Services – Contact Information

Call	1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 – March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. After business hours and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays please leave a message. Callers should include their name, phone number and the time they called, and a representative will return their call no later than one business day after they leave a message. Member Services (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) also has free language interpreter services for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 This number is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. October 1 – March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fax	716-631-1039
Write	511 Farber Lakes Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221 medicareservice@servicing.independenthealth.com
Website	independenthealth.com/medicare

How to ask for a coverage decision or appeal about your medical care

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

Coverage Decisions and Appeals for Medical Care – Contact Information

Call	1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 – March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. After business hours and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays please leave a message. Callers should include their name, phone number and the time they called, and a representative will return their call no later than one business day after they leave a message. Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 This number is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fax	716-635-3504
Write	Medical Coverage Determinations: Independent Health Appeals and Complaints P.O. Box 2090 Buffalo, NY 14231 email: Appeals@independenthealth.com
Website	independenthealth.com/medicare

How to make a complaint about your medical care

You can make a complaint about us or one of our network providers, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint doesn't involve coverage or payment disputes. For more information on how to make a complaint about your medical care, go to Chapter 7.

Complaints about Medical Care – Contact Information

Call	1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. After business hours and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays please leave a message. Callers should include their name, phone number and the time they called, and a representative will return their call no later than one business day after they leave a message.
TTY	711 This number is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fax	716-635-3504
Write	Independent Health Appeals and Complaints P.O. Box 2090 Buffalo, NY 14231 email: Appeals@independenthealth.com
Medicare website	To submit a complaint about Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) directly to Medicare, go to Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint .

Chapter 2 Phone numbers and resources

How to ask us to pay our share of the cost for medical care you got

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

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

Chapter 2 Phone numbers and resources

Payment Requests – Contact Information			
Call	1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Calls to this number are free.		
TTY	711 This number is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.		
Fax	716-635-3855		
Write	<table> <tr> <td> <u>For Medical Claims:</u> Independent Health PO Box 9066 Buffalo, NY 14231-9066 Attn: Claims Department </td><td> <u>For Dental Claims:</u> LIBERTY Dental Plan P.O. Box 15149 Tampa, FL 33684 <u>For Vision Claims:</u> EyeMed Vision Care Attn: OON Claims P.O. Box 8504 Mason, OH 45040-7111 </td></tr> </table>	<u>For Medical Claims:</u> Independent Health PO Box 9066 Buffalo, NY 14231-9066 Attn: Claims Department	<u>For Dental Claims:</u> LIBERTY Dental Plan P.O. Box 15149 Tampa, FL 33684 <u>For Vision Claims:</u> EyeMed Vision Care Attn: OON Claims P.O. Box 8504 Mason, OH 45040-7111
<u>For Medical Claims:</u> Independent Health PO Box 9066 Buffalo, NY 14231-9066 Attn: Claims Department	<u>For Dental Claims:</u> LIBERTY Dental Plan P.O. Box 15149 Tampa, FL 33684 <u>For Vision Claims:</u> EyeMed Vision Care Attn: OON Claims P.O. Box 8504 Mason, OH 45040-7111		
Website	independenthealth.com/Medicare		

SECTION 2 Get help from Medicare

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

The federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This agency contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations including our plan.

Medicare – Contact Information

Call	1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
	Calls to this number are free.
	24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
TTY	1-877-486-2048
	This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking.
	Calls to this number are free.
Chat Live	Chat live at Medicare.gov/talk-to-someone .
Write	Write to Medicare at PO Box 1270, Lawrence, KS 66044

Medicare – Contact Information

Website

Medicare.gov

- Get information about the Medicare health and drug plans in your area, including what they cost and what services they provide.
- Find Medicare-participating doctors or other health care providers and suppliers.
- Find out what Medicare covers, including preventive services (like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly “Wellness” visits).
- Get Medicare appeals information and forms.
- Get information about the quality of care provided by plans, nursing homes, hospitals, doctors, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, hospice centers, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals.
- Look up helpful websites and phone numbers.

You can also visit Medicare.gov to tell Medicare about any complaints you have about Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO).

To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint. Medicare takes your complaints seriously and will use this information to help improve the quality of the Medicare program.

SECTION 3 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state that offers free help, information, and answers to your Medicare

Chapter 2 Phone numbers and resources

questions. In New York, the SHIP is called Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP).

HIICAP is an independent state program (not connected with any insurance company or health plan) that gets money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

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

Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) (New York's SHIP) - Contact Information

Call	HIICAP Hot Line: 1-800-701-0501
TTY	Dial 711
Write	Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program New York State Office for the Aging 2 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223-1251 NYSOFA@aging.ny.gov
Website	aging.ny.gov

HIICAP Local Offices

Allegany County Office for the Aging Anita Mattison, Director 6085 Route 19 N Belmont, NY 14813 585-268-9390	Genesee County Office for the Aging Diana Fox, Director Batavia-Genesee Senior Center 2 Bank Street Batavia, NY 14020-2299 585-343-1611
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Chapter 2 Phone numbers and resources

HIICAP Local Offices	
Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging Catherine M. Mackay, Director One Leo Moss Drive, Suite 7610 Olean, NY 14760-1101 716-373-8032	Niagara County Office for the Aging Darlene DiCarlo, Director 111 Main Street, Suite 101 Lockport, NY 14094-3718 716-438-4020
Chautauqua County Office for the Aging Dr. Mary Ann Spanos, Director 7 North Erie Street Mayville, NY 14757 716-753-4471	Orleans County Office for the Aging Melissa Blamar, Director County Administration Building 14016 Route 31W Albion, NY 14411-9382 585-589-3193
Erie County Department of Senior Services Angela Marinucci, Commissioner 95 Franklin Street, Room 1329 Buffalo, NY 14202-3985 716-858-8526	Wyoming County Office for the Aging Andrea Aldinger, Deputy Director 8 Perry Avenue Warsaw, NY 14569 585-786-8833

SECTION 4 Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)

A designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) serves people with Medicare in each state. For New York, the Quality Improvement Organization is called Commence Health (formerly Livanta).

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

Contact Commence Health in any of these situations:

- You have a complaint about the quality of care you got. Examples of quality-of-care concerns include getting the wrong medication, unnecessary tests or procedures, or a misdiagnosis.
- You think coverage for your hospital stay is ending too soon.
- You think coverage for your home health care, skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services is ending too soon.

Commence Health (New York's Quality Improvement Organization) – Contact Information

Call	1-866-815-5440
TTY	711 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking.
Write	BFCC-QIO Program Commence Health PO Box 2687 Virginia Beach, VA 23450
Website	livantaqio.cms.gov/en

SECTION 5 Social Security

Social Security determines Medicare eligibility and handles Medicare enrollment.

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

Social Security– Contact Information

Call	1-800-772-1213 Calls to this number are free. Available 8 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday. Use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.
TTY	1-800-325-0778 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. Available 8 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday.
Website	SSA.gov

SECTION 6 Medicaid

Medicaid is a joint federal and state government program that helps with medical costs for certain people with limited incomes and resources. Some people with Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid offers programs to help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These **Medicare Savings Programs** include:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Helps pay Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments). (Some people with QMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (QMB+).)
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB):** Helps pay Part B premiums. (Some people with SLMB are also eligible for full Medicaid benefits (SLMB+).)
- **Qualifying Individual (QI):** Helps pay Part B premiums.
- **Qualified Disabled & Working Individuals (QDWI):** Helps pay Part A premiums.

To find out more about Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs, contact New York State's Department of Social Services.

Department of Social Services (New York's Medicaid program) – Contact Information

Call	Your local Department of Social Services (See below)
TTY	New York State Department of Health Corning Tower Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237
E-MAIL	medicaid@health.ny.gov
Website	health.ny.gov

Chapter 2 Phone numbers and resources

Local Departments of Social Services: ocfs.state.ny.us	
Allegany County Allegany County DSS 7 Court Street County Office Building, Rm. 127 Belmont, New York 14813-1077 (585) 268-9622	Genesee County Genesee County DSS 5130 East Main Street, Suite #3 Batavia, New York 14020 (585) 344-2580
Cattaraugus County (Main Office) Cattaraugus County DSS Cattaraugus County Building One Leo Moss Drive Suite 6010 Olean, New York 14760-1158 (716) 373-8065	Niagara County Niagara County DSS 20 East Avenue PO Box 506 Lockport, New York 14095-0506 (716) 439-7600
Chautauqua County Chautauqua County DSS 3 N. Erie St. Hall R. Clothier Building Mayville, New York 14757 (716) 753-4998	Orleans County Orleans County DSS 14016 Route 31 West Albion, New York 14411-9365 (585) 589-7000
Erie County Erie County DSS Edward A. Rath County Office Building 95 Franklin Street, 8 th Floor Buffalo, New York 14202-3959 (716) 858-8000	Wyoming County Wyoming County DSS 466 North Main Street Warsaw, New York 14569-1080 (585) 786-8900

SECTION 7 Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent federal agency that administers comprehensive benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. If you get Medicare through the Railroad Retirement Board, let them know if you move or change

your mailing address. For questions about your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) – Contact Information

Call	1-877-772-5772 Calls to this number are free. Press “0” to speak with an RRB representative from 9 am to 3:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 9 am to 12 pm on Wednesday. Press “1” to access the automated RRB HelpLine and get recorded information 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.
TTY	1-312-751-4701 This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties hearing or speaking. Calls to this number aren’t free.
Website	https://RRB.gov

SECTION 8 If you have group insurance or other health insurance from an employer

If you (or your spouse or domestic partner) get benefits from your (or your spouse or domestic partner’s) employer or retiree group as part of this plan, call the employer/union benefits administrator or Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) with any questions. You can ask about your (or your spouse or domestic partner’s) employer or retiree health benefits, premiums, or the enrollment period. You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with questions about your Medicare coverage under this plan. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

CHAPTER 3:

Using our plan for your medical services

SECTION 1 How to get medical care as a member of our plan

This chapter explains what you need to know about using our plan to get your medical care covered.

For details on what medical care our plan covers and how much you pay when you get care, go to the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Section 1.1 Network providers and covered services

- **Providers** are doctors and other health care professionals licensed by the state to provide medical services and care. The term “providers” also includes hospitals and other health care facilities.
- **Network providers** are the doctors and other health care professionals, medical groups, hospitals, and other health care facilities that have an agreement with us to accept our payment and your cost-sharing amount as payment in full. We arranged for these providers to deliver covered services to members in our plan. The providers in our network bill us directly for care they give you. When you see a network provider, you pay only your share of the cost for their services.
- **Covered services** include all the medical care, health care services, supplies, and equipment that are covered by our plan. Your covered services for medical care are listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Section 1.2 Basic rules for your medical care to be covered by our plan

As a Medicare health plan, Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) must cover all services covered by Original Medicare and follow Original Medicare's coverage rules.

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) will generally cover your medical care as long as:

- **The care you get is included in our plan's Medical Benefits Chart** in Chapter 4.
- **The care you get is considered medically necessary.** Medically necessary means that the services, supplies, equipment, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.

- **You have a network primary care provider (a PCP) providing and overseeing your care.** As a member of our plan, you must choose a network PCP (go to Section 2.1 of this chapter for more information).
- **You must get your care from a network provider** (go to Section 2). In most cases, care you get from an out-of-network provider (a provider who's not part of our plan's network) won't be covered. This means you have to pay the provider in full for services you get. *Here are 3 exceptions:*
 - Our plan covers emergency or urgently needed services you get from an out-of-network provider. For more information and to see what emergency or urgently needed services are, go to Section 3.
 - If you need medical care that Medicare requires our plan to cover but there are no specialists in our network that provide this care, you can get this care from an out-of-network provider at the same cost sharing you normally pay in-network. **Authorization must be gotten from our plan's Medical Director prior to seeking care.** In this situation, you pay the same as you pay if you got the care from a network provider. For information about getting approval to see an out-of-network doctor, go to Section 2.4.
 - Our plan covers kidney dialysis services you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you're temporarily outside our plan's service area or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible. The cost sharing you pay our plan for dialysis can never be higher than the cost sharing in Original Medicare. If you're outside our plan's service area and get dialysis from a provider outside our plan's network, your cost sharing can't be higher than the cost sharing you pay in-network. However, if your usual in-network provider for dialysis is temporarily unavailable and you choose to get services inside our service area from a provider outside our plan's network, your cost sharing for the dialysis may be higher.

SECTION 2 Use providers in our plan's network to get medical care

Section 2.1 You must choose a Primary Care Provider (PCP) to provide and oversee your medical care

What is a PCP and what does the PCP do for you?

When you become a member of our Plan, you must choose a network provider to be your PCP. Your PCP is a Primary Care Physician who meets state requirements and is trained to give you basic medical care. As we explain below, you will receive your routine or basic care from your PCP. Your PCP will also coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a member of our Plan. Even though **YOU DO NOT NEED A REFERRAL TO SEE A SPECIALIST** we

Chapter 3 Using our plan for your medical services

encourage the specialist to communicate back to your PCP. Your PCP will provide most of your care and will help you arrange or coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a member of our Plan. This includes:

- your x-rays
- laboratory tests
- therapies
- care from doctors who are specialists
- hospital admissions, and
- follow-up care.

What types of providers may act as a PCP?

Any Primary Care Physician who meets state requirements and is trained to give you basic medical care and is listed in our Physician/Provider Directory as a primary care physician. If your PCP specializes solely in Internal Medicine, General Practice, Family Practice, Geriatrics, Pediatrics or Obstetrics/ Gynecology, you may get your routine care from a PCP for a lower copayment. If your PCP (or a covering physician that your primary care physician asks you to see in his or her absence) has a secondary specialty other than Internal Medicine, General Practice, Family Practice, Geriatrics, Pediatrics, or Obstetrics/Gynecology, you will be required to pay the specialist copayment associated with this physician visit. Please refer to your Physician/Provider Directory for a listing of physicians designated as PCPs. A PCP may also coordinate the rest of the covered services you get as a plan member. However, an OB/GYN cannot perform the Enhanced Annual Wellness Visit (see Chapter 4).

What is the role of the PCP in coordinating covered services?

“Coordinating” your services includes checking or consulting with other network providers about your care and how it is going. If you need certain types of covered services or supplies, you must get approval in advance from your PCP. In some cases, your PCP will need to get **prior authorization** (prior approval) from us. Since your PCP will provide and coordinate your medical care, you should have all of your past medical records sent to your PCP’s office. Chapter 8 tells you how we will protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information.

How to choose a PCP?

Your selection for your PCP should be indicated on your enrollment application. To choose your Primary Care Physician, simply select one from the Physician/Provider Directory. It is always advisable to check with the physician’s office to confirm that they will accept new patients. (You can also use our most up-to-date on-line “Find-A-Doctor” tool on our website

at independenthealth.com/Medicare.) or call Member Services at the number on the back of this book.

If you do not select a PCP at the time of enrollment, we may pick one for you. You may change your PCP at any time. See “Changing your PCP” below.

If you want to be admitted to a particular network hospital, it is also wise to inquire at which network hospital(s) your Primary Care Physician has admitting privileges. **Since your Primary Care Physician will provide and coordinate your medical care, you must have all of your past medical records sent to your new Primary Care Physician’s office.** If there is a particular network specialist or hospital that you want to use, check first to be sure your PCP makes referrals to that specialist, or uses that hospital.

How to change your PCP

You can change your PCP for any reason, at any time. It’s also possible that your PCP might leave our plan’s network of providers, and you’d need to choose a new PCP.

To change your PCP, call Member Services.

Member Services will help make sure that you can continue with the specialty care and other services you have been getting when you change your PCP. They may also check to be sure the PCP you want to switch to is accepting new patients. Member Services will change your membership record to show the name of your new PCP, and tell you when the change to your new PCP will take effect.

You can also change your PCP on our website at independenthealth.com. You must first log in to access your account and tell us who your new PCP is.

Don’t have a personal online account? You can register online using your Independent Health Member ID card. Find the “Register” button near the member login and complete the registration process by entering your information.

Section 2.2 How to get care from specialists and other network providers

A specialist is a doctor who provides health care services for a specific disease or part of the body. There are many kinds of specialists. For example:

- Oncologists care for patients with cancer
- Cardiologists care for patients with heart conditions
- Orthopedists care for patients with certain bone, joint, or muscle conditions

Sometimes services require provider preauthorization. This is the responsibility of your network provider. It ensures that the services you receive will be covered. Failing to do so

could leave you responsible for the cost if the service is deemed not medically necessary, experimental, or is being performed by a provider without the appropriate credentialing. If we say we will not cover the service, you have a right to appeal the decision. See Chapter 7, Section 4 about coverage decisions.

What is the role (if any) of the PCP in referring members to specialists and other providers?

When your PCP thinks that you need specialized treatment, he/she may recommend a Plan specialist or other providers. **(You do NOT need a referral from your PCP to see an in-network specialist.)**

For some types of services, your PCP may need to get approval in advance from our Plan's Utilization Management Department (this is called getting "**provider preauthorization**"). See Chapter 4, Section 2.1 for services requiring prior authorization.

The selection of a PCP does not result in being limited to specific specialists or hospitals to which that PCP refers, i.e. sub-network, referral circles.

When a specialist or another network provider leaves our plan

We may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers) in our plan's network during the year. If your doctor or specialist leaves our plan, you have these rights and protections:

- Even though our network of providers may change during the year, Medicare requires that you have uninterrupted access to qualified doctors and specialists
- We'll notify you that your provider is leaving our plan so that you have time to choose a new provider.
 - If your primary care or behavioral health provider leaves our plan, we'll notify you if you visited that provider within the past 3 years.
 - If any of your other providers leave our plan, we'll notify you if you're assigned to the provider, currently get care from them or visited them within the past 3 months.
- We'll help you choose a new qualified in-network provider for continued care.
- If you're undergoing medical treatment or therapies with your current provider, you have the right to ask to continue getting medically necessary treatment or therapies. We'll work with you so you can continue to get care.
- We'll give you information about available enrollment periods and options you may have for changing plans.
- When an in-network provider or benefit is unavailable or inadequate to meet your medical needs, we'll arrange for any medically necessary covered benefit outside of our

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provider network at in-network cost sharing. Authorization **must** be obtained from the plan's Medical Director prior to seeking care. In this situation, you will pay the same as you would pay if you got the care from a network provider. For information about getting approval to see an out-of-network doctor, see Section 2.4 in this chapter.

- If you find out your doctor or specialist is leaving our plan, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) so we can help you choose a new provider to manage your care.
- If you believe we haven't furnished you with a qualified provider to replace your previous provider, or that your care isn't being appropriately managed, you have the right to file a quality-of-care complaint to the QIO, a quality-of-care grievance to our plan, or both. (Go to Chapter 7)

Notice is sent to members as follows:

- In the case where a PCP terminates a contract with Independent Health, even if the PCP is a member of a group whose contract with Independent Health continues, then at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective termination date, Independent Health sends written notice by regular mail to each member who designated the provider as their PCP of record.
- In the case where Independent Health terminates a provider's contract due to a practitioner's death, notice is sent within fifteen (15) days of the date that Independent Health becomes aware of the practitioner's change of status.

If this happens, you will have to switch to another provider who is part of our Plan. Member Services can assist you in finding and selecting another provider.

Section 2.3 How to get care from out-of-network providers

As a plan member, you may obtain pre-authorization to a **non-network provider**, if all the following are met:

- There is no network provider with appropriate training and experience to meet your particular health care needs.
- The care or services are medically necessary.
- Prior written authorization was obtained from the Medical Director. Your Primary Care Physician will obtain such authorization.
- Independent Health covers dialysis services for ESRD members who have traveled outside our plan's service area and aren't able to access contracted ESRD providers.

SECTION 3 How to get services in an emergency, disaster, or urgent need for care

Section 3.1 Get care if you have a medical emergency

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

If you have a medical emergency:

- **Get help as quickly as possible.** Call 911 for help or go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. Call for an ambulance if you need it. You don't need to get approval or a referral first from your PCP. You don't need to use a network doctor. You can get covered emergency medical care whenever you need it, anywhere in the United States or its territories, and from any provider with an appropriate state license even if they're not part of our network. This plan also provides a supplemental benefit which covers emergency medical care worldwide, whenever you need it. If you receive emergency or urgently-needed services outside of the United States or its territories, you generally will be required to pay the bill at the time you receive the services. Most foreign providers are not eligible to receive reimbursement directly from Medicare, and will ask you to pay for the services directly. Ask for a written detailed bill or receipt showing the specific services provided to you. Send a copy of the itemized bill or an itemized receipt to us to pay you back. You should be prepared to assist us in obtaining any additional information necessary to properly process your request for reimbursement, including medical records.
- **As soon as possible, make sure our plan has been told about your emergency.** We need to follow up on your emergency care. You or someone else should call to tell us about your emergency care, usually within 48 hours. Call the phone number on the back of your Independent Health membership card. The phone number is also on the back cover of this book.

Covered services in a medical emergency

Our plan covers ambulance services in situations where getting to the emergency room in any other way could endanger your health. We also cover medical services during the emergency.

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The doctors giving you emergency care will decide when your condition is stable, and when the medical emergency is over. Post stabilization care is not covered outside of the country.

Your PCP may talk with the doctors who are giving you emergency care to help manage and follow up on your care. After the emergency is over, you're entitled to follow-up care to be sure your condition continues to be stable. Your doctors will continue to treat you until your doctors contact us and make plans for additional care. Your follow-up care will be covered by our plan.

If your emergency care is provided by out-of-network providers, we'll try to arrange for network providers to take over your care as soon as your medical condition and the circumstances allow.

What if it wasn't a medical emergency?

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you have a medical emergency. For example, you might go in for emergency care – thinking that your health is in serious danger – and the doctor may say that it wasn't a medical emergency after all. If it turns out that it wasn't an emergency, as long as you reasonably thought your health was in serious danger, we'll cover your care.

However, after the doctor says it wasn't an emergency, we'll cover additional care *only* if you get the additional care in one of these 2 ways:

- You go to a network provider to get the additional care.
- The additional care you get is considered urgently needed services and you follow the rules below for getting this urgent care.

Section 3.2 Get care when you have an urgent need for services

A service that requires immediate medical attention (but isn't an emergency) is an urgently needed service if you're either temporarily outside our plan's service area, or if it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. However, medically necessary routine provider visits such as annual checkups, aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.

Your primary care physician can also provide or arrange for all non-emergency and urgently needed care. All Independent Health physicians are required to either be available or provide for an on-call physician 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you cannot reach your physician or his or her on-call physician, contact Independent Health's Member Services (Phone number is on the back of this book) or our 24-Hour Medical Help Line at **1-800-665-1502** for assistance. (TTY users call 711.) Urgent care is also available at urgent care centers and/or walk-in clinics.

- **If you can't reach your Primary Care Physician, call our 24-hour Medical Help Line: 1-800-665-1502** (TTY users: 711) Access to experienced registered nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for non-emergency medical issues and advice and Treatment Decision Support.
- You can receive urgent care from an urgent care center or walk-in clinic.
- Use our web tool to locate an urgent care centers near you independenthealth.com/Findadoc.
- Find an urgent care center via our Mobile app. To download the app to your Smartphone, visit independenthealth.com/MobileAppMyIH

Independent Health's Telemedicine Program:

We cover online internet consultations between you and providers who participate in our telemedicine program for medical conditions that are not an Emergency Condition. To receive this benefit you must call Teladoc. See Chapter 4.

Independent Health's telemedicine program is an online video or phone consultation service administered by U.S. board-certified physicians including family practitioners, PCPs, pediatricians and internists, who use electronic health records to diagnose and treat conditions, including writing prescriptions. Independent Health's telemedicine service provides coverage within the U.S. service area and anywhere in the world where there is internet access. Independent Health's telemedicine benefit should not be used if you are experiencing a medical emergency. The service is intended to provide a solution for non-emergency medical situations. The service is not intended to replace your primary care physician/patient relationship but rather offer you an alternative option to an urgent care facility or when you are unable to obtain services from your primary care physician for many common medical issues including but not limited to:

- Cold and flu symptoms
- Bronchitis
- Allergies
- Poison ivy
- Eye infections/Pink eye
- Respiratory infection
- Strep throat
- Sinus problems
- Behavioral health services

Consultation Access:

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- You create an account online. You have the option of requesting a phone or video consultation.
- Account creation involves completing baseline health information such as providing a medical history, allergy information, list of medications, health problems, family history and Primary Care Physician contact information.
- A U.S. board-certified physician will review your electronic health record, then will contact you to discuss health care concerns.
- The physician recommends the appropriate treatment for your medical issue
- If necessary, the doctor may prescribe medication for your diagnosis. Prescriptions for short-term antibiotics, antihistamines or anti-bacterial agents can be sent to your preferred pharmacy. Nearly all of the drugs prescribed are generic. Teladoc does not guarantee that a prescription will be written. Teladoc does not prescribe DEA controlled substances, non-therapeutic drugs and certain other drugs which may be harmful because of their potential for abuse. See Chapter 4 for details about your cost share.
- The prescription is sent to a pharmacy of your choice following the consultation. You are responsible for 100% of the total cost of any prescription prescribed by the Teladoc provider because this plan does NOT include Part D drugs.
- Your credit card is charged the applicable cost sharing and a receipt for services is provided upon request. See Chapter 4 for details about your cost share.
- The physician updates your electronic health record based upon the consult.
- At the end of the consultation you are asked if you would like your information forwarded to your PCP; based on your approval the information is then forwarded to your PCP.
- The service is available 24/7 and may be accessed if traveling throughout the U.S and anywhere in the world where there is internet access.
- We also offer Teladoc via a smart phone or tablet app anywhere in the world where there is internet access. Download the app from teladoc.com/ih to your smart phone or tablet, create your account and you'll have access to a doctor from your home state from most places in the world, including on cruise ships, within 60 minutes. If you have already created your account, you can access Global Care through it. If it is appropriate for your health condition, a prescription recommendation will be sent to you that you can take to a pharmacy. There is a CMS regulation that prohibits Independent Health or Medicare from covering the cost of any Part D prescription drug when it's purchased outside of the United States and its territories.

Our plan covers worldwide emergency and urgent care services outside the United States under the following circumstances:

We cover Emergency, Urgent care, and Ambulance services out of the country. Please see the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 for cost sharing and limitations.

Worldwide unforeseen care is subject to a maximum plan benefit limit of \$10,000 per occurrence for coverage outside of the USA. Coverage ends when the \$10,000 limit is reached.

Section 3.3 Get care during a disaster

If the Governor of your state, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the President of the United States declares a state of disaster or emergency in your geographic area, you're still entitled to care from our plan.

Visit independenthealth.com/IndividualsFamilies/Medicare/MedicareMemberResources for information on how to get needed care during a disaster.

If you can't use a network provider during a disaster, our plan will allow you to get care from out-of-network providers at in-network cost sharing.

SECTION 4 What if you're billed directly for the full cost of covered services?

If you paid more than our plan cost-sharing for covered services, or if you got a bill for the full cost of covered medical services, you can ask us to pay our share of the cost of covered services. Go to Chapter 5 for information about what to do.

Section 4.1 If services aren't covered by our plan, you must pay the full cost

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) covers all medically necessary services as listed in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4. If you get services that aren't covered by our plan or you get services out-of-network without authorization that are not emergency or urgently needed services, you're responsible for paying the full cost of services.

For covered services that have a benefit limitation, you also pay the full cost of any services you get after you use up your benefit for that type of covered service. Paying for costs once a benefit limit has been reached will not count toward an out-of-pocket maximum.

SECTION 5 Medical services in a clinical research study

Section 5.1 What is a clinical research study

A clinical research study (also called a *clinical trial*) is a way that doctors and scientists test new types of medical care, like how well a new cancer drug works. Certain clinical research studies are approved by Medicare. Clinical research studies approved by Medicare typically

ask for volunteers to participate in the study. When you're in a clinical research study, you can stay enrolled in our plan and continue to get the rest of your care (care that's not related to the study) through our plan.

If you participate in a Medicare-approved study, Original Medicare pays most of the costs for covered services you get as part of the study. If you tell us you're in a qualified clinical trial, then you're only responsible for the in-network cost sharing for the services in that trial. If you paid more—for example, if you already paid the Original Medicare cost-sharing amount—we'll reimburse the difference between what you paid and the in-network cost sharing. You'll need to provide documentation to show us how much you paid.

If you want to participate in any Medicare-approved clinical research study, you don't need to tell us or get approval from us or your PCP. The providers that deliver your care as part of the clinical research study don't need to be part of our plan's network. (This doesn't apply to covered benefits that include require a clinical trial or registry to assess the benefit, including certain benefits requiring coverage with evidence development (NCDs-CED) and investigational exemption device (IDE) studies. These benefits may also be subject to prior authorization and other plan rules.)

While you don't need our plan's permission to be in a clinical research study, we encourage you to notify us in advance when you choose to participate in Medicare-qualified clinical trials.

If you participate in a study not approved by Medicare, you'll be responsible for paying all costs for your participation in the study.

Section 5.2 Who pays for services in a clinical research study

Once you join a Medicare-approved clinical research study, Original Medicare covers the routine items and services you get as part of the study, including:

- Room and board for a hospital stay that Medicare would pay for even if you weren't in a study.
- An operation or other medical procedure if it's part of the research study.
- Treatment of side effects and complications of the new care.

After Medicare pays its share of the cost for these services, our plan will pay the difference between the cost sharing in Original Medicare and your in-network cost sharing as a member of our plan. This means you'll pay the same amount for services you get as part of the study as you would if you got these services from our plan. However, you must submit documentation showing how much cost-sharing you paid. Go to Chapter 5 for more information on submitting requests for payments.

Example of cost sharing in a clinical trial: Let's say you have a lab test that costs \$100 as part of the research study. Your share of the costs for this test is \$20 under Original Medicare, but the test would be \$10 under our plan. In this case, Original Medicare would pay \$80 for the test, and you would pay the \$20 copay required under Original Medicare. You would notify our plan that you got a qualified clinical trial service and submit documentation, (like a provider bill) to our plan. Our plan would then directly pay you \$10. This makes your net payment for the test \$10, the same amount you pay under our plan's benefits.

When you're in a clinical research study, **neither Medicare nor our plan will pay for any of the following:**

- Generally, Medicare won't pay for the new item or service the study is testing unless Medicare would cover the item or service even if you weren't in a study.
- Items or services provided only to collect data and not used in your direct health care. For example, Medicare won't pay for monthly CT scans done as part of a study if your medical condition would normally require only one CT scan.
- Items and services provided by the research sponsors free-of-charge for people in the trial.

Get more information about joining a clinical research study

Get more information about joining a clinical research study in the Medicare publication *Medicare and Clinical Research Studies* available at [Medicare.gov/coverage/clinical-research-studies](https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/clinical-research-studies). You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 6 Rules for getting care in a religious non-medical health care institution

Section 6.1 A religious non-medical health care institution

A religious non-medical health care institution is a facility that provides care for a condition that would ordinarily be treated in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. If getting care in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility is against a member's religious beliefs, we'll instead cover care in a religious non-medical health care institution. This benefit is provided only for Part A inpatient services (non-medical health care services).

Section 6.2 How to get care from a religious non-medical health care institution

To get care from a religious non-medical health care institution, you must sign a legal document that says you're conscientiously opposed to getting medical treatment that is **non-excepted**.

- **Non-excepted** medical care or treatment is any medical care or treatment that's *voluntary* and *not required* by any federal, state, or local law
- **Excepted** medical treatment is medical care or treatment you get that's *not* voluntary or *is required* under federal, state, or local law.

To be covered by our plan, the care you get from a religious non-medical health care institution must meet the following conditions:

- The facility providing the care must be certified by Medicare.
- Our plan only covers non-religious aspects of care.
- If you get services from this institution provided to you in a facility, the following conditions apply:
 - You must have a medical condition that would allow you to get covered services for inpatient hospital care or skilled nursing facility care;
 - – *and* – You must get approval in advance from our plan before you're admitted to the facility, or your stay won't be covered.

See the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 for Inpatient Hospital coverage limits.

SECTION 7 Rules for ownership of durable medical equipment

Section 7.1 You won't own some durable medical equipment after making a certain number of payments under our plan

Durable medical equipment (DME) includes items like oxygen equipment and supplies, wheelchairs, walkers, powered mattress systems, crutches, diabetic supplies, speech generating devices, IV infusion pumps, nebulizers, and hospital beds ordered by a provider for members to use in the home. The member always owns some DME items, like prosthetics. Other types of DME you must rent.

In Original Medicare, people who rent certain types of DME own the equipment after paying copayments for the item for 13 months. **As a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), however, you usually won't get ownership of rented DME items no matter how many copayments you make for the item while a member of our plan.** You won't get

ownership even if you made up to 12 consecutive payments for the DME item under Original Medicare before you joined our plan.

Under some limited circumstances, we'll transfer ownership of the DME item to you. Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) for more information.

What happens to payments you made for durable medical equipment if you switch to Original Medicare?

If you didn't get ownership of the DME item while in our plan, you'll have to make 13 new consecutive payments after you switch to Original Medicare to own the DME item. The payments you made while enrolled in our plan don't count towards these 13 payments.

Example 1: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. The payments you made in Original Medicare don't count. You'll have to make 13 payments to our plan before owning the item.

Example 2: You made 12 or fewer consecutive payments for the item in Original Medicare and then joined our plan. You didn't get ownership of the item while in our plan. You then go back to Original Medicare. You'll have to make 13 consecutive new payments to own the item once you rejoin Original Medicare. Any payments you already made (whether to our plan or to Original Medicare) don't count.

Section 7.2 Rules for oxygen equipment, supplies and maintenance

If you qualify for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage, Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) will cover:

- Rental of oxygen equipment
- Delivery of oxygen and oxygen contents
- Tubing and related oxygen accessories for the delivery of oxygen and oxygen contents
- Maintenance and repairs of oxygen equipment

If you leave Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) or no longer medically require oxygen equipment, the oxygen equipment must be returned.

What happens if you leave our plan and return to Original Medicare?

Original Medicare requires an oxygen supplier to provide you services for 5 years. During the first 36 months, you rent the equipment. For the remaining 24 months, the supplier provides the equipment and maintenance (you're still responsible for applicable cost sharing for oxygen). After 5 years, you can choose to stay with the same company or go to another company. At this point, the 5-year cycle starts over again, even if you stay with the same

Chapter 3 Using our plan for your medical services

company, and you're again required to pay copayments for the first 36 months. If you join or leave our plan, the 5-year cycle starts over

CHAPTER 4:

Medical Benefits Chart

(what's covered and what you pay)

SECTION 1 Understanding your out-of-pocket costs for covered services

The Medical Benefits Chart lists your covered services and shows how much you pay for each covered service as a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO). This section also gives information about medical services that aren't covered and explains limits on certain services.

Section 1.1 Out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered services

Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered services include:

- **Copayment:** the fixed amount you pay each time you get certain medical services. You pay a copayment at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart tells you more about your copayments.)
- **Coinsurance:** the percentage you pay of the total cost of certain medical services. You pay a coinsurance at the time you get the medical service. (The Medical Benefits Chart tells you more about your coinsurance.)

Most people who qualify for Medicaid or for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program don't pay deductibles, copayments or coinsurance. If you're in one of these programs, be sure to show your proof of Medicaid or QMB eligibility to your provider.

Section 1.2 What's the most you'll pay for Medicare Part A and Part B covered medical services?

Medicare Advantage Plans have limits on the total amount you have to pay out of pocket each year for in-network medical services covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. This limit is called the maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) amount for medical services. **For calendar year 2027 the MOOP amount is \$6,750.**

The amounts you pay for copayments and coinsurance for in-network covered services count toward this maximum out-of-pocket amount. If you reach the maximum out-of-pocket amount of \$6,750, you won't have to pay any out-of-pocket costs for the rest of the year for

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

in-network covered Part A and Part B services. However, you must continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium (unless your Part B premium is paid for you by Medicaid or another third party).

Section 1.3 Our plan also limits your out-of-pocket costs for certain types of services

In addition to the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services (described 1.2 above), we also have a separate maximum out-of-pocket amount that applies only to certain types of services.

Our plan has a maximum out-of-pocket amount of **\$1,500** for Inpatient Hospital care. Once you've paid **\$1,500** out of pocket for Inpatient Hospital care, our plan will cover these services at no cost to you for the rest of the calendar year. Both the maximum out-of-pocket amount for Part A and Part B medical services and the maximum out-of-pocket amount for Inpatient Hospital care apply to your covered Inpatient Hospital care. This means that once you've paid *either \$6,750 for Part A and Part B medical services or \$1,500 for your Inpatient Hospital care*, our plan will cover your Inpatient Hospital care at no cost to you for the rest of the year. The Medical Benefits Chart shows the service category out-of-pocket maximums.

Section 1.4 Providers aren't allowed to balance bill you

As a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), you have an important protection because you only have to pay your cost-sharing amount when you get services covered by our plan. Providers can't bill you for additional separate charges, called **balance billing**. This protection applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service, and even if there's a dispute and we don't pay certain provider charges.

Here's how protection from balance billing works:

- If your cost sharing is a copayment (a set amount of dollars, for example, \$15.00), you pay only that amount for any covered services from a network provider.
- If your cost sharing is a coinsurance (a percentage of the total charges), you never pay more than that percentage. However, your cost depends on which type of provider you see:
 - If you get covered services from a network provider, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by our plan's reimbursement rate (this is set in the contract between the provider and our plan).
 - If you get covered services from an out-of-network provider who participates with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for participating providers. (Our plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral or for emergencies or urgently needed services.)

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

- If you get the covered services from an out-of-network provider who doesn't participate with Medicare, you pay the coinsurance percentage multiplied by the Medicare payment rate for non-participating providers. (Our plan covers services from out-of-network providers only in certain situations, such as when you get a referral, or for emergencies or for urgently needed services outside the service area.)
- If you think a provider has balance billed you, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

SECTION 2 The Medical Benefits Chart shows your medical benefits and costs

The Medical Benefits Chart on the next pages lists the services Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) covers and what you pay out of pocket for each service. The services listed in the Medical Benefits Chart are covered only when these are met:

- Your Medicare-covered services must be provided according to the Medicare coverage guidelines.
- Your services (including medical care, services, supplies, equipment, and Part B drugs) *must* be medically necessary. Medically necessary means that the services, supplies, or drugs are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.
- For new enrollees, your MA coordinated care plan must provide a minimum 90-day transition period, during which time the new MA plan can't require prior authorization for any active course of treatment, even if the course of treatment was for a service that commenced with an out-of-network provider
- You get your care from a network provider. In most cases, care you get from an out-of-network provider won't be covered, unless it's emergency or urgent care, or unless our plan or a network provider gave you a referral. This means you pay the provider in full for out-of-network services you get.
- You have a primary care provider (a PCP) providing and overseeing your care.
- Some services listed in the Medical Benefits Chart are covered only if your doctor or other network provider gets approval from us in advance (sometimes called prior authorization). Covered services that need approval in advance are marked in the Medical Benefits Chart in bold (**Requires Provider Preauthorization**).
- If your coordinated care plan provides approval of a prior authorization request for a course of treatment, the approval must be valid for as long as medically reasonable and

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

necessary to avoid disruptions in care in accordance with applicable coverage criteria, your medical history, and the treating provider's recommendation.

Other important things to know about our coverage:

- Like all Medicare health plans, we cover everything that Original Medicare covers. For some of these benefits, you pay *more* in our plan than you would in Original Medicare. For others, you pay *less*. (To learn more about the coverage and costs of Original Medicare, go to your *Medicare & You 2027* handbook. View it online at [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or ask for a copy by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.)
- For preventive services covered at no cost under Original Medicare, we also cover those services at no cost to you. However, if you're also treated or monitored for an existing medical condition during the visit when you get the preventive service, a copayment will apply for the care you got for the existing medical condition.
- If Medicare adds coverage for any new services during 2027, either Medicare or our plan will cover those services.



You will see this apple next to the preventive services in the benefits chart. Independent Health uses the frequency guidelines adopted by CMS and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Additional screenings would require a member to pay a copayment or coinsurance. Preventive screenings and exams focus on evaluating your current health status when you are symptom free. The USPSTF has identified what these screenings are and the appropriate frequency for the test to be repeated. Diagnostic tests are medical evaluations to help manage or treat an existing specific health condition.

Medical Benefits Chart

Covered Service	What you pay
Annual Out of Pocket Maximum	Copayments and coinsurance are limited to a \$6,750 out-of-pocket maximum in-network. Optical dispensing, routine eye exams, routine eyewear cost in excess of annual limit, preventive/routine dental,

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
	comprehensive dental, hearing aid evaluation exam, and hearing aids do NOT count towards the out-of-pocket maximum.
 Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening A one-time screening ultrasound for people at risk. Our plan only covers this screening if you have certain risk factors and if you get a referral for it from your physician, physician assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP), or clinical nurse specialist (CNS).	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for this preventive screening.
Acupuncture for chronic low back pain Covered services include: Up to 12 visits in 90 days are covered under the following circumstances: For the purpose of this benefit, chronic low back pain is defined as: • Lasting 12 weeks or longer • Nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious disease, etc.) • Not associated with surgery • Not associated with pregnancy An additional 8 sessions will be covered for patients demonstrating an improvement. No more than 20 acupuncture treatments may be administered annually. Treatment must be discontinued if the patient is not improving or is regressing. Provider Requirements:	\$30 copayment

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Physicians may furnish acupuncture in accordance with applicable state requirements. Physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs)/clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and auxiliary personnel may furnish acupuncture if they meet all applicable state requirements and have: • a master's or doctoral level degree in acupuncture or Oriental Medicine from a school accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM); and, • a current, full, active, and unrestricted license to practice acupuncture in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth (i.e., Puerto Rico) of the United States, or District of Columbia. Auxiliary personnel furnishing acupuncture must be under the appropriate level of supervision of a physician, PA, or NP/CNS required by our regulations.	
Ambulance services Covered ambulance services, whether for an emergency or non-emergency situation, include fixed wing, rotary wing, and ground ambulance services, to the nearest appropriate facility that can provide care if they're furnished to a member whose medical condition is such that other means of transportation could endanger the person's health or if authorized by our plan. If the covered ambulance services aren't for an emergency situation, it should be documented that the member's condition is such that other means of transportation could endanger the person's health and	(Provider preauthorization is required for planned transportation only) \$275 copayment for each Medicare-covered service or one-way trip by ground transportation. 20% coinsurance for each Medicare-covered air transportation. Copayment applies for evaluation, treatment, or transportation to the hospital for each Medicare-covered one-way trip. The copayment is NOT waived even if you are admitted to a hospital as an inpatient immediately following the ambulance transport.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
that transportation by ambulance is medically required.	Wheelchair van, stretcher van and ambulette transportation are not covered under the Ambulance benefit. Outside United States and its territories: <u>Worldwide coverage:</u> Maximum plan benefit limit of \$10,000 per occurrence for the unforeseen event outside of the USA. Coverage ends when \$10,000 limit is reached. See Ambulance, Urgent Care and Emergency Care for appropriate cost share.
 Annual wellness visit If you've had Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get an annual wellness visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors. This is covered once every 12 months. Note: Your first annual wellness visit can't take place within 12 months of your <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit. However, you don't need to have had a <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> visit to be covered for annual wellness visits after you've had Part B for 12 months.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the annual wellness visit. The annual wellness visit cannot be performed by an OB/GYN. Certain services rendered during a routine exam may take a copayment, for example, a diagnostic test. Annual Physical Exam (also known as the "Enhanced Annual Visit"). As a member of our Plan, you can receive an annual "Enhanced Annual Visit" also referred to as an "EAV". Only your chosen PCP currently on record with Independent Health can perform and bill for the annual EAV. You can receive an annual EAV one (1) time per calendar year. Once you have the EAV performed during the plan calendar year, the benefit is exhausted. If you change your primary care physician (PCP) during the plan year, another EAV is not covered and you may be liable for the cost of the service. Our Medicare HMO plans require you to choose a primary care physician (PCP) who will provide most of your care and arrange/coordinate the covered services you get as a member of our Plan

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
	including the EAV. The EAV is a supplemental benefit that includes services beyond an Annual Wellness Visit. The EAV includes a detailed medical/family history and the performance of a detailed head to toe assessment with hands-on examination of all the body systems as well as a full examination to assess your overall general health and detect any abnormalities or signs that could indicate a disease process that should be addressed. The visit may also include the completion of a Health Risk Assessment and a discussion regarding potential gaps in care that need to be addressed to meet your individual needs. If your provider is not able to perform the EAV or you are unable to obtain an EAV, please contact Independent Health and we will assist with scheduling a convenient in-home EAV on your provider's behalf. OB/GYN's are not eligible to perform the EAV.
 Bone mass measurement For qualified people (generally, this means people at risk of losing bone mass or at risk of osteoporosis), the following services are covered every 24 months or more frequently if medically necessary: procedures to identify bone mass, detect bone loss, or determine bone quality, including a physician's interpretation of the results.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered bone mass measurement. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
 Breast cancer screening (mammograms) Covered services include: • One baseline mammogram between the ages of 35 and 39 • One screening mammogram every 12 months for women aged 40 and older • Clinical breast exams once every 24 months	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for covered screening mammograms. 3D Tomography is covered in full if part of the preventive screening
Cardiac rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of cardiac rehabilitation services that include exercise, education, and counseling are covered for members who meet certain conditions with a doctor's order. Our plan covers these comprehensive programs if you've had at least one of these conditions: • Heart attack in the last 12 months • Coronary artery bypass surgery • Stable angina pectoris (chest pain) • Heart valve repair or replacement • Coronary angioplasty (a medical procedure used to open a blocked artery) or coronary stenting (a procedure used to keep an artery open) • Heart or heart and lung transplant • Stable chronic heart failure Coverage limitations: You can get up to 36 cardiac rehabilitation sessions. You can have 2 sessions per day (each lasting 1 hour), and the program can last up to 36 weeks. If you qualify, you may be able to get 36 more sessions that can be spread out over a longer time period.	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered cardiac rehabilitation services. Limited to 36 visits per cardiac occurrence.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
 Cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit (therapy for cardiovascular disease) We cover one visit per year with your primary care doctor to help lower your risk for cardiovascular disease. During this visit, your doctor may discuss aspirin use (if appropriate), check your blood pressure, and give you tips to make sure you're eating healthy.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the intensive behavioral therapy cardiovascular disease preventive benefit. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
 Cardiovascular disease screening tests Blood tests for the detection of cardiovascular disease (or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease) once every 5 years (60 months).	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for cardiovascular disease testing that is covered once every 5 years.
 Cervical and vaginal cancer screening Covered services include: • Pap tests and pelvic exams once every 24 months for all women • One pap test every 12 months if at high risk of cervical or vaginal cancer or if of childbearing age and have had an abnormal pap test within the past 3 years	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for Medicare-covered preventive Pap and pelvic exams. Lab test covered in full for each Medicare-covered screening. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
Chiropractic services Covered services include:	\$10 copayment per visit for covered services.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
- Manual manipulation of the spine to correct a vertebral subluxation - We cover certain non-Medicare covered Evaluation and Management services above and beyond subluxation of the spine. Covered services are the evaluation of a new or existing patient with low to moderate complexity and medical decision making to assess a member's condition and create or modify a plan of care.	
 Colorectal cancer screening The following screening tests are covered: - Colonoscopy has no minimum or maximum age limitation and is covered once every 120 months (10 years) for patients not at high risk, or 48 months after a previous flexible sigmoidoscopy for patients who aren't at high risk for colorectal cancer, and once every 24 months for high-risk patients after a previous screening colonoscopy. - Computed tomography colonography for patients 45 years and older who are not at high risk of colorectal cancer and is covered when at least 59 months have passed following the month in which the last screening computed tomography colonography was performed or 47 months have passed following the month in which the last screening flexible sigmoidoscopy or screening colonoscopy was performed. For patients at high risk for colorectal cancer, coverage of a screening computed tomography colonography performed after at least 23 months have passed following the month in which the	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for a Medicare-covered colorectal cancer screening exam, excluding barium enemas, for which copayment applies. If your doctor finds and removes a polyp or other tissue during the colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, the screening exam becomes a diagnostic exam. Separate office visit cost sharing may apply: (i.e., pre and post procedure consultations): \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
last screening computed tomography colonography or the last screening colonoscopy was performed. • Flexible sigmoidoscopy for patients 45 years and older. Once every 120 months for patients not at high risk after the patient got a screening colonoscopy. Once every 48 months for high-risk patients from the last flexible sigmoidoscopy or computed tomography colonography. • Screening fecal-occult blood tests for patients 45 years and older. Once every 12 months. • Multitarget stool DNA for patients 45 to 85 years of age and not meeting high risk criteria. Once every 3 years. • Blood-based Biomarker Tests for patients 45 to 85 years of age and not meeting high risk criteria. Once every 3 years. • Colorectal cancer screening tests include a follow-on screening colonoscopy after a Medicare-covered non-invasive stool-based colorectal cancer screening test returns a positive result. • Colorectal cancer screening tests include a planned screening flexible sigmoidoscopy or screening colonoscopy that involves the removal of tissue or other matter, or other procedure furnished in connection with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter as the screening test.	
Dental services In general, preventive dental services (such as cleaning, routine dental exams, and dental x-rays) aren't covered by	Medicare-covered Dental:

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Original Medicare. However, Medicare pays for dental services in a limited number of circumstances, specifically when that service is an integral part of specific treatment of a person's primary medical condition. Examples include reconstruction of the jaw after a fracture or injury, tooth extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for cancer involving the jaw, or oral exams prior to organ transplantation. In addition, we cover: Routine Preventive Dental from a LIBERTY Dental Plan network provider: Limitations: • Oral exams are limited to 2 every year. • Routine cleanings are limited to 2 every year. • Fluoride treatments are limited to 2 every year. • Bitewing x-rays are limited to twice in any calendar year. • Full mouth x-rays are limited to once every 36 months. COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL Covers additional dental services, for example: Periodontal cleaning Crowns Dentures Extractions See Section 3 of this chapter for a complete list of covered services.	(Non-routine dental care requires provider preauthorization after initial visit.) \$30 copayment for Medicare-covered dental services by a Specialist Physician. Other Dental Services: \$2,000 annual plan benefit maximum per year for routine, preventive and comprehensive dental services. Once the annual plan benefit maximum is met, additional dental services are not covered. Comprehensive Dental Services are subject to 50% coinsurance on covered services. \$0 copayment for each routine preventive dental exam, cleaning, fluoride treatment, and x-ray (See limitations in left hand column) at participating providers in LIBERTY Dental Plan's network for Independent Health's Medicare Advantage plans. If you visit a dentist that is not in our dental network you will pay a your in-network cost share for routine preventive and comprehensive dental services. You will be covered up to the In-Network contractual payment amount for out-of-network services. Balance billing may apply. If you paid for out-of-network services up front, you will need to submit a claim form for reimbursement. Claim forms are available at independenthealth.com/medicare. Member cannot combine any promotional offers with our dental benefit.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
You cannot combine any other promotional offers with our comprehensive dental benefit. This benefit is administered by LIBERTY Dental Plan. For claims, eligibility and benefit questions, call LIBERTY Dental Plan member service department toll-free at 1-888-352-7811. TTY users call 1-877-855-8039. Member service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). LIBERTY Dental Plan P.O. Box 15149 Tampa, FL 33684 Website: libertydentalplan.com Scheduling Appointments After you have selected a LIBERTY Dental Plan dentist, call the dentist's office to schedule an appointment. Tell the dentist you are covered by LIBERTY Dental Plan network for Independent Health's Medicare Advantage plans and ask the dentist to confirm that he or she is a participating provider in the network.	Enrollee Liabilities You must pay for any non-covered or optional dental services that you choose to have done. This program is designed to cover diagnostic and preventive dental treatment that is consistent with good professional practice. You will be responsible for services you receive that are not covered benefits as listed in this EOC and services received that are greater than the limits specified in this EOC. To find a network dental provider, see our LIBERTY Dental Plan Dental Directory at independenthealth.com/Medicare or contact member services at the number on the back of this book.
 Depression screening We cover one screening for depression per year. The screening must be done in a primary care setting that can provide follow-up treatment and/or referrals.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual depression screening visit. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
 Diabetes screening We cover this screening (includes fasting glucose tests) if you have any of these risk factors: high blood pressure (hypertension), history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels (dyslipidemia), obesity, or a history of high blood sugar (glucose). Tests may also be covered if you meet other requirements, like being overweight and having a family history of diabetes. You may be eligible for up to 2 diabetes screenings every 12 months following the date of your most recent diabetes screening test.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered diabetes screening tests. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
 Diabetes self-management training, diabetic services, and supplies For all people who have diabetes (insulin and non-insulin users). Covered services include: - Supplies to monitor your blood glucose: blood glucose monitor, blood glucose test strips, lancet devices and lancets, and glucose-control solutions for checking the accuracy of test strips and monitors. - Continuous glucose monitor and supplies	(Certain items may require provider preauthorization) Supplies used with the administration of insulin are covered under Part D (i.e., syringes). This plan does not have Part D coverage, including Omni-pod and Part D insulins. Diabetic glucose meters and supplies are limited to Abbott Freestyle and Precision meters and testing supplies \$0 copayment for blood glucose monitor. 0% coinsurance for each 30 day supply of Medicare-covered lancets. 0% coinsurance per item for each 30-day supply of test strips. Limit 100 test strips per 30-day supply. (Requires provider preauthorization) \$0 copayment for therapeutic continuous glucose monitor, transmitters, sensors, and supplies.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
- For people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease, one pair per calendar year of therapeutic custom-molded shoes (including inserts provided with such shoes) and 2 additional pairs of inserts, or one pair of depth shoes and 3 pairs of inserts (not including the non-customized removable inserts provided with such shoes) including fitting. - Diabetes self-management training under certain conditions.	20% coinsurance for non-therapeutic continuous glucose monitor. 20% coinsurance for supplies used with a non-therapeutic continuous glucose monitor. Limited to preferred continuous glucose monitors and supplies. These are no longer covered through medical supply or durable medical equipment providers and only covered through network pharmacies. Omni-pod is not covered. \$0 copayment for Medicare- covered therapeutic custom- molded shoes and inserts as listed in left column. Covered in full
Durable medical equipment (DME) and related supplies (For a definition of durable medical equipment, go to Chapter 10 and Chapter 3) Covered items include, but aren't limited to, wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies, hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment, nebulizers, and walkers.	(Certain items may require provider preauthorization) 10% coinsurance for certain mobility devices from our preferred DME provider, People First Mobility. 20% coinsurance for all other covered DME items. For certain mobility devices, contact People First Mobility Phone: 716-566-5000 Fax: 716-877-1371

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
We cover all medically necessary DME covered by Original Medicare. If our supplier in your area doesn't carry a particular brand or manufacturer, you can ask them if they can special order it for you. The most recent list of suppliers is available on our website at independenthealth.com/Medicare.	Address: 800 Hertel Ave Suite 103, Buffalo NY 14207 Email: Contact@peoplefirstmobility.net Website: peoplefirstmobility.net Please see Section 3.1 of this chapter for additional information on DME coverage. Your cost sharing for Medicare oxygen equipment coverage is 20% coinsurance, every month. No cost share will apply for the remainder of the 5-year reasonable useful lifetime of the equipment (month 37 through 60). Once the 5-year reasonable useful lifetime of the equipment has passed (month 61), a new 36 month rental period may begin and you will be charged the cost share for Durable Medical Equipment for next 36 months. If you made 36 months of rental payment for oxygen equipment coverage before you enrolled in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), your cost sharing in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) is 20% coinsurance.
Emergency care Emergency care refers to services that are: • Furnished by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services • Needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life (and, if you're a	\$130 copayment per Emergency room visit within or outside the service area. The copayment is waived if you are admitted as an inpatient within 24 hours after the ER visit for the same condition to the same hospital. The copayment is waived if admitted during the current visit. If the member leaves the facility and returns, and is then admitted, they will owe the ER copayment for the first ER visit, but the second ER visit is waived upon admission.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
pregnant woman, loss of an unborn child), loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that's quickly getting worse. Cost sharing for necessary emergency services you get out-of-network is the same as when you get these services in-network. As a supplemental benefit, we cover emergency/urgent coverage worldwide.	The copayment is waived if you are transferred to another emergency room because the first location cannot treat your condition. If you get emergency care at an out-of-network hospital and need inpatient care after your emergency condition is stabilized, you must have your inpatient care at the out-of-network hospital authorized by our plan and your cost is the cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital. If you go to the ER and are placed in the "Observation" status, we will waive your ER copay and the Observation copay will apply. Outside United States and its territories: <u>Worldwide coverage:</u> Maximum plan benefit limit of \$10,000 per occurrence for unforeseen care outside of the USA and its territories. Coverage ends when \$10,000 limit is reached. See Ambulance, Urgent Care and Emergency Care for appropriate cost share.
 Health and wellness education programs These are programs focused on health conditions such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, asthma, and special diets. Programs designed to enrich the health and lifestyles of members include weight management, fitness, and stress management. • Medicare HealthStyles Newsletter Once annually, Independent Health publishes a member newsletter, which includes articles, tips and other	\$20 copayment for certain community health education classes. \$0 copayment for all other Health and Wellness education programs

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
information aimed at keeping members healthy. 24-hour Medical Help Line: 1-800-665-1502 (TTY users: 711) Access to experienced registered nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for non-emergency medical issues and advice and Treatment Decision Support. Health and Wellness Classes Certain classes offered by community providers which address a variety of health related topics. Health Education: Brook and Brook+ Brook is a smartphone app that provides 24/7 health coaching expertise and support for general health and chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Brook helps you make daily health decisions, track your nutrition, medications, sleep, activity and more. Brook+, a diabetes prevention program, is also offered to members with pre-diabetes through the Brook Platform. Case Management and Disease Management Independent Health offers case management services to assist and coordinate care, based on a member's health needs. Services are coordinated by health professionals, who provide information on a variety of conditions, such as Asthma, Diabetes, Coronary Artery Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, Depression, Maternity Management and other life changing health events. Members are educated and encouraged on how to take an	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
active role in managing their health. Additional Case Management Services, including frail elderly and palliative care, are available to assist members with complex care needs, who are discharged from the hospital and/or living at home with declining physical functioning relating to chronic and serious illnesses. These services provide support and linkage to resources to optimize a member's independence and comfort. Members may request a case management evaluation by calling member services and ask to speak with the Case Management Department. The phone number is on the back cover of this book and on your Member ID card. • Fitness Benefits:	SilverSneakers® \$0 copayment. SilverSneakers gives you FREE access to: • Thousands of participating fitness center locations nationwide¹ • SilverSneakers Live classes and workshops taught by instructors trained in senior fitness • 200+ workout videos in the SilverSneakers On-Demand™ online library • SilverSneakers GO™ mobile app with digital workout programs • Burnalong® access with a supportive virtual community and thousands of classes for all interests and abilities • GetSetUp, with hundreds of interactive online classes one hour or less, ranging

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
	from nutrition to mindfulness and more. You must use participating SilverSneakers fitness locations and programs. For a list of participating fitness facilities, go to silversneakers.com. Or call SilverSneakers (toll free) at 1-888-313-5653 (TTY: 711) or Independent Health Member Services at 800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 (TTY: 711) Memberships will not roll over from plan year to plan year. Memberships will restart on January 1st of each year. Benefit may change on January 1st of each year.
Hearing services Diagnostic hearing and balance evaluations performed by your provider to determine if you need medical treatment are covered as outpatient care when you get them from a physician, audiologist, or other qualified provider. • Routine Hearing Exams • Hearing aids and evaluation to see if you need a hearing aid. • Benefit is limited to the preferred hearing aids through a provider in the Start Hearing network, which come in various styles and colors Hearing Aid purchase includes: • Fittings for hearing aids: 6 provider visits within the first year of hearing aid purchase • 60 day trial purchase • 2 year extended warranty for each hearing aid priced at \$499	\$0 copayment in a Primary Care Physician's office for a Medicare-covered or routine hearing exam \$30 copayment in a Specialty Physician's office for a Medicare-covered or routine hearing exam \$45 copayment per exam for a fitting and evaluation hearing aid exam from a provider in the Start Hearing network. \$250 allowance towards member cost share per ear per year. Copayment Structure per hearing aid: \$499, \$699, \$999, \$1,499, or \$1,949. Benefit is limited to preferred hearing aids, which come in various styles and colors. You must see a network provider to use this benefit. Hearing aid evaluation exam and hearing aid copayments are not subject to the maximum out-of-pocket.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• 3 year extended warranty for each hearing aid priced at \$699, \$999, \$1,499 or \$1,949. • Rechargeable and non-rechargeable models available. • Non-rechargeable models include 40 batteries per hearing aid • Loss and damage warranty claims (\$250 each hearing aid) Benefit does not include or cover any of the following: • Ear molds • Hearing Aid accessories • Additional provider visits • Extra batteries • Hearing Aids that are not through a provider in the Start Hearing network. Costs associated with excluded items are the responsibility of the member and not covered by the plan.	Member cannot combine any promotional offers with our hearing aid benefit.
 HIV screening For people who ask for an HIV screening test or are at increased risk for HIV infection, we cover: • One screening exam every 12 months If you are pregnant, we cover: • Up to 3 screening exams during a pregnancy	There's no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered preventive HIV screening. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
Home health agency care Before you get home health services, a doctor must certify that you need home health services and will order home health services to be provided by a home health	\$0 copayment for Home Health agency care. Supplies are covered in full when medically necessary. 10% -20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered durable medical equipment and

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
agency. You must be homebound, which means leaving home is a major effort. Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing and home health aide services (to be covered under the home health care benefit, your skilled nursing and home health aide services combined must total fewer than 8 hours per day and 35 hours per week) • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Medical and social services • Medical equipment and supplies	supplies. See Durable Medical Equipment in this benefit chart for more details.
Home infusion therapy Home infusion therapy involves the intravenous or subcutaneous administration of drugs or biologicals to a person at home. The components needed to perform home infusion include the drug (for example, antivirals, immune globulin), equipment (for example, a pump), and supplies (for example, tubing and catheters). Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Professional services, including nursing services, furnished in accordance with our plan of care • Patient training and education not otherwise covered under the durable medical equipment benefit • Remote monitoring • Monitoring services for the provision of home infusion therapy and home	\$0 copayment for home infusion services. See Medicare Part B Drugs for home infusion drug cost share.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
infusion drugs furnished by a qualified home infusion therapy supplier	
Hospice care You're eligible for the hospice benefit when your doctor and the hospice medical director have given you a terminal prognosis certifying that you're terminally ill and have 6 months or less to live if your illness runs its normal course. You can get care from any Medicare-certified hospice program. Our plan is obligated to help you find Medicare-certified hospice programs in our plan's service area, including programs we own, control, or have a financial interest in. Your hospice doctor can be a network provider or an out-of-network provider. Covered services include: • Drugs for symptom control and pain relief • Short-term respite care • Home care When you're admitted to a hospice, you have the right to stay in our plan; if you stay in our plan you must continue to pay plan premiums. For hospice services and services covered by Medicare Part A or B that are related to your terminal prognosis: Original Medicare (rather than our plan) will pay your hospice provider for your hospice services and any Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis. While you're in the hospice program, your hospice provider will bill Original Medicare for the services Original	When you enroll in a Medicare-certified hospice program, your hospice services and your Part A and Part B services related to your terminal prognosis are paid for by Original Medicare, not Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO). Must be a Medicare-certified Hospice.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Medicare pays for. You'll be billed Original Medicare cost sharing. For services covered by Medicare Part A or B not related to your terminal prognosis: If you need non-emergency, non-urgently needed services covered under Medicare Part A or B that aren't related to your terminal prognosis, your cost for these services depends on whether you use a provider in our plan's network and follow plan rules (like if there's a requirement to get prior authorization). • If you get the covered services from a network provider and follow plan rules for getting service, you pay only our plan cost-sharing amount for in-network services • If you get the covered services from an out-of-network provider, you pay the cost sharing under Original Medicare For services covered by Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) but not covered by Medicare Part A or B: Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) will continue to cover plan-covered services that aren't covered under Part A or B whether or not they're related to your terminal prognosis. You pay our plan cost-sharing amount for these services. Note: If you need non-hospice care (care that's not related to your terminal prognosis), contact us to arrange the services. Our plan covers hospice consultation services (one time only) for a terminally ill person who hasn't elected the hospice benefit.	Office visit copayment may apply for hospice consultation services. \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
 Immunizations Covered Medicare Part B services include: • Pneumonia vaccines • Flu/influenza shots (or vaccines), once each flu/influenza season in the fall and winter, with additional flu/influenza shots (or vaccines) if medically necessary • Hepatitis B vaccines if you've never received a complete series, you don't know your vaccination history, or you have any other condition that puts you at high or intermediate risk of getting Hepatitis B • COVID-19 vaccines • Other vaccines if you're at risk and they meet Medicare Part B coverage rules • We also cover some vaccines under our Part D prescription drug benefit.	\$30 copayment for specialist There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the pneumonia, flu/influenza, Hepatitis B, and COVID-19 vaccines. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist 20% coinsurance for other Part B vaccines if you are at risk
Inpatient hospital care Includes inpatient acute, inpatient rehabilitation, long-term care hospitals and other types of inpatient hospital services. Inpatient hospital care starts the day you're formally admitted to the hospital with a doctor's order. The day before you're discharged is your last inpatient day. Covered services include but aren't limited to: • Semi-private room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals including special diets • Regular nursing services	(Requires provider preauthorization in-network except for emergency admissions.) \$300 copayment per day, days 1 through 5, then \$0 copayment per day, days 6 through 90 per benefit period. Annual copayment maximum of \$1,500 Unlimited days for Medicare covered stays. Copayment applies on the date of admission but not on the date of discharge. A benefit period begins the day you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't received any inpatient hospital or skilled nursing facility care for 60 days in a row. If

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Costs of special care units (such as intensive care or coronary care units) • Drugs and medications • Lab tests • X-rays and other radiology services • Necessary surgical and medical supplies • Use of appliances, such as wheelchairs • Operating and recovery room costs • Physical, occupational, and speech language therapy • Inpatient substance abuse services • Under certain conditions, the following types of transplants are covered: corneal, kidney, kidney-pancreatic, heart, liver, lung, heart/lung, bone marrow, stem cell, and intestinal/multivisceral. If you need a transplant, we'll arrange to have your case reviewed by a Medicare-approved transplant center that will decide whether you're a candidate for a transplant. Transplant providers may be local or outside of the service area. If our in-network transplant services are outside the community pattern of care, you may choose to go locally as long as the local transplant providers are willing to accept the Original Medicare rate. If Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) provides transplant services at a location outside the pattern of care for transplants in your community and you choose to get transplants at this distant	you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods. The inpatient copayment does not apply if you are readmitted to a hospital within 60 days of your discharge from a hospital, even if the discharge occurred in the previous calendar year. Otherwise, your hospital copay applies on the date of admission. You are responsible for the maximum number of per day cost shares for each benefit period. If you are discharged from the hospital prior to using the maximum number of per day cost shares, and if you are readmitted during the benefit period, you will still be responsible for the remaining number of per day cost shares during that benefit period. You will not be responsible for more than the maximum number of per day cost shares per benefit period. If you get authorized inpatient care at an out-of-network hospital after your emergency condition is stabilized, your cost is the same cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
location, we'll arrange or pay for appropriate lodging and transportation costs for you and a companion. • Blood - including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells starts only with the fourth pint of blood you need. You must either pay the costs for the first 3 pints of blood you get in a calendar year or have the blood donated by you or someone else. All other components of blood are covered starting with the first pint. • Physician services Note: To be an inpatient, your provider must write an order to admit you formally as an inpatient of the hospital. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you're not sure if you're an inpatient or an outpatient, ask the hospital staff. Get more information from the Medicare fact sheet <i>Medicare Hospital Benefits</i> available at Medicare.gov/publications/11435-Medicare-Hospital-Benefits.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.	
Inpatient services in a psychiatric hospital Covered services include mental health care services that require a hospital stay. There is a 190-day lifetime limit for inpatient services in a psychiatric hospital. The 190-day limit doesn't apply to	(Requires provider preauthorization except for emergency admissions) \$300 copayment per day for days 1 through 5 per benefit period. \$0 copayment per day, days 6 through 90. Cost sharing is charged for each inpatient stay.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
inpatient mental health services provided in a psychiatric unit of a general hospital.	Copayment applies on the date of admission but not on the date of discharge. A benefit period begins the day you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't received any inpatient hospital or skilled nursing facility care for 60 days in a row. If you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods. The inpatient copayment does not apply if you are readmitted to a hospital within 60 days of your discharge from a hospital, even if the discharge occurred in the previous calendar year. If you get authorized inpatient mental health care at an out-of-network hospital after your emergency condition is stabilized, your cost is the same cost sharing you would pay at a network hospital.
Inpatient vs. Outpatient Level of Care i.e. Observation Bed When you go to the hospital to seek emergency medical attention, you will be seen by a physician in the emergency room who will assess your current medical condition and care needs. This doctor is referred to as the 'attending' physician. The attending physician will determine whether or not your condition is stable for discharge from the emergency room to return to your residence; or, if additional care is medically necessary. Although you may physically be in the hospital, your medical needs may not require an acute inpatient level of care. Instead, you may require what is known as an outpatient level of care, which includes	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
observation. If medical needs can be met at an outpatient level of care, you will remain in the hospital but the co-payment applied will be for outpatient services as defined in Chapter 4, Section 2.1. Collaborative discussion will occur between the medical staff at the hospital and the medical staff at Independent Health to determine the level of care most appropriate for your medical needs. Independent Health performs a process known as utilization review to determine the appropriate level of care for your identified needs based on the information provided by the attending physician. This review may occur concurrently (within 12-24 hours) or retrospectively (more than 24 hours, at times it may occur post discharge). Once the appropriate level of care is determined based on all of the clinical documentation referencing care you are receiving or have received, the co-payment will be determined as inpatient or outpatient. This co-payment will be referenced on your monthly EOB (Explanation of Benefits) statement provided to you by Independent Health. If the assessment findings of the attending physician indicate that there are no immediate medical needs requiring skilled care, but does identify that your personal safety may be at risk, the facility will work with you and your family to identify the most appropriate care and services to maintain your well-being. This may include homecare services, community services, or, identification of long-term care placement in some cases.	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Custodial care is excluded from Medicare coverage. Custodial care serves to assist an individual in the activities of daily living, such as assistance in walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, and using the toilet, preparation of special diets, and supervision of medication that usually can be self-administered. Custodial care essentially is personal care that does not require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel. In determining whether a person is receiving custodial care, the intermediary or carrier considers the level of care and medical supervision required and furnished. It does not base the decision on diagnosis, type of condition, degree of functional limitation, or rehabilitation potential. Independent Health will not authorize care and services that are considered custodial. If you, or your family, believe that you should remain at the hospital due to personal safety reasons, you have the right to request a review through the QIO. See Chapter 7. Section 6 for instructions on how to do that. If it is deemed your discharge is appropriate and you choose to remain at the hospital, the facility has the right to bill you in full for any charges incurred.	
Inpatient stay: Covered services you get in a hospital or SNF during a non-covered inpatient stay	(Requires provider preauthorization.) You are responsible for 100% of the costs after 100 days as a SNF patient per benefit period.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
As described above, the plan covers unlimited days per benefit period for Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care. This plan covers up to 100 days per benefit period for skilled nursing care. If you've used up your inpatient benefits or if the inpatient stay isn't reasonable and necessary, we won't cover your inpatient stay. In some cases, we'll cover certain services you get while you're in the hospital or the skilled nursing facility (SNF). Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Physician services • Lab test (inpatient) • Diagnostic tests, such as: ○ Electromyogram (EMG) ○ Stress Tests (See Advanced Radiology for Nuclear Stress Tests) ○ Echocardiograms ○ EKG • X-rays	\$0 copayment for physician services by a Hospitalist \$30 copayment for physician services by a specialist. \$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered lab test. 20% coinsurance for molecular or predisposition genetic testing. \$0 copayment for each diagnostic test from a primary care physician \$30 copayment for each diagnostic test from a specialty physician. \$35 copayment for each Medicare-covered x-ray **

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Advanced Radiology Diagnostic Services (Like CT scan, MRI/MRA, Myocardial Nuclear Perfusion Imagine and PET scans)	\$150 copayment for advanced radiology services**.
Radiation Therapy: radium, and isotope therapy including technician materials and services	20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered radiation therapy**. **Copayment/Coinsurance will apply for a diagnostic x-ray and an advanced radiology service if both are billed on the same day by the same provider.
Surgical dressings	\$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered surgical dressing item.
Splints, casts, and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations	\$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered item to treat fractures and dislocations.
Prosthetics and orthotics devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of an internal body organ (including contiguous tissue), or all or part of the function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning internal body organ, including replacement or repairs of such devices	\$0 copayment for each internal Medicare-covered internal prosthetic or orthotic 20% coinsurance for each external prosthetic or orthotic.
Leg, arm, back, and neck braces; trusses, and artificial legs, arms, and eyes including adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient's physical condition	20% coinsurance for each Medicare-covered brace; trusses; and artificial legs, arms, and eyes including adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient's physical condition. 20% coinsurance for each Medicare-covered ostomy supply.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy	\$35 copayment for each Medicare-covered physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy treatment or evaluation treatment
 Medical nutrition therapy This benefit is for people with diabetes, renal (kidney) disease (but not on dialysis), or after a kidney transplant when ordered by your doctor. We cover 3 hours of one-on-one counseling services during the first year you get medical nutrition therapy services under Medicare (this includes our plan, any other Medicare Advantage plan, or Original Medicare), and 2 hours each year after that. If your condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, you may be able to get more hours of treatment with a physician's order. A physician must prescribe these services and renew their order yearly if your treatment is needed into the next calendar year.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for members eligible for Medicare-covered medical nutrition therapy services. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
 Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) MDPP services are covered for eligible people under all Medicare health plans. MDPP is a structured health behavior change intervention that provides practical training in long-term dietary change, increased physical activity, and problem-solving strategies for overcoming challenges to sustain weight loss and a healthy lifestyle.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the MDPP benefit. The MDPP program is a 2-year program Limit once per lifetime.
Medicare Part B drugs These drugs are covered under Part B of Original Medicare. Members of our plan	(Certain services may require provider preauthorization)

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
get coverage for these drugs through our plan. Covered drugs include: • Drugs that usually aren't self-administered by the patient and are injected or infused while you get physician, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgical center services • Insulin furnished through an item of durable medical equipment (such as a medically necessary insulin pump) • Other drugs you take using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were authorized by our plan • The Alzheimer's drug, Leqembi® (generic name lecanemab) is administered intravenously. In addition to medication costs, you may need additional scans and tests before and/or during treatment that could add to your overall costs. Talk to your doctor about what scans and tests you may need as part of your treatment • Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia • Transplant/immunosuppressive drugs: Medicare covers transplant drug therapy if Medicare paid for your organ transplant. You must have Part A at the time of the covered transplant, and you must have Part B at the time you get immunosuppressive drugs • Injectable osteoporosis drugs, if you're homebound, have a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and can't self-administer the drug • Some antigens: Medicare covers antigens if a doctor prepares them and a properly instructed person (who could	0% minimum coinsurance for each Medicare-covered Part B drug. 20% maximum coinsurance for each Medicare-covered Part B drug. Part B drugs may be subject to step therapy. If a Part B drug is administered in the office, home, or outpatient hospital setting, subject to 0% - 20% coinsurance in addition to the office/outpatient/home health agency member cost share for the administration of the drug. Insulin is subject to a coinsurance cap of \$35 for one-month's supply of insulin.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
be you, the patient) gives them under appropriate supervision • Certain oral anti-cancer drugs: Medicare covers some oral cancer drugs you take by mouth if the same drug is available in injectable form or the drug is a prodrug (an oral form of a drug that, when ingested, breaks down into the same active ingredient found in the injectable drug) of the injectable drug • Oral anti-nausea drugs: Medicare covers oral anti-nausea drugs you use as part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen if they're administered before, at, or within 48 hours of chemotherapy or are used as a full therapeutic replacement for an intravenous anti-nausea drug • Certain oral End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) drugs covered under Medicare Part B • Calcimimetic and phosphate binder medications under the ESRD payment system, including the intravenous medication Parsabiv® and the oral medication Sensipar® • Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin when medically necessary and topical anesthetics • Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: Medicare covers erythropoietin by injection if you have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or you need this drug to treat anemia related to certain other conditions. (such as Epogen®, Procrit®, Retacrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, Darbepoetin Alfa, Mircera®, or Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta)	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Intravenous Immune Globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases • Parenteral and enteral nutrition (intravenous and tube feeding) This link will take you to a list of Part B drugs that may be subject to Step Therapy: independenthealth.com/IndividualsFamilies/Medicare Then click on "Formularies and Pharmacies". We also cover some vaccines under our Part B drug benefit.	
 Obesity screening and therapy to promote sustained weight loss If you have a body mass index of 30 or more, we cover intensive counseling to help you lose weight. This counseling is covered if you get it in a primary care setting, where it can be coordinated with your comprehensive prevention plan. Talk to your primary care doctor or practitioner to find out more.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for preventive obesity screening and therapy.
Opioid treatment program services Members of our plan with opioid use disorder (OUD) can get coverage of services to treat OUD through an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) which includes the following services: • U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved opioid agonist and antagonist medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medications • Dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable) • Substance use counseling • Individual and group therapy • Toxicology testing	\$0 copayment per visit for Medicare-covered Opioid Treatment Program services If a Part B drug is administered in the office: 0% - 20% coinsurance in addition to the office copay for the administration of the drug. This plan does NOT cover Part D drugs.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Intake activities • Periodic assessments	
Outpatient diagnostic tests and therapeutic services and supplies Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • X-rays • Advanced Radiology Services (Like CT Scan, MRI/MRA, Myocardial Nuclear Perfusion Imaging and PET Scans.) • Radiation (radium and isotope) therapy including technician materials and supplies • Surgical supplies, such as dressings • Splints, casts, and other devices used to reduce fractures and dislocations	(Certain services require provider preauthorization) **Copayment/Coinsurance will apply for each diagnostic test, x-ray and/or an advanced radiology service if they are billed on the same day by the same provider. \$35 copayment for each Medicare-covered x-ray** (If x-ray services are performed in the provider's office during an office visit, the appropriate office visit copayment and x-ray copayment will apply) \$150 copayment for each Medicare-covered service** (If advanced radiology services are performed in the provider's office during an office visit, the appropriate office visit copayment and advanced radiology service copayment will apply) 20% coinsurance for each Medicare-covered service** (If outpatient radiation therapy services are performed in the provider's office during an office visit, the appropriate office visit copayment and outpatient radiation therapy copayment will apply.) \$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered surgical supply. \$0 copayment for Medicare-covered splints and casts.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Laboratory tests • Blood - including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells begins only with the fourth pint of blood that you need - you must either pay the costs for the first 3 pints of blood you get in a calendar year or have the blood donated by you or someone else. All other components of blood are covered beginning with the first pint used. • Diagnostic non-laboratory tests such as CT scans, MRIs, EKGs, and PET scans when your doctor or other health care provider orders them to treat a medical problem • Other outpatient diagnostic tests such as: ○ Electromyogram (EMG) ○ Cardiovascular Stress Tests (See Advanced Radiology for Nuclear Stress Tests) ○ Echocardiograms ○ EKG	\$0 copayment for each Medicare-covered lab test. 20% coinsurance for molecular or predisposition genetic testing. \$0 copayment for blood. Transfusion requires outpatient hospital copayment or office visit copayment. \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician for other Medicare-covered outpatient diagnostic tests. \$30 copayment for Specialty Physician for other Medicare-covered outpatient diagnostic tests.
Outpatient hospital observation Observation services are hospital outpatient services given to determine if you need to be admitted as an inpatient or can be discharged. For outpatient hospital observation services to be covered, they must meet Medicare criteria and be considered reasonable and necessary. Observation	\$300 copayment per visit for Medicare-covered outpatient hospital observation services.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
services are covered only when provided by the order of a physician or another person authorized by state licensure law and hospital staff bylaws to admit patients to the hospital or order outpatient tests. Note: Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you're an outpatient and pay the cost-sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you aren't sure if you're an outpatient, ask the hospital staff. Get more information from the Medicare fact sheet <i>Medicare Hospital Benefits</i> available at Medicare.gov/publications/11435-Medicare-Hospital-Benefits.pdf or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.	
Outpatient hospital services We cover medically necessary services you get in the outpatient department of a hospital for diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury. Covered services include, but aren't limited to: • Observation services • Services in an outpatient clinic • Same day outpatient surgery (Includes diagnostic "scopes" such as an endoscopy)	(Provider preauthorization may apply for some services except for services in an emergency department) \$300 copayment per observation service. If Emergency Room and Observation Facility are billed on same day the Observation copay will be taken (See outpatient hospital). \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician services in an outpatient clinic. \$30 copayment for Specialty Physician services in an outpatient clinic. \$300 copayment for same-day outpatient surgery in a freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
	\$300 copayment for same-day outpatient surgery in an Outpatient Hospital Facility. To determine if the location is a freestanding ambulatory surgical center or an outpatient hospital facility, see the Physician/Provider Directory.
Laboratory tests (outpatient)	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered lab tests. 20% coinsurance for molecular and predisposed genetic testing
- Diagnostic tests billed by the hospital, such as: - Electromyogram (EMG) - Cardiovascular Stress Tests (See Advanced Radiology for Nuclear Stress Tests) - Echocardiograms EKG	\$0 copayment for diagnostic tests from a Primary Care Physician. \$30 copayment for diagnostic tests from a Specialty Physician.
Mental health care, including care in a partial hospitalization program, if a doctor certifies that inpatient treatment would be required without it	\$20 copayment per outpatient mental health visit \$40 copayment for each partial hospitalization visit
X-rays	\$35 copayment for each Medicare-covered x-ray**
Advanced Radiology Services (Like CT Scan, MRI/MRA, Myocardial Nuclear Perfusion Imaging and PET Scans.)	\$150 copayment for each Medicare-covered advanced radiology service** **Both copayments will apply for a diagnostic x-ray and an advanced radiology service if both are billed on the same day by the same provider.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Radiation (radium and isotope) therapy including technician materials and supplies	20% coinsurance for each Medicare-covered radiation therapy.
• Medical supplies such as splints and casts	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered supplies
• Certain screenings and preventive services	\$0 copayment if listed as a preventive screening
• Certain drugs and biologicals you can't give yourself	0% - 20% coinsurance If a Part B drug is administered in the office, home, or outpatient hospital setting, subject to 0% - 20% coinsurance in addition to the office visit or outpatient cost share for the administration of the drug.
Note: Unless the provider has written an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you're an outpatient and pay the cost-sharing amounts for outpatient hospital services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient. If you aren't sure if you're an outpatient, ask the hospital staff.	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Outpatient mental health care Covered services include: Mental health services provided by a state-licensed psychiatrist or doctor, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker (CSW), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), licensed professional counselor (LPC), licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), nurse practitioner (NP), physician assistant (PA), or other Medicare-qualified mental health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws.	\$20 copayment for Medicare-covered outpatient mental health services.
Outpatient rehabilitation services Covered services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language therapy. Outpatient rehabilitation services are provided in various outpatient settings, such as hospital outpatient departments, independent therapist offices, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs).	(Provider preauthorization required after initial evaluation) \$35 copayment for each Medicare-covered outpatient rehabilitation service, treatment or evaluation.
Outpatient substance use disorder services Outpatient medical treatment for alcohol abuse, chemical abuse and chemical dependency.	\$40 copayment for Medicare-covered outpatient substance abuse services
Outpatient surgery, including services provided at hospital outpatient facilities and ambulatory surgical centers	(Certain procedures may require provider preauthorization) \$300 copayment for freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center To determine if the location is a freestanding ambulatory surgical center or an outpatient hospital facility, see the Physician/Provider Directory.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Note: If you're having surgery in a hospital facility, you should check with your provider about whether you'll be an inpatient or outpatient. Unless the provider writes an order to admit you as an inpatient to the hospital, you're an outpatient and pay the cost-sharing amounts for outpatient surgery. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient.	
Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and supplies Coverage for select over-the-counter items with NationsOTC. Your Independent Health plan offers a quarterly allowance that can be used to purchase select OTC items through the NationsOTC catalog. Visit nationsotc.com/IndependentHealth to view the catalog, or call 877-270-4239 (TTY: 711) 24 hours a day 7 days a week to request a copy. Orders can be placed by mail using the order form in the catalog, by telephone or online. This benefit can only be used for covered items through NationsOTC.	\$75 allowance every three months. Allowance is made available by quarter (January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, October 1st). Allowance carries over quarter to quarter, but not plan year to plan year. Costs over the quarterly allowance are the member's responsibility.
Partial hospitalization services and intensive outpatient services <i>Partial hospitalization</i> is a structured program of active psychiatric treatment provided as a hospital outpatient service or by a community mental health center that's more intense than care you get in your doctor's, therapist's, licensed marriage and family therapist's (LMFT), or licensed professional counselor's office and is an alternative to inpatient hospitalization.	\$40 copayment per visit for Medicare-covered services

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
<i>Intensive outpatient service</i> is a structured program of active behavioral (mental) health therapy treatment provided in a hospital outpatient department, a community mental health center, a Federally Qualified Health Center, or a rural health clinic that's more intense than care you get in your doctor's, therapist's, licensed marriage and family therapist's (LMFT), or licensed professional counselor's office but less intense than partial hospitalization. Note: Because there are no community mental health centers in our network, we cover partial hospitalization only as a hospital outpatient service.	
Personal Emergency Response Service (PERS) Personal Emergency Response Service (PERS) provided through NationsResponse. Members will have access to emergency alert devices, two-way connectivity to round-the-clock monitoring centers, and scheduled wellness checks. Members will have the "At Home" and "On the Go" PERS units to choose from. Member can order via phone by calling a NationsResponse Member Experience Advisor at (877) 270-4239 (TTY: 711), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	\$0 copayment for PERS through NationsResponse. Not covered if received through another vendor.
Physician/practitioner services, including doctor's office visits Covered services include: Medically necessary medical care or surgery services you get in a physician's office	\$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician office visit. \$30 copayment for Specialty Physician office visit.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Medically-necessary medical care or surgery services furnished in a certified ambulatory surgical center, hospital outpatient department, or any other location	\$300 copayment for Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center
Consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a specialist	\$30 copayment for Specialty Physician.
Basic hearing and balance exams performed by your PCP or specialist, if your doctor orders it to see if you need medical treatment	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered hearing and balance exams by a Primary Care \$30 copayment for Medicare-covered hearing and balance exams by a Specialty Physician.
Telehealth- Additional Telehealth Services Certain telehealth services, including: Primary Care, Specialty Physician, Outpatient mental health, outpatient substance abuse, urgent care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, kidney disease education, and diabetic self-management training. You have the option of getting these services either through an in-person visit or by telehealth. If you choose to get one of these services by telehealth, then you must use a network provider that currently offers the service by telehealth. Contact your Provider(s) to see if they participate in telehealth services.	\$0 copayment for telehealth visit with a Primary Care Physician. \$30 copayment for a telehealth visit with a Specialty Physician. \$20 copayment for a telehealth visit with a mental health professional. \$35 copayment for a telehealth visit for Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, or Occupational Therapy.
Certain telehealth services including consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a physician or practitioner for patients in certain	\$50 for a telehealth visit for urgent care.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
rural areas or other locations approved by Medicare • Telehealth services for monthly end-stage renal disease-related visits for home dialysis members in a hospital-based or critical access hospital-based renal dialysis center, renal dialysis facility, or the member's home • Telehealth services to diagnose, evaluate, or treat symptoms of a stroke, regardless of your location • Telehealth services for members with a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health disorder, regardless of their location • Telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of mental health disorders • Telehealth services for mental health visits provided by Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers • Virtual check-ins (for example, by phone or video chat) with your doctor for 5-10 minutes if: ○ You're not a new patient and ○ The check-in isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days and ○ The check-in doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Evaluation of video and/or images you send to your doctor, and	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
interpretation and follow-up by your doctor within 24 hours if: ○ You're not a new patient and ○ The evaluation isn't related to an office visit in the past 7 days and ○ The evaluation doesn't lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, internet, or electronic health record if you're not a new patient • Second opinion by another network provider prior to surgery • Non-routine dental care (covered services are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures, setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, extraction of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatments of neoplastic cancer disease, or services that would be covered when provided by a physician). Accidental injury to sound and natural teeth is not covered. Examples of non-covered services include: ○ The cost to repair or replace teeth (natural or dentures) ○ The cost to prepare the jaw for dentures, even if dentures are required because of a covered	\$30 copayment for a second opinion by a Specialty Physician Non-routine dental care: Based on place of service: (Requires provider preauthorization after initial visit) Physicians office: PCP: \$0 copayment Specialist: \$30 copayment Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center: \$300 copayment Outpatient hospital facility: \$300 copayment Emergency Room: \$130 copayment Urgent care center: \$50 copayment

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
loss such as tumor removal or accidental trauma. ○ Exceptions: Medicare-covered dental services that are an integral part of a covered medical procedure. This is <u>NOT</u> routine/preventive dental. (See Dental Care) • Home physician visits • Additional Telemedicine Program - Teladoc® Benefit limited to Teladoc® Providers. Teladoc provides telephone and online internet consultations between members and Teladoc Providers for medical conditions that are not an Emergency Condition. Independent Health's telemedicine service provides coverage within the United States and anywhere world-wide where there is internet access. Independent Health's telemedicine benefit should not be used if a member is experiencing a medical emergency. The service is intended to provide a solution for non-emergency medical situations. The service is not intended to replace the primary care physician/patient relationship but rather offer members an alternative option to an urgent care facility or when a member is unable to obtain services from their primary care physician for many common medical issues including but not limited to:	\$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician home visit. \$30 copayment for Specialty Physician home visit. \$0 copayment for behavioral health services with a Teladoc provider. \$0 copayment for other services with a Teladoc® provider. Not covered outside of the United States. Telemedicine services rendered through a provider other than a Teladoc provider are not covered. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and may be accessed if traveling throughout the United States You are responsible for 100% of the total cost of any prescription prescribed by the Teladoc® provider because this plan does NOT include Part D drugs.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Cold and Flu Symptoms • Bronchitis • Allergies • Poison Ivy • Eye Infection/Pink Eye • Respiratory Infection • Strep Throat • Sinus Problems • Behavioral Health Consultation Access: There are three ways to register or set up a consultation: 1. Visit the Teladoc website at teladoc.com/mobile and provide the required information along with your medical history. 2. Download the mobile app at Teladoc.com/mobile. 3. Call Teladoc at 1-800-Teladoc (1-800-835-2362) to create an account. TTY users call 1-800-877-8973. Telephone service is only available within the United States. We also offer Teladoc via a smart phone or tablet app anywhere in the world where there is internet access. Download the app from teladoc.com/ih to your smart phone or tablet, create your account and you'll have access to a doctor from your home state from most places in the world, including on cruise ships, within 60 minutes. If you have already created your account, you can access Global Care through it. If it is appropriate for your health condition, a prescription recommendation will be sent to you that you can take to a pharmacy. There is a	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
CMS regulation that prohibits Independent Health or Medicare from covering the cost of any Part D. prescription drug when it's purchased outside of the United States or it's territories. Account creation involves completing baseline health information such as providing a medical history, allergy information, list of medications, health problems, family history and Primary Care Physician contact information. If necessary, the doctor may prescribe medication for your diagnosis. Prescriptions for short-term antibiotics, antihistamines or anti-bacterial agents can be sent to your preferred pharmacy. Nearly all of the drugs prescribed are generic. Teladoc does not guarantee that a prescription will be written. Teladoc does not prescribe DEA controlled substances, non-therapeutic drugs and certain other drugs which may be harmful because of their potential for abuse.	
Podiatry services Covered services include: • Diagnosis and the medical or surgical treatment of injuries and diseases of the feet (such as hammer toe or heel spurs) • Routine foot care for members with certain medical conditions affecting the lower limbs. Limit once every 60 days.	\$30 copayment in a Specialty Physician's office \$300 copayment facility copayment in a freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center. \$300 copayment in an Outpatient Hospital Facility. To determine if the location is a freestanding ambulatory surgical center or an outpatient hospital facility, see the Physician/Provider Directory.
 Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the PrEP benefit.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
If you don't have HIV, but your doctor or other health care practitioner determines you're at an increased risk for HIV, we cover pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication and related services. If you qualify, covered services include: • FDA-approved oral or injectable PrEP medication including the fee for injecting the drug, if applicable • Up to 8 individual counseling sessions (including HIV risk assessment, HIV risk reduction, and medication adherence) every 12 months • Up to 8 HIV screenings every 12 months • A one-time hepatitis B virus screening	
 Prostate cancer screening exams For men aged 50 and older, covered services include the following once every 12 months: • Digital rectal exam • Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for an annual PSA test. Separate office visit cost sharing will apply if prostate screening is performed separate from the "Annual Wellness Visit" exam: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
Prosthetic and orthotic devices and related supplies	20% coinsurance for each external Medicare-covered standard prosthetic device.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of a body part or function. These include but aren't limited to testing, fitting, or training in the use of prosthetic and orthotic devices; as well as colostomy bags and supplies directly related to colostomy care, pacemakers, braces, prosthetic shoes, artificial limbs, and breast prostheses (including a surgical brassiere after a mastectomy). Includes certain supplies related to prosthetic and orthotic devices, and repair and/or replacement of prosthetic and orthotic devices. Also includes some coverage following cataract removal or cataract surgery – go to <i>Vision Care</i> later in this table for more detail.	\$0 copayment for related supplies. 20% coinsurance for Medicare-covered ostomy supplies.
Pulmonary rehabilitation services Comprehensive programs of pulmonary rehabilitation are covered for members who have moderate to very severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and an order for pulmonary rehabilitation from the doctor treating the chronic respiratory disease.	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered pulmonary rehabilitation services. Limit 36 visits per cardiac occurrence.
 Screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse We cover one alcohol misuse screening for adults (including pregnant women) who misuse alcohol but aren't alcohol dependent. If you screen positive for alcohol misuse, you can get up to 4 brief face-to-face counseling sessions per year (if you're competent and alert during counseling) provided by a qualified primary care	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening and counseling to reduce alcohol misuse preventive benefit. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
doctor or practitioner in a primary care setting.	\$30 copayment for specialist
 Screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography (LDCT) For qualified people, an LDCT is covered every 12 months. Eligible members are people age 50 – 77 who have no signs or symptoms of lung cancer, but who have a history of tobacco smoking of at least 20 pack-years and who currently smoke or have quit smoking within the last 15 years, who get an order for LDCT during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit that meets the Medicare criteria for such visits and be furnished by a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. <i>For LDCT lung cancer screenings after the initial LDCT screening:</i> the members must get an order for LDCT lung cancer screening, which may be furnished during any appropriate visit with a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. If a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner elects to provide lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit for later lung cancer screenings with LDCT, the visit must meet the Medicare criteria for such visits.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered counseling and shared decision-making visit or for the LDCT.
 Screening for Hepatitis C virus infection We cover one Hepatitis C screening if your primary care doctor or other qualified health care provider orders one and you meet one of these conditions:	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening for the Hepatitis C Virus.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
- You're at high risk because you use or have used illicit injection drugs. - You had a blood transfusion before 1992. - You were born between 1945-1965. If you were born between 1945-1965 and aren't considered high risk, we cover a screening once. If you're at high risk (for example, you've continued to use illicit injection drugs since your previous negative Hepatitis C screening test), we cover yearly screenings.	
 Screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and counseling to prevent STIs We cover sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Hepatitis B. These screenings are covered for pregnant women and for certain people who are at increased risk for an STI when the tests are ordered by a primary care provider. We cover these tests once every 12 months or at certain times during pregnancy. We also cover up to 2 individual 20 to 30 minute, face-to-face high-intensity behavioral counseling sessions each year for sexually active adults at increased risk for STIs. We only cover these counseling sessions as a preventive service if they are provided by a primary care provider and take place in a primary care setting, such as a doctor's office.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered screening for STIs and counseling for STIs preventive benefit. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
Services to treat kidney disease Kidney disease and dialysis services include:	\$0 copayment for Medicare-covered services for kidney disease education However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Kidney disease education services to teach kidney care and help members make informed decisions about their care. For members with stage IV chronic kidney disease when referred by their doctor, we cover up to 6 sessions of kidney disease education services per lifetime	during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist
Outpatient dialysis treatments (including dialysis treatments when temporarily out of the service area, as explained in Chapter 3, or when your provider for this service is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible)	20% coinsurance per outpatient dialysis treatment
Inpatient dialysis treatments (if you're admitted as an inpatient to a hospital for special care) See inpatient hospital for cost share.	For inpatient dialysis treatments, see Inpatient Hospital Care cost share.
Self-dialysis training (includes training for you and anyone helping you with your home dialysis treatments)	\$0 copayment for Medicare covered services for self-dialysis training.
Home dialysis equipment and supplies	20% coinsurance for home dialysis equipment \$0 copayment for home dialysis supplies.
Certain home support services (such as, when necessary, visits by trained dialysis workers to check on your home dialysis, to help in emergencies, and check your dialysis equipment and water supply)	\$0 copayment for certain home support services.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
Certain drugs for dialysis are covered under Medicare Part B. For information about coverage for Part B Drugs, go to Medicare Part B drugs in this table.	
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care (For a definition of skilled nursing facility care, go to Chapter 12. Skilled nursing facilities are sometimes called SNFs.) Covered up to 100 days per benefit period for skilled services only (includes subacute admissions in a skilled nursing facility.) No prior hospital stay is required. Covered services include but aren't limited to: • Semiprivate room (or a private room if medically necessary) • Meals, including special diets • Skilled nursing services • Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy • Drugs administered to you as part of our plan of care (this includes substances naturally present in the body, such as blood clotting factors.) • Blood - including storage and administration. Coverage of whole blood and packed red cells begins only with the fourth pint of blood you need - you must either pay the costs for the first 3 pints of blood you get in a calendar year or have the blood donated by you or someone else. All other components of blood are covered beginning with the first pint used. • Medical and surgical supplies ordinarily provided by SNFs • Laboratory tests ordinarily provided by SNFs	(Requires provider preauthorization) For Days 1 through 20: \$0 copayment per day. For Days 21 through 100: \$221 copayment per day. No coverage for days 101 and beyond for each stay. Covered up to 100 days per benefit period. A benefit period begins the day you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't received any inpatient hospital or skilled care in a SNF for 60 days in a row. If you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods. Copayment is not waived when member is discharged from acute hospital and admitted to a SNF. This includes SNF to SNF. You are responsible for the maximum number of per day cost shares for each benefit period. If you are discharged from the skilled nursing facility prior to using the maximum number of per day cost shares, and you are readmitted during the benefit period, you will be responsible for the remaining number of per day cost shares. You will not be responsible for more than the maximum number of per day cost shares per benefit period.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• X-rays and other radiology services ordinarily provided by SNFs • Use of appliances such as wheelchairs ordinarily provided by SNFs • Physician/Practitioner services Generally, you get SNF care from network facilities. Under certain conditions listed below, you may be able to pay in-network cost sharing for a facility that isn't a network provider, if the facility accepts our plan's amounts for payment. • A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where you were living right before you went to the hospital (as long as it provides skilled nursing facility care) • A SNF where your spouse or domestic partner is living at the time you leave the hospital	
 Smoking and tobacco use cessation (counseling to stop smoking or tobacco use) Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling is covered for outpatient and hospitalized patients who meet these criteria: • Use tobacco, regardless of whether they exhibit signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease • Are competent and alert during counseling • A qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner provides counseling We cover 2 cessation attempts per year (each attempt may include a maximum of 4 intermediate or intensive sessions, with	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the Medicare-covered smoking and tobacco use cessation preventive benefits. if you do not have signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease. However, if you are treated or monitored for a new or an existing medical condition during the visit when you receive the preventive service, an office visit copayment will apply for the care received for the new or existing medical condition: \$0 copayment for Primary Care Physician \$30 copayment for specialist

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
the patient getting up to 8 sessions per year.) Supervised exercise therapy (SET) SET is covered for members who have symptomatic peripheral artery disease (PAD) and a referral for PAD from the physician responsible for PAD treatment. Up to 36 sessions over a 12-week period are covered if the SET program requirements are met. The SET program must: • Consist of sessions lasting 30-60 minutes, comprising a therapeutic exercise-training program for PAD in patients with claudication • Be conducted in a hospital outpatient setting or a physician's office • Be delivered by qualified auxiliary personnel necessary to ensure benefits exceed harms and who are trained in exercise therapy for PAD • Be under the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant (PA), or nurse practitioner (NP)/clinical nurse specialist (CNS) who must be trained in both basic and advanced life support techniques SET may be covered beyond 36 sessions over 12 weeks for an additional 36 sessions over an extended period of time if deemed medically necessary by a health care provider.	\$25 copayment per session for Medicare-covered supervised exercise therapy.
Transportation Non-emergency transportation to plan-approved locations such as to a doctor's	\$0 copayment for up to 24 one-way trips to an Independent Health network approved location. Unlimited trips to VA facilities within the service area.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
office visit, pharmacies and dialysis centers. Independent Health coordinates rides that are appropriate for your health needs. Schedule rides at least 48 hours in advance. When a member needs to cancel a ride that they previously scheduled, they need to cancel the ride at least 2 hours ahead of the scheduled pick up time or the member will be charged one of their trips from their annual allotment This benefit is not to be used for emergency situations. For Emergency transportation: See Ambulance.	30-mile limit applies per trip. Your ride must originate in the 8 counties of Western New York. Rides must be coordinated through Independent Health's transportation coordinator. Call Nations Benefits at 877-270-4239 (TTY 711) Monday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. or contact Independent Health Member Services.
Urgently needed services A plan-covered service requiring immediate medical attention that's not an emergency is an urgently needed service if either you're temporarily outside our plan's service area, or, even if you're inside our plan's service area, it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Our plan must cover urgently needed services and only charge you in-network cost sharing. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. Medically necessary routine provider visits (like annual checkups) aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.	\$50 copayment for Medicare-covered urgently needed care services. Urgent care is available at urgent care centers and/or walk-in clinics. Outside United States and its territories: <u>Worldwide coverage:</u> Maximum plan benefit limit of \$10,000. The \$10,000 plan limit is per occurrence for the unforeseen event outside of the USA. Coverage ends when \$10,000 limit is reached. See Ambulance, Urgent Care and Emergency Care for appropriate cost share.
 Vision care Covered services include:	Medical Vision:

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Outpatient physician services for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the eye, including treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Original Medicare doesn't cover routine eye exams (eye refractions) for eyeglasses/contacts • For people who are at high risk for glaucoma, we cover one glaucoma screening each year. People at high risk of glaucoma include people with a family history of glaucoma, people with diabetes, African Americans who are age 50 and older and Hispanic Americans who are 65 or older • One pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each cataract surgery that includes insertion of an intraocular lens. If you have 2 separate cataract operations, you can't reserve the benefit after the first surgery and purchase 2 eyeglasses after the second surgery • For people with diabetes, screening for diabetic retinopathy is covered once per year	\$30 copayment for Medicare-covered medical eye exam. \$0 copayment for glaucoma screening as part of a routine eye exam from an EyeMed provider. Like Original Medicare, only standard frames and lenses from an EyeMed Provider are covered in full after each Post Cataract surgery. \$0 copayment for pair of conventional contact lenses. Conventional contact lenses (in lieu of frames and lenses) include fit, follow-up and materials from an EyeMed provider. The member will be responsible for \$0 copayment for standard, non-vision correcting lenses during cataract surgery. The member will be responsible for any additional costs for lenses which correct your vision and replace your need to wear glasses. Frequency: Once per eye per surgery. Member cannot combine any promotional offers with our vision benefit. \$0 copayment for screening for diabetic retinopathy. Retinal imaging to diagnose other injury or disease of the eye will have an office visit copay as outlined below.
Supplemental Vision	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Covered Service	What you pay
• Routine vision exam Routine Eye Exam with dilation from an EyeMed Provider (one exam every 12 months). Glaucoma screening every 12 months (for high-risk individuals, individuals with family history of glaucoma, individuals with diabetes and African Americans who are age 50 and older). • Routine Eye Wear Such as glasses (lenses and frames) or contact lenses in lieu of glasses	\$0 copayment for routine vision exam from an EyeMed Provider Limit: One routine eye exam every twelve months from an EyeMed provider. Member cannot combine any promotional offers with our vision benefit. \$200 limit for eyewear every year from an EyeMed Provider. Member cannot combine any promotional offers with our vision benefit.
 Welcome to Medicare preventive visit Our plan covers the one-time <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit. The visit includes a review of your health, as well as education and counseling about preventive services you need (including certain screenings and shots (and vaccines)), and referrals for other care if needed. Important: We cover the <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit only within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B. When you make your appointment, let your doctor's office know you want to schedule your <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit.	There is no coinsurance, copayment, or deductible for the <i>Welcome to Medicare</i> preventive visit. For other services performed in conjunction with the office visit, please see specific service for cost share.

¹Participating locations ("PL") are not owned or operated by Tivity Health, Inc. or its affiliates. Use of PL facilities and amenities is limited to terms and conditions of PL basic membership.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

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Below is a list of DME items that are covered at a reduced cost share when purchased through People First Mobility.

Code	Description
E0100	Cane, any material, adjustable or fixed height, with tip
E0105	Cane, 3 or 4 prong, any material, adjustable or fixed height, with tip
E0135	Walker, folding, adjustable or fixed height
E0149	Walker, heavy-duty, without wheels, rigid or folding, any type
E0154	Walker, platform attachment, each
E0156	Walker, seat attachment, each
E0165	Commode chair, mobile or stationary, detachable arms
E0185	Gel or gel-like pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress height & length
E0190	Positioning cushion/pillow/wedge, any size or shape, includes all accessories and components
E0303	Hospital bed, heavy-duty, extra wide, capacity greater than 350 lbs but less than 600 lbs.
E0445	Oximeter, noninvasive measuring device of blood oxygen levels
E0570	Nebulizer with compressor
E0621	Patient lift, sling or seat, canvas or nylon
E0627	Seat lift mechanism, electric, any type
E0630	Patient lift, hydraulic or mechanical, includes any seat, sling, strap(s) or pad(s)
E0635	Patient lift, electric, with seat or sling
E0651	Pneumatic compressor, segmental home model, without calibrated gradient pressure
E0652	Pneumatic compressor, segmental home model, with calibrated gradient pressure
E0667	Segmental pneumatic appliance for use with pneumatic compressor, full leg
E0669	Segmental pneumatic appliance for use with pneumatic compressor, half leg
E0776	Intravenous (IV) pole
E0910	Trapeze bars, (aka: Patient Helper), attached to bed, with grab bars
E0940	Trapeze bars, freestanding, complete with grab bar
E0955	Wheelchair accessory, headrest, cushioned, any type, including fixed mounting hardware, each

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Code	Description
E0956	Wheelchair accessory, lateral trunk or hip support, any type, including fixed mounting hardware, each
E0961	Manual wheelchair accessory, wheel lock brake extension (handle), each
E0971	Manual wheelchair accessory, anti-tipping device, each
E0973	Wheelchair accessory, adjustable height, detachable armrest, complete assembly, each
E0978	Wheelchair accessory, positioning belt/safety belt/pelvic strap, each
E0981	Wheelchair accessory, seat upholstery, replacement only, each
E0982	Wheelchair accessory, back upholstery, replacement only, each
E0986	Manual wheelchair accessory, push-rim activated power assist system
E0990	Wheelchair accessory, elevated legrest, complete assembly, each
E1007	Wheelchair accessory, power seating system, combination tilt & recline, with mechanical sheer reduction
E1012	Wheelchair accessory, addition to power seating system, center mount power elevating leg rest/platform, complete assembly, any type, each
E1028	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware for joystick, other control interface or positioning accessory
E1161	Manual adult size wheelchair, includes tilt in space
E1225	Wheelchair accessory, manual, semi-reclining back (15 - 80 degrees), each
E1226	Wheelchair accessory, manual, fully reclining back (80 degrees or more) each
E1230	Power operated vehicle, 3 or 4 wheel non-highway
E2201	Manual wheelchair accessory, nonstandard seat frame, width greater than 20 inches but less than 24 inches
E2209	Accessory, arm trough, with or without hand support, each
E2211	Manual wheelchair accessory, pneumatic propulsion tire, any size, each
E2213	Manual wheelchair accessory, insert for pneumatic propulsion tire (removable), any type, any size, each
E2231	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid seat support base (replaces sling seat) includes any type of mounting hardware
E2311	Power wheelchair accessory, electronic connection between wheelchair controller and 2 or more power seating system motors, including all related electronics, indicator features, mechanical function selection switch, and fixed mounting hardware
E2313	Power wheelchair accessory, harness for upgrade to expandable controller, including all fasteners, connectors and mounting hardware, each
E2361	Power wheelchair accessory, 22 NF sealed lead acid battery, each (e.g.: gel cell, absorbed glassmat)

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Code	Description
E2374	Power wheelchair accessory, hand or chin control interface, standard remote joystick, (not including controller), proportional, including all related electronics and fixed mounting hardware, replacement only
E2377	Power wheelchair accessory, expandable controller, including all related electronics and mounting hardware
E2378	Power wheelchair component, actuator, replacement only
E2620	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, planar back with lateral supports, width is less than 22 inches, any height, including any type of mounting hardware.
E2622	Skin protection wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width less than 22 inches, any depth
E2624	Skin protection and positioning wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width less than 22 inches, any depth
K0002	Standard hemi (low-seat) wheelchair
K0004	High strength, lightweight wheelchair
K0007	Extra heavy duty wheelchair
K0019	Arm pad, replacement only, each
K0040	Adjustable angle footplate, each
K0108	Wheelchair component or accessory not otherwise specified
K0195	Elevating wheelchair leg rests, pair
K0822	Power wheelchair, group 2 standard, sling/solid seat/back, capacity to 300 lbs
K0823	Power wheelchair, group 2 standard, captain's chair, capacity to 300 lbs
K0825	Power wheelchair, group 2 heavy-duty, captain's chair, capacity 301 to 450 lbs.
K0861	Power wheelchair, group 3 standard, multiple power option, sling/solid seat/back, capacity up to 300 lbs.
L3908	Wrist hand orthosis, wrist extension control cock-up, non-molded, prefabricated, off the shelf.

SECTION 3 Services that aren't covered by our plan (exclusions)

This section tells you what services are *excluded* from Medicare coverage and therefore, aren't covered by this plan.

The chart below lists services and items that either aren't covered under any condition or are covered only under specific conditions.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

If you get services that are excluded (not covered), you must pay for them yourself except under the specific conditions listed below. Even if you get the excluded services at an emergency facility, the excluded services are still not covered, and our plan won't pay for them. The only exception is if the service is appealed and decided upon appeal to be a medical service that we should have paid for or covered because of your specific situation. (For information about appealing a decision we made to not cover a medical service, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.3.)

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Acupuncture	Available for people with chronic low back pain under certain circumstances
Cosmetic surgery or procedures	Covered in cases of an accidental injury or for improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member Covered for all stages of reconstruction for a breast after a mastectomy, as well as for the unaffected breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
Custodial care Custodial care is personal care that doesn't require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel, such as care that helps you with activities of daily living, such as bathing or dressing	Not covered under any condition
Experimental medical and surgical procedures, equipment, and medications Experimental procedures and items are those items and procedures determined by Original Medicare to not be generally accepted by the medical community	May be covered by Original Medicare under a Medicare-approved clinical research study or by our plan (Go to Chapter 3, Section 5 for more information on clinical research studies)
Fees charged for care by your immediate relatives or members of your household	Not covered under any condition

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Full-time nursing care in your home	Not covered under any condition
Home-delivered meals	Not covered under any condition
Home health services	Medicare covers medically necessary part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care.
Homemaker services include basic household help, including light housekeeping or light meal preparation.	Not covered under any condition
Naturopath services (uses natural or alternative treatments)	Not covered under any condition
Non-routine dental care	Dental care required to treat illness or injury may be covered as inpatient or outpatient care
Orthopedic shoes or supportive devices for the feet	Shoes that are part of a leg brace and are included in the cost of the brace. Orthopedic or therapeutic shoes for people with diabetic foot disease
Personal items in your room at a hospital or a skilled nursing facility, such as a telephone or a television	Not covered under any condition
Private room in a hospital	Covered only when medically necessary
Reversal of sterilization procedures and or non-prescription contraceptive supplies	Not covered under any condition
Routine chiropractic care	Manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation is covered
Routine dental care, such as cleanings, fillings, or dentures	Limited coverage through LIBERTY Dental Plan. See "Dental Services" on the medical benefit chart in Chapter 4 for covered services.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

Services not covered by Medicare	Covered only under specific conditions
Routine eye examinations, eyeglasses, radial keratotomy, LASIK surgery, and other low vision aids	One pair of eyeglasses with standard frames (or one set of contact lenses) covered after each cataract surgery that implants an intraocular lens. Eye exam and one pair of eyeglasses (or contact lenses) are covered for people after cataract surgery. Limited coverage for routine eye exam and eyewear through EyeMed. See “Supplemental Vision” on the medical benefits chart in Chapter 4 for covered services.
Routine foot care	Some limited coverage provided according to Medicare guidelines (e.g., if you have diabetes)
Routine hearing exams, hearing aids, or exams to fit hearing aids	Medicare covers diagnostic hearing exams and balance exams if ordered by a physician. Routine hearing exams are covered. Limited coverage for hearing aid evaluation exam and hearing aids/fitting through the Start Hearing network. See “Hearing Services” on the medical benefits chart in Chapter 4 for covered services.
Services considered not reasonable and necessary, according to Original Medicare standards	Not covered under any condition

In addition, the following items and services aren't covered by your Independent Health Medicare Advantage plan:

- Services that are not covered under Original Medicare, unless such services are specifically listed as covered in Chapter 4.
- Services that you get from non-affiliated providers, except for care for a medical emergency and urgently needed care, renal (kidney) dialysis services that you get when you are temporarily outside the plan's service area, and care from non-affiliated providers that is arranged or approved by Independent Health's Medical Director.
- Services that you get without prior authorization, when prior authorization is required for getting that service (Chapter 4 gives a definition of prior authorization and tells which services require prior authorization by your provider.)

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

- Procedures, services, supplies, and medications until they are reviewed for safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness and approved by Independent Health or Original Medicare.
- Any services related to your terminal condition provided to you when you enroll in a Medicare-certified hospice are not covered by Independent Health, but are reimbursed directly by Original Medicare except for supplemental benefits which are not covered by Original Medicare.
- Cloning or any service incident to cloning.
- Emergency facility services for non-authorized, routine conditions that do not appear to a prudent layperson to be based on an emergency medical condition.
- Dental splints, dental prostheses, dentures, dental implants or any dental treatment for teeth, gums, or jaw, periodontal cleanings, and dental treatment related to Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD). (Please see dental benefits, limitations and exclusions under the dental benefit below.)
- Services required by a third party. Examples of non-covered services are physical examinations that are not medically necessary, such as those required by employment, insurance, licensing, marriage, and court-ordered examinations.
- Benefits provided for any loss for which mandatory automobile no fault benefits are recovered or recoverable including benefits which would have been recoverable except for the fact that a timely claim was not filed by the Member or by a health care provider.
- Services provided after your membership in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) ends, except in some cases hospital care if you are an inpatient in the hospital receiving acute care services on the day your coverage ends.
- Outpatient prescription drugs that don't meet the definition of a Part D drug as defined by CMS, or as listed in Chapter 4, or in the Independent Health's Prescription Drug Formulary.
- Non-emergent transportation such as wheelchair van, taxi, stretcher van or ambulette not scheduled through Nations Benefits.
- Coverage for accommodating intraocular lenses and related services (lenses which correct your vision and replace your need to wear glasses), except for that portion of the hospital outpatient or physician charges equal to the charge for insertion of a conventional intraocular lens (standard, non-vision correcting lenses).
- Excluded Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and personal care items include but are not limited to:
 - Incontinent Pads, disposable underpads, diapers, briefs, and liners.
 - Automated blood pressure cuff.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

- Over the Counter items
- Personal alarms and/or emergency response systems, including associated fees.
- Items such as tub stools or benches, raised toilet seats, toilet rails, bathtub wall rails, bath/shower chairs, and seat lift mechanisms placed over the top of a toilet.
- Over the tub whirlpools
- Exercise equipment
- Therapeutic light boxes
- Home modifications and associated fees, such as wheelchair ramps.
- Contraceptive devices and insertion and removal of contraceptive devices are not covered (such as an IUD).
- Services provided by a physician or other practitioner who has been precluded by Medicare, except for emergency and urgently needed services.
- With limited exceptions, services provided by an individual who has been sanctioned by CMS or has formally been precluded from the Medicare Program.
- Durable Medical Equipment coverage for items/devices that are not appropriate for use in the member's home environment. Please see Chapter 10 for definition of 'Member's Home'.

For a nursing home enrollee who is custodial, all types of the following DME are not covered: Group 1 pressure support as routine, oxygen, nebulizer machines, gel pads for wheel chair use, all standard hospital beds, excluding heavy duty and other, Standard wheelchairs without accessories, Front wheeled, four-wheeled, and standard walkers, commode seats, and other similar DME that any custodial nursing home resident routinely requires for non-skilled daily care.

- Compression stockings, with the exception of these codes A6552, A6554, A6583, A6531, A6532, A6534, A6535, and A6545 are limited to 6 pairs (12 individual stockings) per year cumulative total. Additionally, we match Original Medicare to cover compression garments to treat lymphedema.
- Post Mastectomy Bras: Limited to 4 per year
- Electric Hospital Beds: A fully electric bed and accessories and parts are not covered. This is an electric bed that has a height adjustment feature as well as electric head and foot adjustment mechanism.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

- Oscillating, circulating, and Stryker frame hospital beds.
- Hospital bed accessory; board, table, or support device, any type.
- Knee scooters, Knee walkers, or other substitutes for crutches are not covered.
- Independent Health does not transfer ownership of durable medical equipment items to the member, such as but not limited to oxygen equipment and vents, hospital grade breast pumps and wearable defibrillators.
- Routine Foot Care is not covered except for members with certain medical conditions affecting the lower limbs. Our coverage for routine foot care matches Original Medicare.
- Chiropractic services other than the manual subluxation of the spine are not covered with the exception of the following Evaluation and management codes: 99202, 99203, 99204, 99211, 99212, 99213. This includes but is not limited to office visits, and radiological services.
- We do not cover services or programs related to, or as part of, Adult Day Care.
- We do not cover any illness, treatment or medical condition due to your participation in a felony, riot or insurrection. This exclusion does not apply to Coverage for services involving injuries suffered by a victim of an act of domestic violence or for services as a result of Your medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions).
- Items and services that do not contribute meaningfully to the treatment of an illness or injury or the functioning of a malformed body member are not covered.
- Items that are primarily and customarily used for a nonmedical purpose, such as room heaters, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, and air purifiers are not covered.
- Equipment which basically serves comfort or convenience functions or is primarily for the convenience of a person caring for the patient, such as slings, elevators, stairway elevators, and posture chairs, do not constitute medical equipment and are not covered. Similarly, physical fitness equipment (such as an exercycle), first-aid or precautionary-type equipment (such as preset portable oxygen units), self-help devices (such as safety grab bars), and training equipment (such as Braille training texts) are considered nonmedical in nature and are not covered.
- Dialysis outside of the United States.
- The plan will not cover the excluded services listed above. Even if you receive the services at an emergency facility, the excluded services are still not covered.

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)**LIBERTY Dental Plan Dental Plan Exclusions:**

The following dental services are excluded under the plan:

- Any service that is not specifically listed as a covered benefit in this booklet.
- Any service listed as a covered benefit in this booklet that has met the frequency limitations.
- Any service provided by a dentist excluded from participating in a federal health care program, such as Medicare and/or Medicaid.
- Services performed after the Plan Benefit Maximum has been met.

You pay 100% for services not listed in this chart. The following codes are covered under your Comprehensive Dental benefit with a LIBERTY Dental Plan provider. Certain criteria and provider preauthorization may be required:

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
	Diagnostic Services		
D0120	Periodic oral evaluation	0%	2 of (D0120-D0180) every calendar year
D0140	Limited oral evaluation	0%	
D0150	Comprehensive oral evaluation	0%	
D0160	Oral evaluation, problem focused	0%	
D0170	Re-evaluation, limited, problem focused	0%	
D0171	Re-evaluation, post operative office visit	0%	
D0180	Comprehensive periodontal evaluation	0%	
D0210	Intraoral, comprehensive series of radiographic images	0%	1 of (D0210, D0330) every 3 calendar years
D0220	Intraoral, periapical, first radiographic image	0%	
D0230	Intraoral, periapical, each add 'l radiographic image	0%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D0240	Intraoral, occlusal radiographic image	0%	2 (D0240) every calendar year
D0270	Bitewing, single radiographic image	0%	2 of (D0270-D0274) every calendar year
D0272	Bitewings, two radiographic images	0%	
D0273	Bitewings, three radiographic images	0%	
D0274	Bitewings, four radiographic images	0%	
D0277	Vertical bitewings, 7 to 8 radiographic images	0%	1 (D0277) every 3 calendar years
D0330	Panoramic radiographic image	0%	1 of (D0210, D0330) every 3 calendar years
	Preventive Services		
D1110	Prophylaxis, adult	0%	2 of (D1110, D4346, D4910) every calendar year
D1206	Topical application of fluoride varnish	0%	2 (D1206) every calendar year
D1208	Topical application of fluoride, excluding varnish	0%	1 (D1208) every calendar year
	Restorative Services		
D2140	Amalgam, one surface, primary or permanent	50%	1 of (D2140-D2335, D2391-D2394) every 3 calendar years per surface per tooth
D2150	Amalgam, two surfaces, primary or permanent	50%	
D2160	Amalgam, three surfaces, primary or permanent	50%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D2161	Amalgam, four or more surfaces, primary or permanent	50%	
D2330	Resin-based composite, one surface, anterior	50%	
D2331	Resin-based composite, two surfaces, anterior	50%	
D2332	Resin-based composite, three surfaces, anterior	50%	
D2335	Resin-based composite, four or more surfaces	50%	
D2390	Resin-based composite crown, anterior	50%	1 (D2390) every 3 calendar years per tooth
D2391	Resin-based composite, one surface, posterior	50%	1 of (D2140-D2335, D2391-D2394) every 3 calendar years per surface per tooth
D2392	Resin-based composite, two surfaces, posterior	50%	
D2393	Resin-based composite, three surfaces, posterior	50%	
D2394	Resin-based composite, four or more surfaces, posterior	50%	
D2710	Crown, resin-based composite (indirect)	50%	1 of (D2710-D2794) every 5 calendar years per tooth
D2712	Crown, $\frac{3}{4}$ resin-based composite (indirect)	50%	
D2720	Crown, resin with high noble metal	50%	
D2721	Crown, resin with predominantly base metal	50%	
D2722	Crown, resin with noble metal	50%	
D2740	Crown, porcelain/ceramic	50%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D2750	Crown, porcelain fused to high noble metal	50%	
D2751	Crown, porcelain fused to predominantly base metal	50%	
D2752	Crown, porcelain fused to noble metal	50%	
D2780	Crown, $\frac{3}{4}$ cast high noble metal	50%	
D2781	Crown, $\frac{3}{4}$ cast predominantly base metal	50%	
D2782	Crown, $\frac{3}{4}$ cast noble metal	50%	
D2783	Crown, $\frac{3}{4}$ porcelain/ceramic	50%	
D2790	Crown, full cast high noble metal	50%	
D2791	Crown, full cast predominantly base metal	50%	
D2792	Crown, full cast noble metal	50%	
D2794	Crown, titanium and titanium alloys	50%	
D2952	Post and core in addition to crown, indirectly fabricated	50%	1 of (D2952, D2954) every 5 calendar years per tooth
D2953	Each additional indirectly fabricated post, same tooth	50%	1 (D2953) every 5 calendar years per tooth
D2954	Prefabricated post and core in addition to crown	50%	1 of (D2952, D2954) every 5 calendar years per tooth
	Endodontic Services		
D3221	Pulpal debridement, primary and permanent teeth	50%	1 (D3221) in a lifetime per tooth
D3310	Endodontic therapy, anterior tooth (excluding final restoration)	50%	1 of (D3310-D3330) in a lifetime per tooth
D3320	Endodontic therapy, premolar tooth (excluding final restoration)	50%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D3330	Endodontic therapy, molar tooth (excluding final restoration)	50%	
D3331	Treatment of root canal obstruction; non-surgical access	50%	1 (D3331) in a lifetime per tooth
D3332	Incomplete endodontic therapy; inoperable, unrestorable, fractured tooth	50%	1 (D3332) in a lifetime per tooth
D3333	Internal root repair of perforation defects	50%	1 (D3333) in a lifetime per tooth
D3346	Retreatment of previous root canal therapy, anterior	50%	1 of (D3346-D3348) in a lifetime per tooth
D3347	Retreatment of previous root canal therapy, premolar	50%	
D3348	Retreatment of previous root canal therapy, molar	50%	
	Periodontal Services		
D4341	Periodontal scaling and root planning, four or more teeth per quadrant	50%	1 of (D4341, D4342) every 2 calendar years per site/per quadrant, no more than 2 quads allowed per date of service
D4342	Periodontal scaling and root planning, one to three teeth per quadrant	50%	
D4346	Scaling in presence of moderate or severe inflammation, full mouth after evaluation	50%	2 of (D1110, D4346, D4910) every calendar year
D4355	Full mouth debridement to enable comprehensive periodontal evaluation and diagnosis, subsequent visit	50%	1 (D4355) every 3 calendar years
D4910	Periodontal maintenance	50%	2 of (D1110, D4346, D4910) every calendar year
	Removable Prosthodontics Services		

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D5110	Complete denture, maxillary	50%	1 of (D5110-D5283) every 5 calendar years per arch
D5120	Complete denture, mandibular	50%	
D5130	Immediate denture, maxillary	50%	
D5140	Immediate denture, mandibular	50%	
D5211	Maxillary partial denture, resin base	50%	
D5212	Mandibular partial denture, resin base	50%	
D5213	Maxillary partial denture, cast metal, resin base	50%	
D5214	Mandibular partial denture, cast metal, resin base	50%	
D5221	Immediate maxillary partial denture, resin base	50%	
D5222	Immediate mandibular partial denture, resin base	50%	
D5223	Immediate maxillary partial denture, cast metal framework, resin denture base	50%	
D5224	Immediate mandibular partial denture, cast metal framework, resin denture base	50%	
D5225	Maxillary partial denture, flexible base	50%	
D5226	Mandibular partial denture, flexible base	50%	
D5282	Removable unilateral partial denture, one piece cast metal, maxillary	50%	
D5283	Removable unilateral partial denture, one piece cast metal, mandibular	50%	
D5410	Adjust complete denture, maxillary	50%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D5411	Adjust complete denture, mandibular	50%	1 of (D5410-D5422) every calendar year per arch
D5421	Adjust partial denture, maxillary	50%	
D5422	Adjust partial denture, mandibular	50%	
D5511	Repair broken complete denture base, mandibular	50%	1 of (D5511, D5512) every calendar year per arch
D5512	Repair broken complete denture base, maxillary	50%	
D5520	Replace missing or broken teeth, complete denture	50%	1 (D5520) every calendar year per arch
D5611	Repair resin partial denture base, mandibular	50%	1 of (D5611-D5622) every calendar year per arch
D5612	Repair resin partial denture base, maxillary	50%	
D5621	Repair cast partial framework, mandibular	50%	
D5622	Repair cast partial framework, maxillary	50%	
D5630	Repair or replace broken retentive clasping materials, per tooth	50%	1 (D5630) every calendar year per tooth
D5640	Replace broken teeth, per tooth	50%	1 (D5640) every calendar year per tooth
D5650	Add tooth to existing partial denture	50%	1 (D5650) every calendar year per tooth
D5660	Add clasp to existing partial denture, per tooth	50%	1 (D5660) every calendar year per tooth
D5670	Replace all teeth & acrylic on cast metal frame, maxillary	50%	1 of (D5670, D5671) every 2 calendar years per arch
D5671	Replace all teeth & acrylic on cast metal frame, mandibular	50%	

Chapter 4 Medical Benefits Chart (what's covered and what you pay)

CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D5710	Rebase complete maxillary denture	50%	1 of (D5710-D5761) every 2 calendar years per arch
D5711	Rebase complete mandibular denture	50%	
D5720	Rebase maxillary partial denture	50%	
D5721	Rebase mandibular partial denture	50%	
D5730	Reline complete maxillary denture, direct	50%	
D5731	Reline complete mandibular denture, direct	50%	
D5740	Reline maxillary partial denture, direct	50%	
D5741	Reline mandibular partial denture, direct	50%	
D5750	Reline complete maxillary denture, indirect	50%	
D5751	Reline complete mandibular denture, indirect	50%	
D5760	Reline maxillary partial denture, indirect	50%	
D5761	Reline mandibular partial denture, indirect	50%	
	Oral & Maxillofacial Services		
D7140	Extraction, erupted tooth or exposed root	50%	1 of (D7140-D7250) per lifetime per tooth
D7210	Extraction, erupted tooth requiring removal of bone and/or sectioning of tooth	50%	
D7220	Removal of impacted tooth, soft tissue	50%	
D7230	Removal of impacted tooth, partially bony	50%	
D7240	Removal of impacted tooth, completely bony	50%	

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CDT Code	Description	Member Responsibility	Limitations
D7241	Removal impacted tooth, complete bony, complication	50%	
D7250	Removal of residual tooth roots (cutting procedure)	50%	
D7260	Oroantral fistula closure	50%	1 (D7260) every 5 calendar years per site/quad
	Adjunctive General Services		
D9110	Palliative treatment of dental pain, per visit	50%	1 (D9110) every calendar year
D9310	Consultation, other than requesting dentist	50%	1 (D9310) every 6 months
D9311	Consultation with a medical health care professional	50%	
D9995	Teledentistry, synchronous; real-time encounter	0%	2 of (D9995, D9996) every calendar year
D9996	Teledentistry, asynchronous; information stored and forwarded to dentist for subsequent review	0%	

Start Hearing - Hearing Aid Exclusions:

The following hearing aid services are excluded under the plan:

- Hearing aids and provider visits to service hearing aids (except as specifically described in the covered benefits)
- Ear molds
- Hearing aid accessories
- Warranty claim fees and hearing aid batteries in excess of the 40 that come with the original purchase
- Costs associated with replacing lost or damaged hearing aids (\$250 per hearing aid).
- Hearing aids other than select Starkey models purchased through an Start Hearing network provider.

CHAPTER 5:

Asking us to pay our share of a bill for covered medical services

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

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

There may also be times when you get a bill from a provider for the full cost of medical care you got or for more than your share of cost sharing as discussed in this material. First try to resolve the bill with the provider. If that doesn't work, send the bill to us instead of paying it. We'll look at the bill and decide whether the services should be covered. If we decide they should be covered, we'll pay the provider directly. If we decide not to pay it, we'll notify the provider. You should never pay more than plan-allowed cost sharing. If this provider is contracted, you still have the right to treatment.

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

1. When you've got emergency or urgently needed medical care from a provider who's not in our plan's network

Outside the service area, you can get emergency or urgently needed services from any provider, whether or not the provider is a part of our network. In these cases,

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost for emergency or urgently needed services. Emergency providers are legally required to provide emergency care.

- If you pay the entire amount yourself at the time you get the care, ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. Send us the bill, along with documentation of any payments you made.
- You may get a bill from the provider asking for payment you think you don't owe. Send us this bill, along with documentation of any payments you already made.
 - If the provider is owed anything, we'll pay the provider directly.
 - If you already paid more than your share of the cost of the service, we'll determine how much you owed and pay you back for our share of the cost.

2. When a network provider sends you a bill you think you shouldn't pay

Network providers should always bill our plan directly and ask you only for your share of the cost. But sometimes they make mistakes and ask you to pay more than your share.

- You only have to pay your cost-sharing amount when you get covered services. We don't allow providers to add additional separate charges, called **balance billing**. This protection (that you never pay more than your cost-sharing amount) applies even if we pay the provider less than the provider charges for a service and even if there's a dispute and we don't pay certain provider charges.
- Whenever you get a bill from a network provider you think is more than you should pay, send us the bill. We'll contact the provider directly and resolve the billing problem.
- If you already paid a bill to a network provider, but feel you paid too much, send us the bill along with documentation of any payment you made and ask us to pay you back the difference between the amount you paid and the amount you owed under our plan.

3. If you're retroactively enrolled in our plan

Sometimes a person's enrollment in our plan is retroactive. (This means that the first day of their enrollment has already passed. The enrollment date may even have occurred last year.)

If you were retroactively enrolled in our plan and you paid out-of-pocket for any covered services after your enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back for our share of the costs. You need to submit paperwork such as receipts and bills for us to handle the reimbursement.

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

SECTION 2 How to ask us to pay you back or pay a bill you got

You can ask us to pay you back by either calling us or sending us a request in writing. If you send a request in writing, send your bill and documentation of any payment you've made. It's a good idea to make a copy of your bill and receipts for your records. **You must submit your claim to us within one year** of the date you got the service or item.

To make sure you're giving us all the information we need to make a decision, you can fill out our claim form to make your request for payment.

- You don't have to use the form, but it'll help us process the information faster.
- Download a copy of the form from our website (independenthealth.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Individuals/IndependentHealthGeneralClaimForm.pdf) or call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the form.

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

For Medical Claims:

Independent Health
PO Box 9066
Buffalo, NY 14231-9066

Attn: Claims Department

For Dental Claims:

LIBERTY Dental Plan
P.O. Box 15149
Tampa, FL 33684

For Vision Claims:

EyeMed Vision Care
Attn: OON Claims
P.O. Box 8504
Mason, OH 45040-7111

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

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

- If we decide the medical care is covered and you followed all the rules, we'll pay for our share of the cost. If you already paid for the service, we'll mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. If you haven't paid for the service yet, we'll mail the payment directly to the provider.
- If we decide the medical care is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we won't pay for our share of the cost. We'll send you a letter explaining the reasons why we aren't sending the payment and your rights to appeal that decision.

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

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

CHAPTER 6:

Your rights and responsibilities

SECTION 1 Our plan must honor your rights and cultural sensitivities

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

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

Our plan has free interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English speaking members. Verbal translation of written materials is available via free interpreter services. For those with special needs, accessibility to benefit information or alternate formats (e.g., large print) of written materials is available upon request. We can also give you information in braille, in large print, or other alternate formats at no cost if you need it. We're required to give you information about our plan's benefits in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you. To get information from us in a way that works for you, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

Our plan is required to give female enrollees the option of direct access to a women's health specialist within the network for women's routine and preventive health care services.

If providers in our plan's network for a specialty aren't available, it's our plan's responsibility to locate specialty providers outside the network who will provide you with the necessary care. In this case, you'll only pay in-network cost sharing. If you find yourself in a situation where there are no specialists in our plan's network that cover a service you need, call our plan for information on where to go get this service at in-network cost sharing.

If you have any trouble getting information from our plan in a format that's accessible and appropriate for you, seeing a women's health specialist or finding a network specialist, call to file a grievance with Independent Health Member Services at 1-800-665-1502. TTY users call 711. You can also file a complaint with Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or directly with the Office for Civil Rights 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697.

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

You have the right to choose a primary care provider (PCP) in our plan's network to provide and arrange for your covered services. We don't require you to get referrals to go to network providers. If you do not choose a Primary Care Provider (PCP), one will be selected for you. You have the right to change your PCP at any time.

You have the right to get appointments and covered services from our plan's network of providers *within a reasonable amount of time*. This includes the right to get timely services from specialists when you need that care.

If you think you aren't getting your medical care within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7 tells what you can do.

Section 1.3 We must protect the privacy of your personal health information

Federal and state laws protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information. We protect your personal health information as required by these laws.

- Your personal health information includes the personal information you gave us when you enrolled in this plan as well as your medical records and other medical and health information.
- You have rights related to your information and controlling how your health information is used. We give you a written notice, called a *Notice of Privacy Practice*, that tells about these rights and explains how we protect the privacy of your health information.

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records.
- Except for the circumstances noted below, if we intend to give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care, *we are required to get written permission from you or someone you've given legal power to make decisions for you first*.
- There are certain exceptions that don't require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.

- We're required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care.
- Because you're a member of our plan through Medicare, we're required to give Medicare your health information. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to federal statutes and regulations; typically, this requires that information that uniquely identifies you not be shared.

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

You have the right to look at your medical records held by our plan, and to get a copy of your records. We're allowed to charge you a fee for making copies. You also have the right to ask us to make additions or corrections to your medical records. If you ask us to do this, we'll work with your healthcare provider to decide whether the changes should be made.

You have the right to know how your health information has been shared with others for any purposes that aren't routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

The Independent Health Quality Initiative Quality Physicians

Independent Health's credentialing standards ensure you receive appropriate care from qualified physicians in appropriate settings. Our credentialing team checks the status of a physician's license, verifies that the physician has had the appropriate training for his or her specialty, and looks for any potential problems with the quality of care a physician provides his or her patients. This review takes place when a physician first joins the network, upon recredentialing every three years, and on an ongoing basis through the Credentialing program.

Continuous Improvement

At Independent Health, we value any comments and feedback that our members can provide. One of the ways we do this is by having one third of our board of directors comprised of Independent Health members. Their active participation in the creation and approval of policies implemented by Independent Health acts as a check and balance to what our members want, and don't want. You always have an opportunity to participate in developing Independent Health's policies or voice your concerns by calling our Member Services department at (716) 250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502. If you would like to receive a complete copy of Independent Health's Quality Management Program Description, please call our Member Services department at (716) 250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502 or TTY at 711. You may also view it online at independenthealth.com.

How we pay the doctors and other providers who take care of you

Independent Health pays its providers using various payment methods which may include fee-for-service, case rate, per diem, per member per month (PMPM), and incentive arrangements.

- Fee-For-Service means paying a provider a defined dollar amount per each service (like an office visit, procedure or test) rendered
- Per Diem means paying a provider a fixed dollar amount per day for services rendered
- Case Rate means paying a provider a fixed dollar amount that covers a defined group of procedures and services
- In addition to Independent Health's credentialing and utilization management policies to help ensure high quality care across all payment methodologies, incentive payments to providers more directly link reimbursement to the effectiveness and efficiency of the care delivered.
- Per Member Per Month (PMPM) means paying a fixed dollar amount to a provider each month for each member under that provider's care

You have the right to ask if we have special financial arrangements with our physicians that can affect the use of referrals and other services that you might need. For more specific information, call Member Services at the number on the cover of this booklet.

Note that it is Independent Health's responsibility to pay providers for the covered benefits and services you receive (other than the copayments, coinsurance, or other payments that are your responsibility). This includes paying network providers (those that have agreed to provide services to Independent Health's Medicare Members), and paying non-network who have been authorized by us to provide services to you, or who provide covered emergency, post-emergency, urgently needed services, or out-of-area dialysis. In the event we fail to pay a provider for covered services or prior authorized services, you will not be liable for any further payment owed by Independent Health.

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

As a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), you have the right to get several kinds of information from us.

If you want any of the following kinds of information, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711):

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

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

You have the right to get full information from your doctors and other health care providers. Your providers must explain your medical condition and your treatment choices *in a way that you can understand*.

You also have the right to participate fully in decisions about your health care. To help you make decisions with your doctors about what treatment is best for you, your rights include the following:

- **To know about all your choices.** You have the right to be told about all treatment options recommended for your condition, no matter what they cost or whether they're covered by our plan.
- **To know about the risks.** You have the right to be told about any risks involved in your care. You must be told in advance if any proposed medical care or treatment is part of a research experiment. You always have the choice to refuse any experimental treatments.
- **The right to say "no."** You have the right to refuse any recommended treatment. This includes the right to leave a hospital or other medical facility, even if your doctor advises you not to leave. If you refuse treatment, you accept full responsibility for what happens to your body as a result.

You have the right to give instructions about what's to be done if you can't make medical decisions for yourself

Sometimes people become unable to make health care decisions for themselves due to accidents or serious illness. You have the right to say what you want to happen if you're in this situation. This means, *if you want to*, you can:

- Fill out a written form to give **someone the legal authority to make medical decisions for you** if you ever become unable to make decisions for yourself.
- **Give your doctors written instructions** about how you want them to handle your medical care if you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

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

How to set up an advance directive to give instructions:

- **Get a form.** You can get an advance directive form from your lawyer, a social worker, or some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare. You can also call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) to ask for the forms.
- **Fill out the form and sign it.** No matter where you get this form, it's a legal document. Consider having a lawyer help you prepare it.
- **Give copies of the form to the right people.** Give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form who can make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members. Keep a copy at home.

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

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

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

If your instructions aren't followed

If you sign an advance directive and you believe that a doctor or hospital didn't follow the instructions in it, you can file a complaint with New York State Department of Health at 1-716-847-4532 or health.ny.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

- **Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711)**
- **Call your local SHIP** at 1-800-701-0501
- **Call Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)

Section 1.8 How to get more information about your rights

Get more information about your rights from these places:

- **Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711)**
- **Call your local SHIP** at 1-800-701-0501
- **Contact Medicare**
 - Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to read the publication *Medicare Rights & Protections*. (available at: [Medicare Rights & Protections](#))
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048)

SECTION 2 Your responsibilities as a member of our plan

Things you need to do as a member of our plan are listed below. For questions, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

- **Get familiar with your covered services and the rules you must follow to get these covered services.** Use this *Evidence of Coverage* document to learn what's covered and the rules you need to follow to get covered services.
 - Chapters 3 and 4 give details about medical services.
- **If you have any other health coverage in addition to our plan, or separate prescription drug coverage, you're required to tell us.** Chapter 1 tells you about coordinating these benefits.
- **Tell your doctor and other health care providers that you're enrolled in our plan.** Show our plan membership card whenever you get medical care.
- **Help your doctors and other providers help you by giving them information, asking questions, and following through on your care.**
 - To help get the best care, tell your doctors and other health providers about your health problems. Follow the treatment plans and instructions you and your doctors agree on.
 - Make sure your doctors know all the drugs you're taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements.
 - If you have questions, be sure to ask and get an answer you can understand.
- **Be considerate.** We expect our members to respect the rights of other patients. We also expect you to act in a way that helps the smooth running of your doctor's office, hospitals, and other offices.
- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you're responsible for these payments:
 - You must continue to pay your premium for your Medicare Part B to stay a member of our plan.
 - For some of your medical services covered by our plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the service.
- **If you move *within* our plan service area, we need to know** so we can keep your membership record up to date and know how to contact you.
- **If you move *outside* our plan service area, for more than six months, you can't stay a member of our plan.**
- **If you move, tell Social Security (or the Railroad Retirement Board).**

CHAPTER 7:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 1.1 Legal terms

There are legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this chapter. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people. To make things easier, this chapter uses more familiar words in place of some legal terms.

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

SECTION 2 Where to get more information and personalized help

We're always available to help you. Even if you have a complaint about our treatment of you, we're obligated to honor your right to complain. You should always call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) for help. In some situations, you may also want help or

guidance from someone who isn't connected with us. Two organizations that can help you are:

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Each state has a government program with trained counselors. The program is not connected with us or with any insurance company or health plan. The counselors at this program can help you understand which process you should use to handle a problem you're having. They can also answer questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

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

Medicare

You can also contact Medicare for help.

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048
- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

SECTION 3 Which process to use for your problem

Is your problem or concern about your benefits or coverage?

This includes problems about whether medical care (medical items, services and/or Part B drugs) are covered or not, the way they're covered, and problems related to payment for medical care.

Yes.

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

No.

Go to **Section 9, How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns.**

Coverage decisions and appeals

SECTION 4 A guide to coverage decisions and appeals

Coverage decisions and appeals deal with problems about your benefits and coverage for your medical care (services, items, and Part B drugs, including payment). To keep things simple, we generally refer to medical items, services, and Medicare Part B drugs as **medical care**. You may use the coverage decision and appeals process for issues such as whether something is covered or not and the way in which something is covered.

Asking for coverage decisions before you get services

If you want to know if we'll cover medical care before you get it, you can ask us to make a coverage decision for you. A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we'll pay for your medical care. For example, if our plan network doctor refers you to a medical specialist not inside the network, this referral is considered a favorable coverage decision unless either you or your network doctor can show that you got a standard denial notice for this medical specialist, or the *Evidence of Coverage* makes it clear that the referred service is never covered under any condition. You or your doctor can also contact us and ask for a coverage decision if your doctor is unsure whether we'll cover a particular medical service or refuses to provide medical care you think you need.

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

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

Making an appeal

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

When you appeal a decision for the first time, this is called a Level 1 appeal. In this appeal, we review the coverage decision we made to check to see if we properly followed the rules. When we complete the review, we give you our decision.

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

If we say no to all or part of your Level 1 appeal for medical care, your appeal will automatically go on to a Level 2 appeal conducted by an independent review organization not connected to us.

- You don't need to do anything to start a Level 2 appeal. Medicare rules require we automatically send your appeal for medical care to Level 2 if we don't fully agree with your Level 1 appeal.
- Go to **Section 5.4** for more information about Level 2 appeals for medical care.

If you aren't satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 appeal, you may be able to continue through additional levels of appeal (this chapter explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes).

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

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

- **Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711)**
- **Get free help** from your State Health Insurance Program.
- **Your doctor can make a request for you.** If your doctor helps with an appeal past Level 2, they need to be appointed as your representative. Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the *Appointment of Representative* form. (The form is also available at [CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf) or on our website at independenthealth.com.)
 - For medical care or Part B drugs, your doctor can ask for a coverage decision or a Level 1 appeal on your behalf. If your appeal is denied at Level 1, it will be automatically forwarded to Level 2.

- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** You can name another person to act for you as your *representative* to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal.
 - If you want a friend, relative, or another person to be your representative, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) and ask for the *Appointment of Representative* form. (The form is also available at [CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf) or on our website at independenthealth.com.) This form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person you want to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form.
 - We can accept an appeal request from a representative without the form, but we can't complete our review until we get it. If we don't get the form before our deadline for making a decision on your appeal, your appeal request will be dismissed. If this happens, we'll send you a written notice explaining your right to ask the independent review organization to review our decision to dismiss your appeal.
- **You also have the right to hire a lawyer.** You can contact your own lawyer or get the name of a lawyer from your local bar association or other referral service. There are groups that will give you free legal services if you qualify. However, **you aren't required to hire a lawyer** to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision.

Section 4.2 Rules and deadlines for different situations

There are 3 different situations that involve coverage decisions and appeals. Each situation has different rules and deadlines. We give the details for each of these situations:

- **Section 5:** Medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal
- **Section 6:** How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think the doctor is discharging you too soon
- **Section 7:** How to ask us to keep covering certain medical services if you think your coverage is ending too soon (*Applies to only these services:* home health care, skilled nursing facility care, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services)

If you're not sure information applies to you, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). You can also get help or information from your SHIP.

SECTION 5 Medical care: How to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal

Section 5.1 What to do if you have problems getting coverage for medical care or want us to pay you back for our share of the cost of your care

Your benefits for medical care are described in Chapter 4 in the Medical Benefits Chart. In some cases, different rules apply to a request for a Part B drug. In those cases, we'll explain how the rules for Part B drugs are different from the rules for medical items and services.

This section tells what you can do if you're in any of the 5 following situations:

1. You aren't getting certain medical care you want, and you believe this is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision. Section 5.2.**
2. Our plan won't approve the medical care your doctor or other medical provider wants to give you, and you believe this care is covered by our plan. **Ask for a coverage decision. Section 5.2.**
3. You got medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, but we said we won't pay for this care. **Make an Appeal. Section 5.3.**
4. You got and paid for medical care that you believe should be covered by our plan, and you want to ask our plan to reimburse you for this care. **Send us the bill. Section 5.5**
5. You're being told that coverage for certain medical care you've been getting that we previously approved will be reduced or stopped, and you believe that reducing or stopping this care could harm your health. **Make an Appeal. Section 5.3**

Note: If the coverage that will be stopped is for hospital care, home health care, skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services, go to Sections 6 and 7 of this chapter. Special rules apply to these types of care.

Section 5.2 How to ask for a coverage decision

Legal Terms:

A coverage decision that involves your medical care is called an **organization determination**.

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

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

A standard coverage decision is usually made within 7 calendar days when the medical item or service is subject to our prior authorization rules, 14 calendar days for all other medical items and services, or 72 hours for Part B drugs. A fast coverage decision is generally made within 72 hours, for medical services, or 24 hours for Part B drugs. To get a fast coverage decision, you must meet 2 requirements:

- You may *only ask* for coverage for medical care items and/or services (not requests for payment for items and/or services you already got).
- You can get a fast coverage decision *only* if using the standard deadlines could cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to regain function.

If your doctor tells us that your health requires a fast coverage decision, we'll automatically agree to give you a fast coverage decision.

If you ask for a fast coverage decision on your own, without your doctor's support, we'll decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast coverage decision. If we don't approve a fast coverage decision, we'll send you a letter that:

- Explains that we'll use the standard deadlines.
- Explains if your doctor asks for the fast coverage decision, we'll automatically give you a fast coverage decision.
- Explains that you can file a *fast complaint* about our decision to give you a standard coverage decision instead of the fast coverage decision you asked for.

Step 2: Ask our plan to make a coverage decision or fast coverage decision.

- Start by calling, writing, or faxing our plan to make your request for us to authorize or provide coverage for the medical care you want. You, your doctor, or your representative can do this. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Step 3: We consider your request for medical care coverage and give you our answer.

For standard coverage decisions, we use the standard deadlines.

This means we'll give you an answer within 7 calendar days after we get your request for a medical item or service that is subject to our prior authorization rules. If your requested medical item or service is not subject to our prior authorization rules, we'll give you an answer within 14 calendar days after we get your request. If your request is for a Part B drug, we'll give you an answer within 72 hours after we get your request.

- **However**, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item

or service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.

- If you believe we *shouldn't* take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. We'll give you an answer to your complaint as soon as we make the decision. (The process for making a complaint is different from the process for coverage decisions and appeals. Go to Section 9 for information on complaints.)

For fast Coverage decisions, we use an expedited timeframe.

A fast coverage decision means we'll answer within 72 hours if your request is for a medical item or service. If your request is for a Part B drug, we'll answer within 24 hours.

- **However**, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days**. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.
- If you believe we *shouldn't* take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. (Go to Section 9 of this chapter for information on complaints.) We'll call you as soon as we make the decision.
- If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for, we'll send you a written statement that explains why we said no.

Step 4: If we say no to your request for coverage for medical care, you can appeal.

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

Section 5.3 How to make a Level 1 appeal

Legal Terms:

An appeal to our plan about a medical care coverage decision is called a plan **reconsideration**.

A fast appeal is also called an **expedited reconsideration**.

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

A standard appeal is usually made within 30 calendar days or 7 calendar days for Part B drugs. A fast appeal is generally made within 72 hours.

- If you're appealing a decision we made about coverage for care, you and/or your doctor need to decide if you need a fast appeal. If your doctor tells us that your health requires a fast appeal, we'll give you a fast appeal.
- The requirements for getting a *fast appeal* are the same as those for getting a fast coverage decision in Section 5.2 of this chapter.

Step 2: Ask our plan for an Appeal or a Fast Appeal

- **If you're asking for a standard appeal, submit your standard appeal in writing.** You may also ask for an appeal by calling us. Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **If you're asking for a fast appeal, make your appeal in writing or call us.** Chapter 2 has contact information.
- **You must make your appeal request within 65 calendar days** from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer on the coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, explain the reason your appeal is late when you make your appeal. We may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause may include a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for asking for an appeal.
- **You can ask for a copy of the information regarding your medical decision. You and your doctor may add more information to support your appeal.** We're allowed to charge a fee for copying and sending this information to you.

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

- When our plan is reviewing your appeal, we take a careful look at all the information. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request.
- We'll gather more information if needed and may contact you or your doctor.

Deadlines for a fast appeal

- For fast appeals, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours after we get your appeal.** We'll give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or

service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time if your request is for a Part B drug.

- If we don't give you an answer within 72 hours (or by the end of the extended time period if we took extra days), we're required to automatically send your request to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent review organization. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it gets your appeal. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must authorize or provide the coverage we agreed to within 72 hours after we get your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you asked for**, we'll send you our decision in writing and automatically forward your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it gets your appeal.

Deadlines for a standard appeal

- For standard appeals, we must give you our answer **within 30 calendar days** after we get your appeal. If your request is for a Part B drug you didn't get yet, we'll give you our answer **within 7 calendar days** after we get your appeal. We'll give you our decision sooner if your health condition requires us to.
 - However, if you ask for more time, or if we need more information that may benefit you, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service. If we take extra days, we'll tell you in writing. We can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.
 - If you believe we shouldn't take extra days, you can file a *fast complaint*. When you file a fast complaint, we'll give you an answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (Go to Section 9 for information on complaints.)
 - If we don't give you an answer by the deadline (or by the end of the extended time period), we'll send your request to a Level 2 appeal, where an independent review organization will review the appeal. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it gets your appeal. Section 5.4 explains the Level 2 appeal process.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you asked for**, we must authorize or provide the coverage within **30 calendar days** if your request is for a medical item or service, or **within 7 calendar days** if your request is for a Part B drug.

- **If our plan says no to part or all of your appeal**, we'll automatically send your appeal to the independent review organization for a Level 2 appeal. The independent review organization will notify you in writing when it gets your appeal.

Section 5.4 The Level 2 appeal process

Legal Term:

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

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

Step 1: The independent review organization reviews your appeal.

- We'll send the information about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your **case file**. **You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file**. We're allowed to charge you a fee for copying and sending this information to you.
- You have a right to give the independent review organization additional information to support your appeal.
- Reviewers at the independent review organization will take a careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

If you had a fast appeal at Level 1, you'll also have a fast appeal at Level 2.

- For the fast appeal, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 72 hours** of when it gets your appeal.
- If your request is for a medical item or service and the independent review organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, **it can take up to 14 more calendar days**. If they take extra days, they will notify you in writing. The independent review organization can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.

If you had a standard appeal at Level 1, you'll also have a standard appeal at Level 2.

- For the standard appeal, if your request is for a medical item or service, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 30 calendar days** of when it gets your appeal. If your request is for a Part

B drug, the independent review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 appeal **within 7 calendar days** of when it gets your appeal.

- If your request is for a medical item or service and the independent review organization needs to gather more information that may benefit you, **it can take up to 14 more calendar days**. If they take extra days, they will notify you in writing. The independent review organization can't take extra time to make a decision if your request is for a Part B drug.

Step 2: The independent review organization gives you its answer.

The independent review organization will tell you its decision in writing and explain the reasons for it.

- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of a request for a medical item or service**, we must authorize the medical care coverage within **72 hours** or provide the service within 14 calendar days after we get the decision from the independent review organization for **standard requests**. For **expedited requests**, we have **72 hours** from the date we get the decision from the independent review organization.
- **If the independent review organization says yes to part or all of a request for a Part B drug**, we must authorize or provide the Part B drug within **72 hours** after we get the decision from the independent review organization for **standard requests**. For **expedited requests**, we have **24 hours** from the date we get the decision from the independent review organization.
- **If this organization says no to part or all of your appeal**, it means they agree with us that your request (or part of your request) for coverage for medical care shouldn't be approved. (This is called **upholding the decision or turning down your appeal**.) In this case, the independent review organization will send you a letter that:
 - Explains the decision.
 - Lets you know about your right to a Level 3 appeal if the dollar value of the medical care coverage meets a certain minimum. The written notice you get from the independent review organization will tell you the dollar amount you must meet to continue the appeals process.
 - Tells you how to file a Level 3 appeal.

Step 3: If your case meets the requirements, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are 3 additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go to a Level 3 appeal the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 explains the Level 3, 4, and 5 appeals processes.

Section 5.5 If you're asking us to pay for our share of a bill you got for medical care

Chapter 5 describes when you may need to ask for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have got from a provider. It also tells how to send us the paperwork that asks us for payment.

Asking for reimbursement is asking for a coverage decision from us

If you send us the paperwork asking for reimbursement, you're asking for a coverage decision. To make this decision, we'll check to see if the medical care you paid for is covered. We'll also check to see if you followed the rules for using your coverage for medical care.

- **If we say yes to your request:** If the medical care is covered and you followed the rules, we'll send you the payment for our share of the cost typically within 30 calendar days, but no later than 60 calendar days after we get your request. If you haven't paid for the medical care, we'll send the payment directly to the provider.
- **If we say no to your request:** If the medical care is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we won't send payment. Instead, we'll send you a letter that says we won't pay for the medical care and the reasons why.

If you don't agree with our decision to turn you down, **you can make an appeal**. If you make an appeal, it means you're asking us to change the coverage decision we made when we turned down your request for payment.

To make this appeal, follow the process for appeals in Section 5.3. For appeals concerning reimbursement, note:

- We must give you our answer within 60 calendar days after we get your appeal. If you're asking us to pay you back for medical care you already got and paid for, you aren't allowed to ask for a fast appeal.
- If the independent review organization decides we should pay, we must send you or the provider the payment within 30 calendar days. If the answer to your appeal is yes at any stage of the appeals process after Level 2, we must send the payment you asked for to you or the provider within 60 calendar days.

SECTION 6 How to ask us to cover a longer inpatient hospital stay if you think you're being discharged too soon

When you're admitted to a hospital, you have the right to get all covered hospital services necessary to diagnose and treat your illness or injury.

During your covered hospital stay, your doctor and the hospital staff will work with you to prepare for the day you leave the hospital. They'll help arrange for care you may need after you leave.

- The day you leave the hospital is called your **discharge date**.
- When your discharge date is decided, your doctor or the hospital staff will tell you.
- If you think you're being asked to leave the hospital too soon, you can ask for a longer hospital stay, and your request will be considered.

Section 6.1 During your inpatient hospital stay, you'll get a written notice from Medicare that tells you about your rights

Within 2 calendar days of being admitted to the hospital, you'll be given a written notice called *An Important Message from Medicare about Your Rights*. Everyone with Medicare gets a copy of this notice. If you don't get the notice from someone at the hospital (for example, a caseworker or nurse), ask any hospital employee for it. If you need help, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048).

1. Read this notice carefully and ask questions if you don't understand it. It tells you:

- Your right to get Medicare-covered services during and after your hospital stay, as ordered by your doctor. This includes the right to know what these services are, who will pay for them, and where you can get them.
- Your right to be involved in any decisions about your hospital stay.
- Where to report any concerns you have about quality of your hospital care.
- Your right to **request an immediate review** of the decision to discharge you if you think you're being discharged from the hospital too soon. This is a formal, legal way to ask for a delay in your discharge date, so we'll cover your hospital care for a longer time.

2. You'll be asked to sign the written notice to show that you got it and understand your rights.

- You or someone who is acting on your behalf will be asked to sign the notice.

- Signing the notice shows *only* that you got the information about your rights. The notice doesn't give your discharge date. Signing the notice **doesn't mean** you're agreeing on a discharge date.
3. **Keep your copy** of the notice so you have the information about making an appeal (or reporting a concern about quality of care) if you need it.
- If you sign the notice more than 2 calendar days before your discharge date, you'll get another copy before you're scheduled to be discharged.
 - To look at a copy of this notice in advance, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can also get the notice online at [CMS.gov/Medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-ma-im).

Section 6.2 How to make a Level 1 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

To ask us to cover your inpatient hospital services for a longer time, use the appeals process to make this request. Before you start, understand what you need to do and what the deadlines are:

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have questions or need help, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). Or call your State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for personalized help. SHIP contact information is available in Chapter 2, Section 3.

During a Level 1 appeal, the Quality Improvement Organization reviews your appeal. It checks to see if your planned discharge date is medically appropriate for you. The **Quality Improvement Organization** is a group of doctors and other health care professionals who are paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. This includes reviewing hospital discharge dates for people with Medicare. These experts aren't part of our plan.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization for your state and ask for an immediate review of your hospital discharge. You must act quickly.

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you got (*An Important Message from Medicare About Your Rights*) tells you how to reach this organization. (Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in Chapter 2.

Act quickly:

- To make your appeal, you must contact the Quality Improvement Organization *before* you leave the hospital and **no later than midnight the day of your discharge**.
 - **If you meet this deadline**, you can stay in the hospital *after* your discharge date *without paying for it* while you wait to get the decision from the Quality Improvement Organization.
 - **If you don't meet this deadline, contact us.** If you decide to stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, *you may have to pay all the costs* for hospital care you get after your planned discharge date.
- Once you ask for an immediate review of your hospital discharge the Quality Improvement Organization will contact us. By noon of the day after we're contacted, we'll give you a **Detailed Notice of Discharge**. This notice gives your planned discharge date and explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it's right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.
- You can get a sample of the **Detailed Notice of Discharge** by calling Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.) Or you can get a sample notice online at [CMS.gov/Medicare/forms-notice/beneficiary-notice-initiative/ffs-ma-im](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/forms-notice/beneficiary-notice-initiative/ffs-ma-im).

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization conducts an independent review of your case.

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the *reviewers*) will ask you (or your representative) why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you can if you want.
- The reviewers will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information that we and the hospital gave them.
- By noon of the day after the reviewers told us of your appeal, you'll get a written notice from us that gives your planned discharge date. This notice also explains in detail the reasons why your doctor, the hospital, and we think it's right (medically appropriate) for you to be discharged on that date.

Step 3: Within one full day after it has all the needed information, the Quality Improvement Organization will give you its answer to your appeal.***What happens if the answer is yes?***

- If the independent review organization says *yes*, **we must keep providing your covered inpatient hospital services for as long as these services are medically necessary.**
- You'll have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as deductibles or copayments if these apply). In addition, there may be limitations on your covered hospital services.

What happens if the answer is no?

- If the independent review organization says *no*, they're saying that your planned discharge date is medically appropriate. If this happens, **our coverage for your inpatient hospital services will end** at noon on the day *after* the Quality Improvement Organization gives you its answer to your appeal.
- If the independent review organization says *no* to your appeal and you decide to stay in the hospital, **you may have to pay the full cost** of hospital care you get after noon on the day after the Quality Improvement Organization gives you its answer to your appeal.

Step 4: If the answer to your Level 1 appeal is no, you decide if you want to make another appeal

- If the Quality Improvement Organization said no to your appeal, *and* you stay in the hospital after your planned discharge date, you can make another appeal. Making another appeal means you're going to *Level 2* of the appeals process.

Section 6.3 How to make a Level 2 appeal to change your hospital discharge date

During a Level 2 appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at its decision on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your stay after your planned discharge date.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review.

- You must ask for this review **within 60 calendar days** after the day the Quality Improvement Organization said *no* to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you stay in the hospital after the date your coverage for the care ended.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization does a second review of your situation.

- Reviewers at the Quality Improvement Organization will take another careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your request for a Level 2 appeal, the reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you their decision.***If the independent review organization says yes:***

- **We must reimburse you** for our share of the costs of hospital care you got since noon on the day after the date your first appeal was turned down by the Quality Improvement Organization. **We must continue providing coverage for your inpatient hospital care for as long as it's medically necessary.**
- You must continue to pay your share of the costs and coverage limitations may apply.

If the independent review organization says no:

- It means they agree with the decision they made on your Level 1 appeal. This is called upholding the decision.
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you want to continue with the review process.

Step 4: If the answer is no, you need to decide whether you want to take your appeal further by going to Level 3

- There are 3 additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go to a Level 3 appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal decision.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

SECTION 7 How to ask us to keep covering certain medical services if you think your coverage is ending too soon

When you're getting covered **home health services, skilled nursing care, or rehabilitation care (Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility)**, you have the right to keep getting your services for that type of care for as long as the care is needed to diagnose and treat your illness or injury.

When we decide it's time to stop covering any of these 3 types of care for you, we're required to tell you in advance. When your coverage for that care ends, *we'll stop paying our share of the cost for your care.*

If you think we're ending the coverage of your care too soon, you can appeal our decision. This section tells you how to ask for an appeal.

Section 7.1 We'll tell you in advance when your coverage will be ending

Legal Term:

Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage. It tells you how you can ask for a **fast-track appeal**. Asking for a fast-track appeal is a formal, legal way to ask for a change to our coverage decision about when to stop your care.

1. You get a notice in writing at least 2 calendar days before our plan is going to stop covering your care. The notice tells you:

- The date when we'll stop covering the care for you.
- How to request a fast track appeal to ask us to keep covering your care for a longer period of time.

2. You, or someone who is acting on your behalf, will be asked to sign the written notice to show that you got it. Signing the notice shows *only* that you got the information about when your coverage will stop. **Signing it doesn't mean you agree** with our plan's decision to stop care.

Section 7.2 How to make a Level 1 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time

If you want to ask us to cover your care for a longer period of time, you'll need to use the appeals process to make this request. Before you start, understand what you need to do and what the deadlines are.

- **Follow the process.**
- **Meet the deadlines.**
- **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have questions or need help, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). Or call your State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for personalized help. SHIP contact information is available in Chapter 2, Section 3.

During a Level 1 appeal, the Quality Improvement Organization reviews your appeal. It decides if the end date for your care is medically appropriate. The **Quality Improvement Organization** is a group of doctors and other health care experts who are paid by the federal government to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. This includes reviewing plan decisions about when it's time to stop covering certain kinds of medical care. These experts aren't part of our plan.

Step 1: Make your Level 1 appeal: contact the Quality Improvement Organization and ask for a *fast-track appeal*. You must act quickly.

How can you contact this organization?

- The written notice you got (*Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage*) tells you how to reach this organization. Or find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state in Chapter 2.

Act quickly:

- You must contact the Quality Improvement Organization to start your appeal **by noon of the day before the effective date** on the *Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage*.
- If you miss the deadline, and you want to file an appeal, you still have appeal rights. Contact the Quality Improvement Organization using the contact information on the Notice of Medicare Non-coverage. The name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state may also be found in Chapter 2.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization conducts an independent review of your case.

Legal Term:

Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage. Notice that gives details on reasons for ending coverage.

What happens during this review?

- Health professionals at the Quality Improvement Organization (the *reviewers*) will ask you, or your representative, why you believe coverage for the services should continue. You don't have to prepare anything in writing, but you can if you want.
- The independent review organization will also look at your medical information, talk with your doctor, and review information our plan gives them.

- By the end of the day the reviewers tell us of your appeal, you'll get the *Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage*, from us that explains in detail our reasons for ending our coverage for your services.

Step 3: Within one full day after they have all the information they need; the reviewers will tell you their decision.

What happens if the reviewers say yes?

- If the reviewers say yes to your appeal, then **we must keep providing your covered services for as long as it's medically necessary.**
- You'll have to keep paying your share of the costs (such as deductibles or copayments, if these apply). There may be limitations on your covered services.

What happens if the reviewers say no?

- If the reviewers say *no*, then **your coverage will end on the date we told you.**
- If you decide to keep getting the home health care, or skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* this date when your coverage ends, **you'll have to pay the full cost** of this care yourself.

Step 4: If the answer to your Level 1 appeal is no, you decide if you want to make another appeal.

- If reviewers say *no* to your Level 1 appeal – and you choose to continue getting care after your coverage for the care has ended – then you can make a Level 2 appeal.

Section 7.3 How to make a Level 2 appeal to have our plan cover your care for a longer time

During a Level 2 appeal, you ask the Quality Improvement Organization to take another look at the decision on your first appeal. If the Quality Improvement Organization turns down your Level 2 appeal, you may have to pay the full cost for your home health care, or skilled nursing facility care, or Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services *after* the date when we said your coverage would end.

Step 1: Contact the Quality Improvement Organization again and ask for another review.

- You must ask for this review **within 60 calendar days** after the day when the Quality Improvement Organization said *no* to your Level 1 appeal. You can ask for this review only if you continued getting care after the date your coverage for the care ended.

Step 2: The Quality Improvement Organization does a second review of your situation.

- Reviewers at the Quality Improvement Organization will take another careful look at all the information related to your appeal.

Step 3: Within 14 calendar days of receipt of your appeal request, reviewers will decide on your appeal and tell you their decision.***What happens if the independent review organization says yes?***

- **We must reimburse you** for our share of the costs of care you got since the date when we said your coverage would end. **We must continue providing coverage** for the care for as long as it's medically necessary.
- You must continue to pay your share of the costs and there may be coverage limitations that apply.

What happens if the independent review organization says no?

- It means they agree with the decision made to your Level 1 appeal.
- The notice you get will tell you in writing what you can do if you want to continue with the review process. It will give you details about how to go to the next level of appeal, which is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator.

Step 4: If the answer is no, you need to decide whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are 3 additional levels of appeal after Level 2, (for a total of 5 levels of appeal). If you want to go on to a Level 3 appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you get after your Level 2 appeal decision.
- The Level 3 appeal is handled by an Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator. Section 8 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

SECTION 8 Taking your appeal to Levels 3, 4 and 5

Section 8.1 Appeal Levels 3, 4 and 5 for Medical Service Requests

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

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

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

Level 3 appeal

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

- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator says yes to your appeal, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.** Unlike a decision at a Level 2 appeal, we have the right to appeal a Level 3 decision that's favorable to you. If we decide to appeal, it will go to a Level 4 appeal.
 - If we decide *not* to appeal, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after we get the Administrative Law Judge's or attorney adjudicator's decision.
 - If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll send you a copy of the Level 4 appeal request with any accompanying documents. We may wait for the Level 4 appeal decision before authorizing or providing the medical care in dispute.
- **If the Administrative Law Judge or attorney adjudicator says no to your appeal, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.**
 - If you decide to accept the decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
 - If you don't want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. The notice you get will tell you what to do for a Level 4 appeal.

Level 4 appeal

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

- **If the answer is yes, or if the Council denies our request to review a favorable Level 3 appeal decision, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.** Unlike a decision at Level 2, we have the right to appeal a Level 4 decision that is favorable to you. We'll decide whether to appeal this decision to Level 5.
 - If we decide *not* to appeal the decision, we must authorize or provide you with the medical care within 60 calendar days after getting the Council's decision.
 - If we decide to appeal the decision, we'll let you know in writing.
- **If the answer is no or if the Council denies the review request, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.**

- If you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
- If you don't want to accept the decision, you may be able to continue to the next level of the review process. If the Council says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you whether the rules allow you to go to a Level 5 appeal and how to continue with a Level 5 appeal.

Level 5 appeal

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

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

Making complaints

SECTION 9 How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service, or other concerns

Section 9.1 What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process?

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

Complaint	Example
Quality of your medical care	• Are you unhappy with the quality of the care you got (including care in the hospital)?
Respecting your privacy	• Did someone not respect your right to privacy or share confidential information?
Disrespect, poor customer service, or other negative behaviors	• Has someone been rude or disrespectful to you? • Are you unhappy with our Member Services? • Do you feel you're being encouraged to leave our plan?
Waiting times	• Are you having trouble getting an appointment, or waiting too long to get it? • Have you been kept waiting too long by doctors, pharmacists, or other health professionals? Or by our Member Services or other staff at our plan? ○ Examples include waiting too long on the phone, in the waiting or exam room, or getting a prescription.
Cleanliness	• Are you unhappy with the cleanliness or condition of a clinic, hospital, or doctor's office?
Information you get from us	• Did we fail to give you a required notice? • Is our written information hard to understand?

Timeliness

(These types of complaints are all about the *timeliness* of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals)

If you asked for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think we aren't responding quickly enough, you can make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples:

- You asked us for a *fast coverage decision* or a *fast appeal*, and we said no; you can make a complaint.
- You believe we aren't meeting the deadlines for coverage decisions or appeals; you can make a complaint.
- You believe we aren't meeting deadlines for covering or reimbursing you for certain medical items or services or drugs that were approved; you can make a complaint.
- You believe we failed to meet required deadlines for forwarding your case to the independent review organization; you can make a complaint.

Section 9.2 How to make a complaint**Legal Terms:**

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

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

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

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

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

- **Calling Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) is usually the first step.** If there's anything else you need to do, Member Services will let you know.

1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401

TTY users only: 711

Hours of operation (Eastern time):

October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- **If you don't want to call (or you called and weren't satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us.** If you put your complaint in writing, we'll respond to your complaint in writing.
- **Filing a grievance with our Plan**

- If you have a complaint, you or your representative may call the phone number for **Part C Grievances** (for complaints about Part C medical care or services) in Section 9. We will try to resolve your complaint over the phone. If you ask for a written response, file a written grievance, or your complaint is related to quality of care, we will respond in writing to you.
- To initiate a written grievance, you may send a letter or complete a Member Complaint Form. The Member Complaint Form will be provided upon request from Member Services and can also be found on independenthealth.com. Written grievances may be sent by mail to Independent Health, attn: P.O. Box 2090, Buffalo, NY 14231-2090. A written grievance can also be sent to Independent Health by fax to the attention of Appeals and Complaints at (716-635-3504) or email to the attention of Appeals and Complaints at (Appeals@independenthealth.com)
- A verbal grievance is initiated by phoning the Member Services department at 716-250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711).
- The grievance must be filed within 60 days of the event or incident. We must address your grievance as quickly as your case requires based on your health status, but no later than 30 days after receiving your complaint. We may extend the time frame by up to 14 days if you ask for the extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest. If we do not substantiate your grievance in whole or in part, our written decision will explain the reason behind our decision, and will tell you about any dispute resolution options you may have.

Option for Filing a “Fast Grievance”

You may request a “fast” grievance with Independent Health for any of the following reasons:

1. Independent Health chooses to extend the time frame to make an initial decision and you did not want that to happen;
2. Independent Health chooses to extend the time frame to make a decision regarding your appeal and you did not want that to happen;
3. Independent Health refuses to grant your request for a “fast” initial decision;
4. Independent Health refuses to grant your request for a “fast” appeal decision

How to file a “fast” grievance

- **Step 1:** As a member of Independent Health, you or your representative may make a verbal request for a “fast” grievance to a representative of the Member Services department. You may contact the Member Services department at 716-250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502, October 1 – March 31: Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and April 1 – September 30: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. (TTY users only may call: 711) when outside the service area. The Member Services department will document your grievance and forward it to Independent Health’s Appeals and Complaints Department. You may also send a fax to 716-635-3504 to the attention of Appeals and Complaints for a fast grievance request.
- **Step 2:** A review specialist in Appeals and Complaints will be assigned to investigate your “fast” grievance and provide you with a response within 24 hours.
- The **deadline** for making a complaint is **60 calendar days** from the time you had the problem you want to complain about.

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

- **If possible, we’ll answer you right away.** If you call us with a complaint, we may be able to give you an answer on the same phone call.
- **Most complaints are answered within 30 calendar days.** If we need more information and the delay is in your best interest or if you ask for more time, **we can take up to 14 more calendar days** (44 calendar days total) to answer your complaint. If we decide to take extra days, we’ll tell you in writing.
- **If you’re making a complaint because we denied your request for a fast coverage decision or a fast appeal, we’ll automatically give you a fast complaint.** If you have a fast complaint, it means we’ll give you **an answer within 24 hours**.
- **If we don’t agree** with some or all of your complaint or don’t take responsibility for the problem you’re complaining about, we’ll include our reasons in our response to you.

Section 9.3 You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization

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

- **You can make your complaint directly to the Quality Improvement Organization.** The Quality Improvement Organization is a group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients. Chapter 2 has contact information.

Or

- **You can make your complaint to both the Quality Improvement Organization and us at the same time.**

Section 9.4 You can also tell Medicare about your complaint

You can submit a complaint about Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) directly to Medicare. To submit a complaint to Medicare, go to [Medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint](https://www.medicare.gov/my/medicare-complaint). You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY/TDD users call 1-877-486-2048.

CHAPTER 8:

Ending membership in our plan

SECTION 1 Ending your membership in our plan

Ending your membership in Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) may be **voluntary** (your own choice) or **involuntary** (not your own choice):

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

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

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

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

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

- The **Open Enrollment Period** is from **October 15 to December 7**.
- **Choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the upcoming year.** If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of coverage:
 - Another Medicare health plan, with or without drug coverage,
 - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare drug plan,
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan.

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

Section 2.2 You can end your membership during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

You can make *one* change to your health coverage during the **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** each year.

- **The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** is from January 1 to March 31 and, for new Medicare enrollees in an MA plan, from the month of entitlement to Part A and Part B until the last day of the 3rd month of entitlement.
- **During the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**, you can:
 - Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage.
 - Disenroll from our plan and get coverage through Original Medicare. If you switch to Original Medicare during this period, you can also join a separate Medicare drug plan at the same time.
- **Your membership will end** on the first day of the month after you enroll in a different Medicare Advantage plan, or we get your request to switch to Original Medicare. If you also choose to enroll in a Medicare drug plan, your membership in the drug plan will start the first day of the month after the drug plan gets your enrollment request.

Section 2.3 In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period

In certain situations, members of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) may be eligible to end their membership at other times of the year. This is known as a **Special Enrollment Period**.

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

- Usually, when you move
- If you have Medicaid
- If we violate our contract with you
- If you're getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital
- If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Enrollment time periods vary depending on your situation.

To find out if you're eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you're eligible to end your

membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. You can choose:

- Another Medicare health plan with or without drug coverage.
- Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare drug plan.
- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare drug plan.

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

Section 2.4 Get more information about when you can end your membership

If you have questions about ending your membership, you can:

- **Call Member Services at** (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711)
- Find the information in the ***Medicare & You 2027*** handbook
- Contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY users call 1-877-486-2048

SECTION 3 How to end your membership in our plan

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

To switch from our plan Here's what to do: to:	
Another Medicare health plan	• Enroll in the new Medicare health plan. • You'll automatically be disenrolled from Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) when your new plan's coverage starts.
Original Medicare <i>with</i> a separate Medicare drug plan	• Enroll in the new Medicare drug plan. • You'll automatically be disenrolled from Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) when your new plan's coverage starts.

To switch from our plan Here's what to do:
to:

**Original Medicare
without a separate
Medicare drug plan**

- **Send us a written request to disenroll.** Call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) if you need more information on how to do this.
- You can also call **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.
- You'll be disenrolled from Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) when your coverage in Original Medicare starts.

Note: If you also have creditable prescription drug coverage (e.g., a separate Medicare drug plan) and disenroll from that coverage, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later after going without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 days or more in a row.

SECTION 4 Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your medical items and services through our plan

Until your membership ends, and your new Medicare coverage starts, you must continue to get your medical items, services care through our plan.

- **Continue to use our network providers to get medical care.**
- **If you're hospitalized on the day your membership ends, your hospital stay will be covered by our plan until you're discharged** (even if you're discharged after your new health coverage starts).

SECTION 5 Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) must end your plan membership in certain situations

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) must end your membership in our plan if any of the following happen:

- If you no longer have Medicare Part A and Part B
- If you move out of our service area
- If you're away from our service area for more than 6 months

Chapter 8 Ending membership in our plan

- If you move or take a long trip, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) to find out if the place you're moving or traveling to is in our plan's area
- If you've been a member of our plan continuously before January 1999 and you were living outside of our service area before January 1999, you're still eligible as long as you haven't moved since before January 1999. However, if you move to another location outside our service area, you'll be disenrolled from our plan.
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison)
- If you're no longer a United States citizen or national, or eligible noncitizen
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you're enrolling in our plan, and that information affects your eligibility for our plan (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first)
- If you continuously behave in a way that's disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide medical care for you and other members of our plan (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first)
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get medical care (We can't make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first)
 - If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General

If you have questions or want more information on when we can end your membership, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711).

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

Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) isn't allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any health-related reason.

What should you do if this happens?

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

Section 5.2 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you can file a grievance or make a complaint about our decision to end your membership.

CHAPTER 9:

Legal notices

SECTION 1 Notice about governing law

The principal law that applies to this *Evidence of Coverage* document is Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the regulations created under the Social Security Act by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, (CMS). In addition, other federal laws may apply and, under certain circumstances, the laws of the state you live in. This may affect your rights and responsibilities even if the laws aren't included or explained in this document.

SECTION 2 Notice about nondiscrimination

We don't discriminate based on race, ethnicity, national origin, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or geographic location within the service area. All organizations that provide Medicare Advantage plans, like our plan, must obey federal laws against discrimination, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, all other laws that apply to organizations that get federal funding, and any other laws and rules that apply for any other reason.

If you want more information or have concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment, call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 (TTY 1-800-537-7697) or your local Office for Civil Rights. You can also review information from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights at [HHS.gov/ocr/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html).

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, call Member Services at (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711). If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, Member Services can help.

SECTION 3 Notice about Medicare Secondary Payer subrogation rights

We have the right and responsibility to collect for covered Medicare services for which Medicare is not the primary payer. According to CMS regulations at 42 CFR sections 422.108

and 423.462, Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), as a Medicare Advantage Organization, will exercise the same rights of recovery that the Secretary exercises under CMS regulations in subparts B through D of part 411 of 42 CFR and the rules established in this section supersede any state laws.

SECTION 4 Miscellaneous Provisions

Benefits are personal to you and may not be assigned. Benefits under this Evidence of Coverage are available to you in accordance to the terms stated in this Evidence of Coverage. Neither Independent Health, nor IPA/WNY shall have any liability for any service received that was not in accordance with the terms stated in this Evidence of Coverage. No liability may be imposed on Independent Health other than for the benefits specifically provided herein.

You give permission, by accepting this Evidence of Coverage, to Independent Health to obtain your medical records from any health care provider or institution to the extent permitted by law. You also agree that Independent Health may refer these medical records to health care providers or institutions that Independent Health deems appropriate.

In the event of any major disaster or epidemic, war, riot, labor dispute or other causes beyond Independent Health's control, Independent Health shall provide coverage hereunder, according to its best judgment, within the limitations of such facilities and personnel as are then available. Independent Health shall put forth its best effort to arrange for such services due to lack of available facilities or personnel if such lack is the result of such disaster or epidemic.

The relationship between Independent Health and network providers and between Independent Health and hospital and SNF is an independent contractor relationship. No network provider, hospital or SNF, or any other institution, is an employee or agent of Independent Health. Independent Health or any employee of Independent Health is not an employee or agent of any network provider, hospital or SNF, or other institutions.

Independent Health's Plan membership cards are for identification only. Possession of an Independent Health's Plan membership card confers no right to services or benefits under this Evidence of Coverage. You must be enrolled in our Plan to be entitled to the services and benefits covered in this Evidence of Coverage.

SECTION 5 Independent Health's Right to Recover Expenses Paid for by Third Parties and Right of Subrogation

You understand and agree to the following provisions regarding Independent Health's right to recovery of paid expenses and right of subrogation.

1. When you receive reimbursement for hospital, medical, and/or health care expenses as a result of court action, judgment, settlement or payments from liability coverage of any party and/or any other reimbursement method, then you shall reimburse Independent Health for such expenses that Independent Health pays on your behalf; and Independent Health shall have a lien upon such judgment, settlement, payment or other reimbursement to the extent Independent Health has paid your expenses, in accordance with Section 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") 422.108.
2. At its discretion, Independent Health may also authorize a provider to bill you or any other party liable for your injury, illness or condition for the payment for hospital, medical or health care services in treatment of such injury, illness or condition to the extent that you receive services from us that are also covered under state or federal worker's compensation, any no-fault insurance, or any liability insurance policy or plan including a self-insured plan.
3. This paragraph applies when another party is, or may be considered liable, for your injury, sickness or other condition (including insurance carriers who are so liable) and Independent Health has provided or paid for benefits.
 - a. Independent Health also has the right under 42 CFR 422.108 to collect the reasonable value of the hospital, medical and/or health care benefits paid for or provided to you by Independent Health, other insurers or self-insured plans or from any party liable for your injury, illness or condition or for the payment for hospital, medical, and/or health care services in treatment of such injury, illness or condition. This is known as subrogation. Independent Health may assert this right independently of you.
 - b. You are obligated to cooperate with Independent Health and its agents in order to protect Independent Health's subrogation rights. Cooperation means providing Independent Health or its agents with any relevant information requested by them, signing and delivering such documents as Independent Health or its agents reasonably request to secure Independent Health's subrogation claim, and obtaining the express written consent of Independent Health or its agents before releasing any party from liability for payment of Hospital, medical and/or health care expense.
 - c. If you enter into litigation or settlement negotiations regarding the obligations of other parties, you must provide notice to Independent Health and may not

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prejudice, in any way, the subrogation rights of Independent Health under this Article.

4. The costs of legal representation of Independent Health in matters related to collection from you or another entity shall be borne solely by Independent Health. The costs of your legal representation shall be borne solely by you.

The rights established under this section are authorized by Federal law and Medicare regulations and cannot be taken away by State law. Independent Health will exercise the same rights to recover from a primary plan, entity or individual that Medicare exercises when Medicare is not the primary payer under the Medicare Secondary Payer regulations.

CHAPTER 10:

Definitions

Ambulatory Surgical Center – An Ambulatory Surgical Center is an entity that operates exclusively for the purpose of furnishing outpatient surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization and whose expected stay in the center doesn't exceed 24 hours.

Appeal – An appeal is something you do if you disagree with our decision to deny a request for coverage of health care services or payment for services you already got. You may also make an appeal if you disagree with our decision to stop services that you're getting.

Attending Physician – The physician in the Emergency Department who will assess your current condition and care needs. The attending physician will determine whether or not your condition is stable for discharge from the emergency room to your residence or if additional care is medically necessary.

Balance Billing – When a provider (such as a doctor or hospital) bills a patient more than our plan's allowed cost-sharing amount. As a member of Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO), you only have to pay our plan's cost-sharing amounts when you get services covered by our plan. We don't allow providers to **balance bill** or otherwise charge you more than the amount of cost sharing our plan says you must pay.

Benefit Period – The way that both our plan and Original Medicare measures your use of hospital and skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. A benefit period begins the day you go into a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you haven't gotten any inpatient hospital care (or skilled care in a SNF) for 60 days in a row. If you go into a hospital or a skilled nursing facility after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods.

Calendar Year – The period that begins on January 1 and ends twelve (12) consecutive months later on December 31.

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

Chapter 10 Definitions

Chronic-Care Special Needs Plan (C-SNP) – C-SNPs are SNPs that restrict enrollment to MA eligible people who have specific severe and chronic diseases.

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

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

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) – A facility that mainly provides rehabilitation services after an illness or injury, including physical therapy, social or psychological services, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services, and home environment evaluation services.

Copayment (or copay) – An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for a medical service or supply, like a doctor's visit, hospital outpatient visit, or a prescription drug. A copayment is a set amount (for example \$10), rather than a percentage.

Cost Sharing – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when services are gotten. (This is in addition to our plan's monthly plan premium.) Cost sharing includes any combination of the following 3 types of payments: 1) any deductible amount a plan may impose before services are covered; 2) any fixed copayment amount that a plan requires when a specific service is gotten; or 3) any coinsurance amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a service, that a plan requires when a specific service is gotten.

Covered Services – The term we use to mean all the health care services and supplies that are covered by our plan.

Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage – Prescription drug coverage (for example, from an employer or union) that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. People who have this kind of coverage when they become eligible for Medicare can generally keep that coverage without paying a penalty if they decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

Custodial Care – Custodial care is personal care provided in a nursing home, hospice, or other facility setting when you don't need skilled medical care or skilled nursing care. Custodial care, provided by people who don't have professional skills or training, includes help with activities of daily living like bathing, dressing, eating, getting in or out of a bed or chair, moving around, and using the bathroom. It may also include the kind of health-related care that most people do themselves, like using eye drops. Medicare doesn't pay for custodial care.

Chapter 10 Definitions

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

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

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

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

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) – Certain medical equipment that is ordered by your doctor for medical reasons. Examples include walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment, nebulizers, or hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home.

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

Emergency Care – Covered services that are: 1) provided by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services; and 2) needed to treat, evaluate, or stabilize an emergency medical condition.

Emergency Medical Condition – A medical condition brought on by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, with an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect that not getting immediate medical attention could result in 1) Serious jeopardy to the health of the individual (or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child); 2) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or 3) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and Disclosure Information – This document, along with your enrollment form and any other attachments, riders, or other optional coverage selected, which explains your coverage, what we must do, your rights, and what you have to do as a member of our plan.

Extra Help – A Medicare program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug program costs, such as premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

Chapter 10 Definitions

Grievance - A type of complaint you make about our plan or providers, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This doesn't involve coverage or payment disputes.

Home Health Aide - A person who provides services that don't need the skills of a licensed nurse or therapist, such as help with personal care (e.g., bathing, using the toilet, dressing, or carrying out the prescribed exercises).

Hospice - A benefit that provides special treatment for a member who has been medically certified as terminally ill, meaning having a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Our plan must provide you with a list of hospices in your geographic area. If you elect hospice and continue to pay premiums, you're still a member of our plan. You can still get all medically necessary services as well as the supplemental benefits we offer.

Hospital Inpatient Stay - A hospital stay when you've been formally admitted to the hospital for skilled medical services. Even if you stay in the hospital overnight, you might still be considered an outpatient.

Interqual - A decision support tool used to evaluate the appropriateness of planned health care for a patient. Interqual criteria on current scientific and clinical studies and the opinion of health care experts. Interqual criteria are updated yearly. It improves consistency in health care delivery by providing a standard method for reviewing cases by reducing variations in medical treatment and resource use and by tracking and analyzing patterns of health care.

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

LIBERTY Dental Plan Network Dentist - A dentist who participates in the LIBERTY Dental Plan dental network for Independent Health's Medicare Advantage plans. LIBERTY Dental Plan network dentists provide Independent Health's Medicare Advantage preventive dental and optional comprehensive dental benefits.

Limiting Charge - The highest amount of money you can be charged for a covered service by doctors and other health care suppliers who do not accept assignment. The limiting charge is 15% over Medicare's approved amount. The limiting charge only applies to certain services and does not apply to supplies or equipment.

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

Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount - The most that you pay out-of-pocket during the calendar year for in-network covered Part A and Part B services. Amounts you pay for your

Chapter 10 Definitions

plan premiums and Medicare Part A and Part B premiums don't count toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount. In addition to the maximum out-of-pocket amount for in-network covered Part A and Part B medical services, we also have a maximum out-of-pocket amount for certain types of services.

Maximum Charge – Maximum amount that a member can pay out of pocket toward their Medicare plan benefits.

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

Medical Director – The licensed physician designated by Independent Health and the IPA/WNY to exercise general supervision over the provision of medical care rendered by network providers.

Medically Necessary – Services, supplies, or drugs that are needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice.

Medicare – The federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (generally those with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period – The time period from January 1 to March 31 when members in a Medicare Advantage plan can cancel their plan enrollment and switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or get coverage through Original Medicare. If you choose to switch to Original Medicare during this period, you can also join a separate Medicare prescription drug plan at that time. The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is also available for a 3-month period after a person is first eligible for Medicare.

Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan – Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A and Part B benefits. A Medicare Advantage Plan can be i) an HMO, ii) a PPO, iii) a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan, or iv) a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. Besides choosing from these types of plans, a Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO plan can also be a Special Needs Plan (SNP). In most cases, Medicare Advantage Plans also offer Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). These plans are called **Medicare Advantage Plans with Prescription Drug Coverage**. Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) doesn't offer Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Chapter 10 Definitions

Medicare Cost Plan – A Medicare Cost Plan is a plan operated by a Health Maintenance Organization or Competitive Medical Plan (CMP) in accordance with a cost-reimbursed contract under section 1876(h) of the Act.

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

Medicare Health Plan – A Medicare health plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits to people with Medicare who enroll in our plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Cost Plans, Special Needs Plans, Demonstration/Pilot Programs, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare Part D) – Insurance to help pay for outpatient prescription drugs, vaccines, biologicals, and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B.

Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy – Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill *gaps* in Original Medicare. Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare. (A Medicare Advantage Plan is not a Medigap policy.)

Member (Member of our Plan, or Plan Member) – A person with Medicare who is eligible to get covered services, who has enrolled in our plan, and whose enrollment has been confirmed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Member's Home – For purposes of rental and purchase of DME, a member's home may be a personal dwelling, an apartment, a family member's home, a home for the aged, or some other type of institution (such as an assisted living facility, or an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICD/MR)). However, an institution may not be considered a member's home if:

- It meets, at minimum, the basic requirement in the definition of a hospital (i.e., it is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatient, diagnostic, and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, and sick persons, or services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons.);
- It meets at least the basic requirement in the definition of a skilled nursing facility (i.e. it is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services to inpatients who require medical or nursing care, or services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons.)

Chapter 10 Definitions

Thus, if a member resides in an institution or distinct part of an institution which provides the services described in the bullets above, this would not, for purposes of coverage, be considered the member's home.

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

Network Audiologist – An audiologist is a trained professional who measures hearing loss and can fit hearing aids. You must use an audiologist in the Start Hearing, Inc. network to utilize the hearing aid benefit.

Network Dentist – A dentist who qualifies and agrees to participate in the dental network for Independent Health's Medicare Advantage Program.

Network Provider – Provider is the general term for doctors, other health care professionals, hospitals, and other health care facilities that are licensed or certified by Medicare and by the state to provide health care services. **Network providers** have an agreement with our plan to accept our payment as payment in full, and in some cases to coordinate as well as provide covered services to members of our plan. Network providers are also called **plan providers**.

Opt-Out Practitioner and Physicians – Providers who have filed an affidavit promising to furnish Medicare-covered services to Medicare beneficiaries only through private contracts. Except for emergency or urgently needed services, Independent Health will not cover services provided by opt-out practitioners and physicians through private contracts with a member.

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

Organization Determination – A decision our plan makes about whether items or services are covered or how much you have to pay for covered items or services. Organization determinations are called coverage decisions in this document.

Original Medicare (Traditional Medicare or Fee-for-Service Medicare) – Original Medicare is offered by the government, and not a private health plan like Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers payment amounts established by Congress. You can see any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has 2 parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) and is available everywhere in the United States.

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Out-of-Network Provider or Out-of-Network Facility – A provider or facility that doesn't have a contract with our plan to coordinate or provide covered services to members of our plan. Out-of-network providers are providers that aren't employed, owned, or operated by our plan.

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

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

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

Part D – The voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program.

Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plan – A Preferred Provider Organization plan is a Medicare Advantage Plan that has a network of contracted providers that have agreed to treat plan members for a specified payment amount. A PPO plan must cover all plan benefits whether they're received from network or out-of-network providers. Member cost sharing will generally be higher when plan benefits are gotten from out-of-network providers. PPO plans have an annual limit on your out-of-pocket costs for services received from network (preferred) providers and a higher limit on your total combined out-of-pocket costs for services from both in-network (preferred) and out-of-network (non-preferred) providers.

Premium – The periodic payment to Medicare, an insurance company, or a health care plan for health or prescription drug coverage.

Preventive services – Health care to services that help you stay healthy, detect health problems early, determine the most effective treatments, and prevent certain diseases. Preventive services include exams, shots, lab tests, and screenings. They also include programs for health monitoring, and counseling and education to help you take care of your own health.

Preventive Screening – A service or test considered reasonable and necessary for the prevention or early detection of illness, disease or disability. Independent Health uses CMS guidance and United States Preventive Service Task Force to identify and define preventive screenings. Once a history of illness, disease, or disability has been established, and until there are no longer any signs of illness, disease, or disability, ongoing or future screenings will

Chapter 10 Definitions

be considered diagnostic and are subject to member cost sharing as outlined in Chapter 4 of this booklet.

Primary Care Provider (PCP) – The doctor or other provider you see first for most health problems. In many Medicare health plans, you must see your primary care provider before you see any other health care provider.

Prosthetics and Orthotics – Medical devices including, but not limited to, arm, back and neck braces; artificial limbs; artificial eyes; and devices needed to replace an internal body part or function, including ostomy supplies and enteral and parenteral nutrition therapy.

Provider preauthorization – Approval in advance to get services based on specific criteria. Covered services that need prior authorization are marked in the Medical Benefits Chart in Chapter 4.

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) – A group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients.

Referral – A doctor's recommendation that a patient see a qualified medical professional, often a specialist, to review their health status and determine whether medical treatment is needed or whether a particular course of exercise and/or diet change is safe.

Referral – A written order from your primary care doctor for you to visit a specialist or get certain medical services. Without a referral, our plan may not pay for services from a specialist.

Rehabilitation Services – These services include inpatient rehabilitation care, physical therapy (outpatient), speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy.

Service Area – A geographic area where you must live to join a particular health plan. For plans that limit which doctors and hospitals you may use, it's also generally the area where you can get routine (non-emergency) services. Our plan must disenroll you if you permanently move out of our plan's service area.

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care – Skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services provided on a continuous, daily basis, in a skilled nursing facility. Examples of care include physical therapy or intravenous injections that can only be given by a registered nurse or doctor.

Special Enrollment Period – A set time when members can change their health or drug plans or return to Original Medicare. Situations in which you may be eligible for a Special

Chapter 10 Definitions

Enrollment Period include: if you move outside the service area, if you move into a nursing home, or if we violate our contract with you.

Special Needs Plan – A special type of Medicare Advantage Plan that provides more focused health care for specific groups of people, such as those who have both Medicare and Medicaid, who live in a nursing home, or who have certain chronic medical conditions.

Subluxation - a partial abnormal separation of the articular surfaces of a joint. "Subluxation" is used by doctors of chiropractic medicine to depict the altered position of the vertebra and subsequent functional loss, which determines the location for the spinal manipulation.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – A monthly benefit paid by Social Security to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 and older. SSI benefits aren't the same as Social Security benefits.

Urgent Medical Service Facility, In Network – A network provider which is an alternative site of service which is for the purpose of managing acute, non-life-threatening conditions other than in an emergency room of a hospital during non-traditional physician office hours; is not a substitute for routine care provided in the primary care physician's office or as a substitute for care for a medical emergency at the emergency room of a hospital; is equipped to accommodate minor outpatient procedures; provides ancillary services such as laboratory and radiology; directs you to receive any necessary follow-up care from your primary care physician and has entered into an agreement with Independent Health to provide such care to you.

Urgently Needed Services – A plan-covered service requiring immediate medical attention that's not an emergency is an urgently needed service if either you're temporarily outside our plan's service area, or it's unreasonable given your time, place, and circumstances to get this service from network providers. Examples of urgently needed services are unforeseen medical illnesses and injuries, or unexpected flare-ups of existing conditions. Medically necessary routine provider visits (like annual checkups) aren't considered urgently needed even if you're outside our plan's service area or our plan network is temporarily unavailable.

INDEPENDENT HEALTH'S

Medicare Advantage Provider Directories

At Independent Health, we're dedicated to helping you get the right care, at the right time, and in the right setting. That's why we offer a comprehensive network of health care providers, giving you choice and flexibility as to where you receive care.

To help you understand who participates in our network, we've compiled the names of our health care providers and wellness partners into the following directories and listings:

- Independent Health's Medicare Advantage Physician/Provider Directory
- Independent Health's Medicare Advantage Pharmacy Directory
- LIBERTY Dental Plan Dental Directory(for routine/preventive dental providers)
- EyeMed® "Insight Network" Directory (for routine/refractive eye exam providers)
- SilverSneakers® Fitness Program participating facility listing

All of this information is available online at **independenthealth.com/Medicare**.

If you prefer to receive a copy by mail, please contact Member Services:

PHONE: (716) 250-4401 or 1-800-665-1502; (TTY users call 711)

October 1 – March 31: Monday – Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

April 1 – September 30: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

EMAIL: medicareservice@servicing.independenthealth.com

For the most up-to-date information on our provider listings, call Member Services or use our "Find a Doctor" tool online at **independenthealth.com/findadoc**. This tool gives you the option to search for providers or facilities by name, location or specialty, and print your results.

If you have a question about covered drugs, please call 1-800-665-1502 or visit **independenthealth.com/DrugList** to access our online formulary. If you would like a formulary mailed to you, you may call the number above, request one at the website link provided above, or email **medicareservice@servicing.independenthealth.com**.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Discrimination is Against the Law

Independent Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Independent Health does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Independent Health:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Independent Health's Member Services Department. If you believe that Independent Health has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: Independent Health's Member Services Department, 511 Farber Lakes Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221, 1-800-501-3439, TTY users call 711, fax (716) 635-3504, memberservice@servicing.independenthealth.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Independent Health's Member Services Department is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html.

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

English: ATTENTION: Free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids and services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) or speak to your provider.

Español (Spanish): ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, hay servicios de asistencia lingüística disponibles para usted de forma gratuita. También están disponibles, sin cargo adicional, los auxilios y servicios apropiados para proporcionar información en formatos accesibles. Llame al 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) o hable con su proveedor.

中文 (Simplified Chinese): 注意：如果您说[中文]，我们将免费为您提供语言协助服务。我们还免费提供适当的辅助工具和服务，以无障碍格式提供信息。致电 1-800-665-1502（文本电话：711）或咨询您的服务提供商。

台語 (Traditional Chinese): 注意：如果您說[台語]，我們可以為您提供免費語言協助服務。也可以免費提供適當的輔助工具與服務，以無障礙格式提供資訊。請致電 1-800-665-1502（TTY：711）或與您的提供者討論。

РУССКИЙ (Russian): ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русский, вам доступны бесплатные услуги языковой поддержки. Соответствующие вспомогательные средства и услуги по предоставлению информации в доступных форматах также предоставляются бесплатно. Позвоните по телефону 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) или обратитесь к своему поставщику услуг.

יידיש (Yiddish): נאטיץ: אויב איר רעדט יידיש, שפראך הילף סערוויסעס זענען בארעכטיגט פאר דיר פריי. צונעמען אידס און באדינונגס און ראווידניג אין אַרמאַציע אין צוטריטלעך אַרמאַטירונגען זענען אויך בנימצא פריי. רופן 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) אָדער רעדן מיט דיין טרעגער.

বাংলা (Bengali): মনোযোগ দি : দি আপনি বাংলা বলেন তাহলে আপনার জন্য বিনামূল্যে ভাষা সহায়তা পরিষেবাদি উপলব্ধ রয়েছে। অ্যাক্সেসযোগ্য ফরম্যাটে তথ্য প্রদানের জন্য উপযুক্ত সহায়ক সহযোগিতা এবং পরিষেবাদিও বিনামূল্যে উপলব্ধ রয়েছে। 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) নম্বরে কল করুন বা আপনার প্রদানকারীর সাথে কথা বলুন।

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole): ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd aladispozisyon w gratis pou lang ou pale a. Èd ak sèvis siplemantè apwopriye pou bay enfòmasyon nan fòm aksesib yo disponib gratis tou. Rele nan 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) oswa pale avèk founisè w la.

한국어 (Korean): 주의: [한국어]를 사용하시는 경우 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 이용 가능한 형식으로 정보를 제공하는 적절한 보조 기구 및 서비스도 무료로 제공됩니다. 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) 번으로 전화하거나 서비스 제공업체에 문의하십시오.

العربية (Arabic): تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فستتوفر خدمة المساعدة اللغوية المجانية. كما تتوفر وسائل مساعد وخدم مناسبة توفير المعلومات بتنسيق يمك الوصول إليه مجدد. اتصد إلى الر 1-800-665-1502 (711) أو تحدث إلى مقد الخدمة.

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Français (French): ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits sont à votre disposition. Des aides et services auxiliaires appropriés pour fournir des informations dans des formats accessibles sont également disponibles gratuitement. Appelez le 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) ou parlez à votre prestataire.

اردو (Urdu): جد : آگ آپ اردو - ہیں، آپ زن م م د خدمت د ہیں۔ قہر ری فرمٹس میں معلومات
فا ک م معونہ ادا اور خدمت م د ہیں۔ 1-800-665-1502 (TTY:711) ک ا ف ا ک
ہت ک س۔

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi): ਧਿਆਨ ਦਿਓ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਮੁਫਤ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੁੰ ਆ ਹਨ। ਪਹੁੰਚਯੋਗ ਫਾਰਮੈਟਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਢੁਕਵੇਂ ਪੂਰਕ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਸਾਧਨ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਵੀ ਮੁਫਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੁੰ ਆ ਹਨ। 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711) 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਤਰ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਕਰੋ।



Independent Health's Encompass 65 (HMO) Member Services

Method	Member Services – Contact Information
Call	1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 Calls to this number are free. Hours of operation (Eastern time): October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. After business hours and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays please leave a message. Callers should include their name, phone number and the time they called, and a representative will return their call no later than one business day after they leave a message. Member Services (800) 665-1502 (TTY users call 711) also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.
TTY	711 This number is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free. October 1 - March 31: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 1 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fax	716-631-1039
Write	511 Farber Lakes Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221 medicareservice@servicing.independenthealth.com
Website	independenthealth.com/medicare

Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (**HIICAP**) (**New York's SHIP**) HIICAP is a state program that gets money from the federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

Method	Member Services – Contact Information
Call	HIICAP Hot Line: 1-800-701-0501
TTY	Call 711
Write	Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program New York State Office for the Aging 2 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223-1251
Website	aging.ny.gov

PRA Disclosure Statement According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1051. If you have comments or suggestions for improving this form, write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.