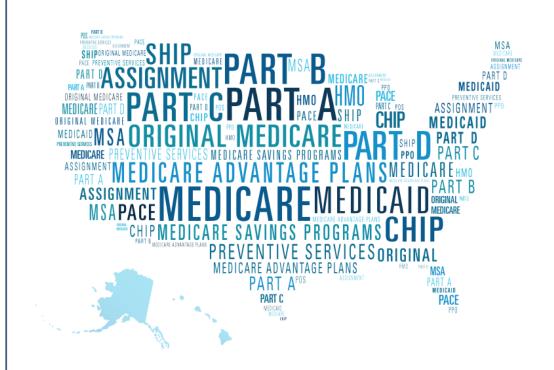
2016 National Training Program

Workbook

Module: 5 Coordination of Benefits







Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Training Program (NTP) Instructor Information Sheet

Module 5—Coordination of Benefits

Module Description

The lessons in this Coordination of Benefits training module explain the coordination of benefits when people have Medicare and certain other types of health coverage.

The materials—up to date and ready to use—are designed for information givers/trainers who are familiar with the Medicare program, and would like to have prepared information for their presentations.

Objectives

This session should help you

- Explain health and drug coverage coordination
- Determine who pays first
- Identify where to get more information

Target Audience

This module is designed for presentation to trainers and other information givers. It can be easily adapted for presentations to groups of beneficiaries.

Time Considerations

The module consists of 38 PowerPoint slides with corresponding speaker's notes, activities, and 5 Check Your Knowledge questions. It can be presented in about 45 minutes. Allow approximately 15 more minutes for discussion, questions, and answers. Additional time may be added for add-on activities.

Course Materials

No additional materials are needed.

Module 5—Coordination of Benefits

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Module 5, Coordination of Benefits, explains the rules that govern the payers' responsibility when people have Medicare and certain other types of health and/or prescription drug coverage. This training module was developed and approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that administers Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace.

The information in this module was correct as of May 2016. To check for an updated version, visit CMS.gov/outreach-and-education/training/cmsnationaltrainingprogram/index.html.

The CMS National Training Program provides this as an informational resource for our partners. It's not a legal document or intended for press purposes. The press can contact the CMS Press Office at press@cms.hhs.gov. Official Medicare program legal guidance is contained in the relevant statutes, regulations, and rulings.

Session Overview

This session should help you

- Explain health and drug coverage coordination
- Determine who pays first
- Identify where to get more information

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Coordination of Benefits

This session should help you

- Explain health and drug coverage coordination
- Determine who pays first
- Identify where to get more information

Lesson 1—Coordination of Benefits Overview

- Coordination of Benefits
- Medicare as the Primary Payer
- Medicare Secondary Payer

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Coordination of Benefits

Lesson 1, "Coordination of Benefits Overview," covers

- Coordination of Benefits
- Medicare as the Primary Payer
- Medicare Secondary Payer

Coordination of Benefits Overview

- Each type of health insurance coverage is called a "payer"
- When there's more than one payer, coordination of benefits rules decide which payer pays first
- There may be primary and secondary payers, and in some cases, there may also be a third payer

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Coordination of Benefits

If you have Medicare and other health coverage, each type of coverage is called a payer. When there's more than one payer, coordination of benefits rules decide which payer pays first. The primary payer pays what it owes on your bills first, and then your provider sends the rest to the secondary payer to pay. In some cases, there may also be a third payer.

When Does Medicare Pay?

- Medicare may be primary payer
 - In the absence of other primary insurance
- Medicare may be secondary payer
 - You may have other insurance that must pay first, and Medicare may make a secondary payment if appropriate
- Medicare may not pay at all
 - For services and items other health insurance is responsible for paying

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Coordination of Benefits

Medicare can be the primary payer, the secondary payer, or sometimes other insurance plans should pay and Medicare shouldn't pay at all.

Medicare may be the primary payer if you don't have other insurance, or if Medicare is primary to your other insurance.

Medicare may be the secondary payer in situations where Medicare doesn't provide your primary health insurance coverage, or when another insurer is primarily responsible for paying.

Medicare may not pay at all for services and items that other health insurers are responsible for paying.

When Medicare Is the Primary Payer

- If Medicare is your only insurance, or
- Your other source of coverage is
 - A Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) policy
 - Medicaid
 - Retiree benefits
 - The Indian Health Service
 - Veterans benefits
 - TRICARE
 - Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) continuation coverage
 - □ Except 30-month coordination period for people with End-Stage Renal Disease

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For most people with Medicare, Medicare is their primary payer, which means Medicare pays first on their health care claims. Medicare pays first in these situations:

- Medicare is your only source of medical, hospital, or drug coverage.
- You have a Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) policy or other privately purchased insurance policy that isn't related to current employment. A Medigap policy covers amounts not covered by Medicare.
- Coverage through Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligible beneficiaries), with no other coverage that could be primary to Medicare.
- Retiree coverage, in most cases. To know how a plan works with Medicare, check the plan's benefits booklet or plan description provided by the employer or union, or call the benefits administrator.
- Health care services provided by the Indian Health Service.
- Veterans benefits.
- TRICARE (Note: TRICARE is the U.S. Department of Defense health program for active-duty service members and their families. TRICARE for Life is the program for military retirees and their families.)
- Coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), except in cases when a person has End-Stage Renal Disease. We'll talk about this coverage shortly.

Medicare Secondary Payer

- When Medicare isn't responsible for paying a claim first
- Legislation protects the Medicare Trust
 Funds
- Helps ensure Medicare doesn't pay when another insurer should pay first
- Saves \$9 billion annually
 - Claims processed by insurances primary to Medicare

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Coordination of Benefits

Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) is the term generally used when Medicare isn't responsible for paying a claim first.

When Medicare started providing coverage in 1966, it was the primary payer for all claims except for those covered by workers' compensation, Federal Black Lung Benefits Program, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

In 1980, Congress passed legislation that made Medicare the secondary payer to certain primary plans in an effort to shift costs from Medicare to the appropriate private sources of payment.

The MSP provisions have protected Medicare's Trust Funds by making sure that Medicare doesn't pay for services and items that certain health insurance or coverage is primarily responsible for paying. The MSP provisions apply to situations when Medicare isn't the person's primary health insurance coverage, or in situations where another entity has been identified as the primary payer.

Medicare saves almost \$9 billion annually on claims processed by insurances that pay primary to Medicare.

Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center

- Identifies health benefits available to people with Medicare
- Coordinates claims to ensure they're paid by correct payer
- Responsible for identifying
 - Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) situations
 - Medical claims that should cross over to supplemental insurers
- MSP Claims Investigation
 - Contractor learns about other insurance
 - Identifies which is primary

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Coordination of Benefits

The Coordination of Benefits program identifies the health benefits available to a person with Medicare, and coordinates the payment process to prevent mistaken payment of Medicare benefits.

Medicare eligibility data are shared with other payers, and Medicare-paid medical claims are transmitted to supplemental insurers for secondary payment. An agreement must be in place between the CMS Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center (BCRC) and private insurance companies for the contractor to automatically cross over medical claims. In the absence of an agreement, the person with Medicare is required to coordinate secondary or supplemental payment of benefits with any other insurers he or she may have in addition to Medicare.

The BCRC initiates an investigation when it learns that a person has other insurance. The investigation determines whether Medicare or the other insurance has primary responsibility for meeting the person with Medicare's health care costs. The goal of these MSP information-gathering activities is to identify MSP situations quickly, ensuring correct payments by the responsible parties.

Check Your Knowledge—Question 1

When does Medicare pay for claims?

- a. Medicare may pay primary or secondary
- b. Medicare may not pay at all
- c. Both a and b are true
- d. Medicare is always the primary payer

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Coordination of Benefits

Check Your Knowledge—Question 1

When does Medicare pay for claims?

- a. Medicare may pay primary or secondary
- b. Medicare may not pay at all
- c. Both a and b are true
- d. Medicare is always the primary payer

Answer: c. Both a and b are true.

Medicare can be the primary payer, the secondary payer, or sometimes Medicare may not pay at all for services and items that other health insurers are responsible for paying.

Lesson 2—Health Coverage Coordination

- Medicare and the Marketplace
- Important Considerations
- Identifying Appropriate Payers
- Determining Who Pays First

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Coordination of Benefits

Lesson 2, "Health Coverage Coordination," explains the following:

- Medicare and the Marketplace
- Important Considerations
- Identifying Appropriate Payers
- Determining Who Pays First

Medicare and the Marketplace

- Medicare isn't part of the Health Insurance Marketplace
- If you have Medicare Part A, you're considered covered
- No matter how you get Medicare, whether through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), you won't have to make any changes related to the Marketplace
- If you have Medicare, it's illegal for someone to sell you a Marketplace plan
- You may have a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through the Marketplace and Medicare only if you signed up for the QHP first

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Coordination of Benefits

Medicare isn't part of the Health Insurance Marketplace. If you have Medicare Part A, you don't need to do anything related to the Marketplace; you're considered covered with regard to the minimum essential coverage requirement. No matter how you get Medicare, whether through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan (like a Health Maintenance Organization or a Preferred Provider Organization), you won't have to make any changes related to the Marketplace. If you have Medicare, it's illegal for someone to sell you a Marketplace plan.

NOTE: You may have Medicare and Marketplace coverage concurrently, only if you had your Marketplace coverage before you had Medicare.

Medicare and Marketplace Coordination

- Generally, no coordination between Marketplace
 Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and Medicare
 - Unless enrolled in employer-sponsored Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) plan
- QHPs aren't secondary insurance to Medicare
- May cause you to pay a lifetime Part B penalty if you don't enroll in Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period
 - Unless enrolled in employer-sponsored SHOP plan
- If you have to pay a premium for Medicare Part A
 - Can drop Medicare and enroll in Marketplace QHP

Generally, there's no coordination of benefits between Medicare and an individual Marketplace Qualified Health Plan (QHP) that you buy through the Health Insurance Marketplace. There are several important factors you should consider when deciding whether or not to remain in a QHP after you enroll in Medicare Part A.

- The QHP isn't secondary insurance, and it isn't required to pay any costs toward your coverage if you have Medicare.
- Individual Marketplace coverage isn't employer-sponsored coverage, and it's not based on current employment. If you have individual Marketplace coverage and only enroll in Part A during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period, you won't be able to enroll in Part B later using a Special Enrollment Period. You'll have to wait for the General Enrollment Period (January 1–March 31 each year), and you'll have to pay a lifetime Part B penalty if you went without Part B for more than 12 months.
- Once your Part A coverage starts, any premium tax credits and reduced cost-sharing you may have qualified for through the Marketplace will stop. That's because Part A is considered minimum essential coverage, not Part B.

You may decide to choose Marketplace coverage instead of Medicare if you have to pay a premium for Part A. If you're already paying a premium for Part A, you can drop your Part A and Part B coverage and get a Marketplace plan instead. If you only have Part B and would have to pay a premium for Part A, you can drop Part B and get a Marketplace plan instead. Visit HealthCare.gov for more information about the Marketplace.

Only individuals enrolled in the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) program in the Marketplace will have coordination of benefits because that coverage is based on current employment. These individuals have group health plan coverage and Medicare will pay secondary to the QHP coverage. In addition, these individuals can consider delaying enrolling in Part B and not get a penalty because SHOP employer-sponsored coverage is based on current employment. Visit HealthCare.gov for more information about the Marketplace.

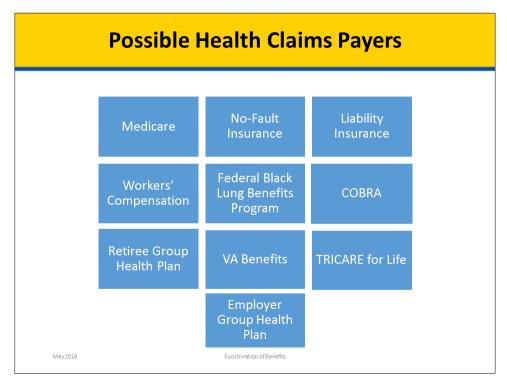
Important Retiree Coverage Considerations

- Most retiree plans offer generous medical and prescription drug coverage for the entire family
 - Employer/union must disclose how its plan works with Medicare drug coverage
 - Talk to your benefits administrator for more information
- If you lose your creditable prescription drug coverage, you have 63 days to enroll in a Part D plan without penalty
- People who drop retiree drug coverage may
 - Lose other health coverage
 - Not be able to get it back
 - Cause family members to lose their coverage

As discussed previously, people with Medicare who have employer or union retirement plans that cover prescription drugs must carefully consider their options. A person's needs may vary from year to year based on factors like health status and financial considerations. Options provided by employer or union retirement plans can also vary each year. Each plan is required by law to annually disclose to its members how it works with Medicare prescription drug coverage. If a person with Medicare loses "creditable" drug coverage, he or she has 63 days to enroll in a Part D plan without incurring a late enrollment penalty. Contact the employer group health plan's benefits administrator for information, including how it works with Medicare drug coverage. Creditable coverage is coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.

When making a decision on whether to keep or drop coverage through an employer or union retirement plan, consider these important points:

- Most employer/union retirement plans offer prescription coverage comparable to Medicare drug coverage, and often generous hospitalization and medical insurance for the entire family, which is particularly important for those who are chronically ill or have frequent hospitalizations
- If you drop retiree group health coverage, you may not be able to get it back
- If you drop drug coverage, you may also lose doctor and hospital coverage
- Family members covered by the same policy may also be affected, so any decision about drug coverage should consider the entire family's health status and coverage needs



It's important to identify whether your medical costs are payable by other insurance before, or in addition to, Medicare. This information helps health care providers determine whom to bill and how to file claims with Medicare.

There are many insurance benefits you could have and many combinations of insurance coverage to consider before determining who pays and when:

- Medicare
- No-Fault Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Federal Black Lung Benefits Program
- Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)
- Retiree Group Health Plan
- Veterans Affairs Benefits
- TRICARE for Life
- Employer Group Health Plan

Depending on the type of additional insurance coverage a person may have, Medicare may be the primary payer or secondary payer for your claim, or may not pay at all.

Employer Group Health Plans

- Coverage offered by many employers and unions
 - To current employees, spouse, and family members
 - To retirees, spouse, and family members
 - Retiree coverage may be employer-based Medicare Part C or Part D plans
 - Includes Federal Employee Health Benefits Program
 - May be fee-for-service plan or managed care plan
- Employees can choose to keep or reject
- Businesses with 50 or fewer employees can offer Small Business Health Options Program plans

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Coordination of Benefit:

Coordination of benefits depends on whether you, your spouse, or your family member is currently working or retired, and on the number of employees of that company.

Employer group health plan (EGHP) coverage is offered by many employers and unions for current employees and/or retirees. For example, the Federal Employee Health Benefits program is a type of EGHP. You may also get group health coverage through your spouse's or other family member's employer. If you have Medicare and are offered coverage under an EGHP, you can choose to accept or reject the plan. The EGHP may be a fee-for-service plan or a managed care plan, like a Health Maintenance Organization.

Employers/unions may also arrange for their Medicare-eligible retirees, spouses, and dependents to get Medicare Part C managed health care and/or Part D prescription drug coverage through employer group waiver plans.

Businesses with 50 or fewer employees can offer Small Business Health Options Program plans.

Employer Group Health Plans (EGHP) (Continued)			
If You Are	Medicare Pays First		
65 or older and have retiree coverage	Yes (as long as you don't have excluding conditions such as black lung, or others specified on next page)		
65 or older with EGHP coverage through current employment (yours or your spouse's)	If the employer has less than 20 employees		
Under 65 with a disability and have EGHP coverage through current employment (yours or a family member's)	If the employer has less than 100 employees		
Eligible for Medicare due to End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and you have EGHP coverage	When the 30-month coordination period ends, or if you had Medicare primary before you had ESRD		

Medicare pays first for people with employer group health plans (EGHPs) if they're

- 65 or older and have retiree coverage
- 65 or older with EGHP coverage through current employment, either theirs or their spouse's, and the employer has less than 20 employees
- Under 65, have a disability, and are covered by an EGHP through current employment (either the
 individual's or a family member's), and their employer has less than 100 employees
- Eligible for Medicare due to End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and they have EGHP coverage, either theirs or their spouse's, and the 30-month coordination period has ended, and they had Medicare as their primary coverage before they had ESRD

Exclusions are listed on the next page.

Non-Group Health Plans

- Medicare doesn't usually pay for services when diagnosis indicates that other insurers may provide coverage, including
 - Auto accidents
 - Illness related to mining (Federal Black Lung Benefits Program)
 - Third-party liability
 - Work injury or illness (workers' compensation)

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Coordination of Benefits

Medicare doesn't usually pay for services when the diagnosis indicates that other insurers may provide coverage, including

- Auto accidents
- Illness related to mining (Federal Black Lung Benefits Program)
- Third-party liability
- Work-related injury or illness (workers' compensation)

No-Fault Insurance

- Includes automobile insurance, homeowners' insurance, and commercial insurance plans
- Pays regardless of who's at fault
- Medicare is secondary payer
- Medicare may make conditional payment
 - If claim not paid within 120 days
 - You won't have to use your own money to pay bill
 - Must be repaid when claim is resolved by the primary payer

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Coordination of Benefits

No-fault insurance is insurance that pays for health care services resulting from personal injury or damage to someone's property regardless of who's at fault for causing it. Types of no-fault insurance include the following:

- Automobile insurance
- Homeowners' insurance
- Commercial insurance plans

Medicare is the secondary payer when no-fault insurance is available. Medicare generally won't pay for medical expenses covered by no-fault insurance. However, Medicare may pay for medical expenses if the claim is denied for reasons other than not being a proper claim. Medicare will make payment only to the extent that the services are covered under Medicare. Also, if the no-fault insurance doesn't pay promptly (within 120 days), Medicare may make a conditional payment for which Medicare has the right to seek recovery.

The money that Medicare used for the conditional payment must be repaid to Medicare when the no-fault insurance settlement is reached. If Medicare makes a conditional payment and you later resolve the insurance claim, Medicare will seek to recover the conditional payment from you. You're responsible for making sure that Medicare gets repaid for the conditional payment.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173, Title III, Sec. 301) further clarifies language protecting Medicare's ability to seek recovery of conditional payments.

Part D plans will pay for covered prescriptions that aren't related to the accident or injury.

Liability Insurance

- Protects against certain claims
 - Negligence, inappropriate action, or inaction
- Medicare is secondary payer
 - Providers must attempt to collect before billing Medicare
- Medicare may make conditional payment
 - If the liability insurer won't pay promptly (within 120 days)
 - Must be repaid when claim is resolved by the primary payer

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

Liability insurance is coverage that protects you against claims based on negligence, inappropriate action, or inaction that results in injury to someone or damage to property. Liability insurance includes, but isn't limited to, the following:

- Homeowners' liability insurance
- Automobile liability insurance
- Product liability insurance
- Malpractice liability insurance
- Uninsured motorist liability insurance
- Underinsured motorist liability insurance

Medicare is the secondary payer in cases where liability insurance is available. If health care professionals find that the services they gave a person can be paid by a liability insurer, they must attempt to collect from that insurer before billing Medicare. Providers are required to bill the liability insurer first, even though the liability insurer may not make a prompt payment. Sometimes this can take a long time. If the insurance company doesn't pay the claim promptly (usually within 120 days), your doctor or other provider may bill Medicare. Medicare may make a conditional payment for services for which another payer is responsible, so you won't have to use your own money to pay the bill. The payment is conditional because the other payer must repay Medicare when a settlement judgment, award, or other payment is made.

Workers' Compensation

- Medicare won't pay for health care related to workers' compensation claims
- If workers' compensation claim is denied, claim may be filed for Medicare payment
- Workers' compensation claims can be resolved by settlements, judgments, awards, or other payments

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Coordination of Benefits

Medicare generally won't pay for an injury or illness/disease covered by workers' compensation. If all or part of a claim is denied by workers' compensation on the grounds that it isn't covered by workers' compensation, a claim may be filed with Medicare. Medicare may pay a claim that relates to a medical service or product covered by Medicare if the claim isn't covered by workers' compensation.

Workers' compensation claims can be resolved by settlements, judgments, awards, or other payments.

Workers' Compensation Medicare Set-Aside Arrangement (WCMSA)

- Funds to be set aside to pay for future medical or prescription drug services
- Funds must be used for the injury, illness, or disease covered by workers' compensation
- Only used for Medicare-covered services
- Medicare pays for Medicare-covered services after WCMSA funds are used up

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Coordination of Benefits

A Workers' Compensation Medicare Set-Aside Arrangement (WCMSA) is a financial agreement that allocates a portion of a workers' compensation settlement to pay for future medical services related to the workers' compensation injury, illness, or disease.

- Money placed in your WCMSA is only for paying future medical and/or prescription drug expenses related to your work injury, illness, or disease, and only if the expense is for a treatment that Medicare would cover.
- You can't use the WCMSA to pay for any other work injury, or any medical items or services that Medicare doesn't cover (for example, dental services).
- If you're not sure what type of services Medicare covers, call 1-800-MEDICARE before you use any of the money that was placed in your WCMSA. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- After you use all of your WCMSA money appropriately, Medicare can start paying for Medicarecovered services related to your work-related injury, illness, or disease.

You may learn more about WCMSAs at go.cms.gov/wcmsa.

For more information, see Section 1862(b)(2) of the Social Security Act of 1954 (42 USC 1395y(b)(2)).

Federal Black Lung Benefits Program

- Covers lung disease/conditions caused by coal mining
- Services under this program
 - Considered workers' compensation claims
 - Not covered by Medicare
- For more information call
 - 1-800-638-7072
 - TTY 1-877-889-5627

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

Some people with Medicare can get Federal Black Lung Benefits Program medical benefits for services related to lung disease and other conditions caused by coal mining. Medicare doesn't pay for health services covered under this program. Black lung claims are considered workers' compensation claims. All claims for services that relate to a diagnosis of black lung disease are referred to the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation in the U.S. Department of Labor.

However, if the services aren't related to black lung, Medicare will serve as the primary payer if all the following are true:

- There's no other primary insurance
- The individual is eligible for Medicare
- The services are covered by the Medicare program

Federal Black Lung Benefits Program beneficiaries are eligible for prescription drugs, inpatient and outpatient services, and doctors' visits. In addition, home oxygen and other medical equipment, home nursing services, and pulmonary rehabilitation may be covered with a doctor's prescription.

Federal Black Lung Benefits Program beneficiaries can reach the office responsible for the program's medical diagnostic and treatment services toll-free at 1-800-638-7072. TTY users should call 1-877-889-5627.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

- Requires employers with 20 or more employees to let employees and dependents keep health coverage under certain conditions
- Allows certain former employees, retirees, spouses, former spouses, and dependent children the right to temporary continuation of health coverage at group rates
- Coverage is only available when coverage is lost due to certain specific events
 - Generally for 18 months, but can be longer in special circumstances
- Person must pay the entire insurance premium

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Coordination of Benefits

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) requires employers with 20 or more employees to let employees and their dependents keep their health coverage for a time after they leave their employer group health plan, under certain conditions. This is called COBRA "continuation coverage." The law applies to private sector and state and local government—sponsored plans, but not to federal government—sponsored plans, the government of the District of Columbia, any territory or possession of the United States, or to certain church-related organizations. The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program is subject to similar temporary continuation-of-coverage provisions under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Amendments Act of 1988.

COBRA coverage can begin due to certain events, like loss of employment or reduced working hours, divorce, death of an employee, or a child ceasing to be a dependent under the terms of the plan. For loss of employment or reduced working hours, COBRA coverage generally continues for 18 months. Certain disabled individuals and their non-disabled family members may qualify for an 11-month extension of coverage from 18 to 29 months. Other qualifying events call for continued coverage up to 36 months.

Group health coverage for COBRA participants is usually more expensive than health coverage for active employees, since the participant pays both his/her part and the part of the premium his/her employer paid while he/she still worked.

You can replace COBRA coverage with Marketplace coverage. If your COBRA coverage ends outside the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (November 1–January 31), you may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). To find out if you qualify for an SEP, visit HealthCare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/. This means you can enroll in a private health plan through the Marketplace outside of Open Enrollment. If you end your COBRA coverage early and you are outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can't enroll in a Marketplace plan at all. During the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can drop your COBRA coverage and get a plan through the Marketplace, even if your COBRA coverage hasn't run out.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) Coverage

If You	Medicare Pays First
Are 65 or older or have a disability and have COBRA continuation coverage	In most cases
Have COBRA continuation coverage and are eligible for Medicare due to End-Stage Renal Disease	When your 30-month coordination period ends
May 2016 Coordination of Benefits	

Medicare usually pays primary to Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) continuation coverage for aged and disabled individuals. Medicare pays secondary to COBRA for individuals with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) during the 30-month coordination period.

Before electing COBRA coverage, people may find it helpful to talk with a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor to understand their options better. For example, if a person who already has Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) chooses COBRA, but waits to sign up for Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) until the last part of the 8-month Special Enrollment Period following termination of employment, the employer can make the person pay for services that Medicare would have covered if he or she had signed up for Part B earlier.

In some states, SHIP counselors can also provide information about time frames on COBRA and Medigap guaranteed issue rights in a given state. Time frames may differ depending on state law.

Medicare Part D plans generally pay first before COBRA coverage for people 65 and older and those who have a disability.

Medicare Part D pays first, if you have COBRA and have ESRD, once you're out of your 30-month coordination period.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Coverage

- If you have Medicare and VA benefits
 - Can get treatment under either program
- Medicare pays when you choose to get your benefits from Medicare
- To receive services under VA benefits
 - You must get your health care at a VA facility, or
 - Have the VA authorize, or agree to pay for, services in a non-VA facility

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Coordination of Benefits

If you have both Medicare and Veterans' benefits, you can access health care treatment under either program. However, you must choose which benefit you'll use each time you see a doctor or get health care (for example, in a hospital). Medicare won't pay for the same service authorized by Veterans Affairs (VA); similarly, VA coverage won't pay for the same service covered by Medicare.

To receive VA services, you must get your health care at a VA facility or have the VA authorize services in a non-VA facility. Veterans could be subject to a penalty for enrolling late for Medicare Part B, even if they're enrolled in VA health care.

VA benefits are given to people who served in the active military, naval, or air service and were honorably discharged or released, or were/are a Reservist or National Guard member and were called to active duty by a federal order (for other than training purposes) and completed the full call-up period.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the VA. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based on the service member's discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TRICARE for Life (TFL) Coverage

- Military retiree coverage for services covered by Medicare and TFL
 - Medicare pays first/TFL pays remaining
- For services covered by TFL but not Medicare
 - TFL pays first and Medicare pays nothing
- For services received in a military hospital or other federal provider
 - TFL pays first and Medicare generally pays nothing

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

If you have Medicare and TRICARE for Life (TFL), Medicare is your primary insurance. TFL acts as your secondary payer, minimizing your out-of-pocket expenses. TFL benefits include covering Medicare's coinsurance and deductibles.

If you use a Medicare provider, he or she will file your claims with Medicare. Medicare pays its portion and electronically forwards the claim to the TFL claims processor. TFL pays the provider directly for TFL-covered services.

For services covered by both Medicare and TFL, Medicare pays first and TFL pays the remaining coinsurance for TRICARE-covered services.

For services covered by TFL but not by Medicare, TFL pays first and Medicare pays nothing. You must pay the TFL fiscal year deductible and cost shares.

For services covered by Medicare, but not by TFL, Medicare pays first and TFL pays nothing. You must pay the Medicare deductible and coinsurance.

For services not covered by Medicare or TFL, Medicare and TFL pay nothing and you must pay the entire bill.

When you receive services from a military hospital or any other federal provider, TFL will pay the bills. Medicare doesn't usually pay for services received from a federal provider or other federal agency.

NOTE: TFL is coverage for all TRICARE beneficiaries who have both Medicare Part A and Part B. Active-duty personnel are covered by TRICARE insurance. Coordination of benefits situations concerning TRICARE should be handled like other employer group health plans.

Check Your Knowledge—Question 2

If you're 65 or older and have Employer Group Health Plan coverage through your current employer, Medicare pays first when your employer has

- a. more than 30 employees
- b. fewer than 20 employees
- c. 50 or more employees
- d. 100 or more employees

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

Check Your Knowledge—Question 2

If you're 65 or older and have Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) coverage through your current employer, Medicare pays first when your employer has

- a. more than 30 employees
- b. fewer than 20 employees
- c. 50 or more employees
- d. 100 or more employees

Answer: b. fewer than 20 employees

Medicare will pay first if you're 65 or older with EGHP coverage through current employment, either yours or your spouse's, and the employer has fewer than 20 employees.

Check Your Knowledge—Question 3

Medicare is usually the secondary payer for claims that involve no-fault insurance.

- a. True
- b. False

May 2016

Coordination of Benefit

Check Your Knowledge—Question 3

Medicare is usually the secondary payer for claims that involve no-fault insurance.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: a. True

Medicare is the secondary payer where no-fault insurance is available—Medicare generally won't pay for medical expenses covered by no-fault insurance. However, Medicare may pay for medical expenses if the claim is denied for reasons other than not being a proper claim. Medicare will make payment only to the extent that the services are covered under Medicare. Also, if the no-fault insurance doesn't pay promptly (within 120 days), Medicare may make a conditional payment. A conditional payment is a payment for which Medicare has the right to seek recovery.

Lesson 3—Medicare Part D Coordination of Benefits

- Coordination of Prescription Drug Benefits
- Other Possible Payers
- When Part D Pays First

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

Lesson 3, "Medicare Part D Coordination of Benefits," explains the following:

- Coordination of Prescription Drug Benefits
- Other Possible Payers
- When Part D Pays First

Coordination of Prescription Drug Benefits

- Ensures proper payment by Medicare Part D plans
- Medicare Part D plan usually pays primary
- If Medicare is secondary payer
 - Part D plan denies primary claims
 - Part D plan may make conditional payment
 - □ To ease burden on enrollee
 - Medicare is reimbursed

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

Generally, Medicare Part D provides primary coverage for prescription drugs. Whenever Medicare is primary, the Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) plan is billed and will pay first.

When Medicare is the secondary payer, Part D plans will generally deny primary claims.

When Medicare is the secondary payer to a non-group health plan, or when a plan doesn't know whether a covered drug is related to an injury, Part D plans will always make a conditional primary payment to ease the burden on the policyholder, unless certain situations apply.

The Part D plan won't pay if it's aware that the enrollee has workers' compensation, Federal Black Lung Program benefits, or no-fault/liability coverage and has previously established that a certain drug is being used exclusively to treat a related illness or injury. For example, when an enrollee refills a prescription previously paid for by workers' compensation, the Part D plan may deny primary payment and default to Medicare Secondary Payer. The payment is conditional because it must be repaid to Medicare once a settlement, judgment, or award is reached. The proposed settlement or update should be reported to Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048) and asking for the Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center (BCRC), or by mailing relevant documents to the BCRC. Visit CMS.gov/Medicare/Coordination-of-Benefits-and-Recovery/Coordination-of-Benefits-and-Recovery-Overview/Contacts/Contacts-page.html for additional contact information for the BCRC.

Possible Drug Coverage Payers

Employer Group Health Plans

- Retiree
- Active employment
- Consolidated Omnibus
 Budget Reconciliation Act

State

- Medicaid programs
- State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs
- Workers' Compensation

Federal

- Medicare Part A or Part B
- Federal Black Lung Program
- Indian Health Service
- Veterans Affairs
- TRICARE for Life
- AIDS Drug Assistance Programs

Other

- No-Fault/Liability
- Patient Assistance Programs
- Charities

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Coordination of Benefits

Possible drug coverage payers include the following:

Employer Group Health Plans

- Retiree
- Active employment
- Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

State

- Medicaid programs
- State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs
- Workers' compensation

Federal

- Medicare Part A or Part B (limited)
- Federal Black Lung Program
- Indian Health Service
- Veterans Affairs
- TRICARE for Life
- AIDS Drug Assistance Programs

Other

- No-Fault/Liability
- Patient Assistance Programs
- Charities

Important Retiree Drug Coverage Considerations

- Most retiree plans offer generous coverage for the entire family
 - Employer/union must disclose how its plan works with Medicare drug coverage
 - Talk to your benefits administrator for more information
- If you lose your creditable prescription drug coverage
 - You will get a Special Enrollment Period (SEP); the SEP
 Starts with notification of the loss of creditable coverage
 Ends either 2 months after the notification, or two months after the end of the coverage—whichever is later
- People who drop retiree drug coverage may
 - Lose other health coverage
 - Not be able to get it back
 - Cause family members to lose their coverage

May 2016

Coordination of Benefits

As previously discussed regarding health coverage, people with Medicare who have employer or union retirement plans that cover prescription drugs must carefully consider their options. A person's needs may vary from year to year based on factors like health status and financial considerations. Options provided by employer or union retirement plans can also vary each year. Each plan is required by law to annually disclose to its members how it works with Medicare prescription drug coverage. A person who loses creditable coverage has a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to pick up Part D coverage. The SEP starts with notification of the loss of creditable coverage and ends either 2 months after the notification or 2 months after the end of the coverage, whichever is later. Creditable coverage is coverage that's expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. Contact the Employer Group Health Plan's benefits administrator for information, including how it works with Medicare drug coverage. When making a decision on whether to keep or drop coverage through an employer or union retirement plan, consider these important points:

- Most employer/union retirement plans offer prescription coverage comparable to Medicare drug coverage, and often generous hospitalization and medical insurance for the entire family, which is particularly important for those who are chronically ill or have frequent hospitalizations
- If you drop retiree group health coverage, you may not be able to get it back
- If you drop drug coverage, you may also lose doctor and hospital coverage
- Family members covered by the same policy may also be affected, so any decision about drug coverage should consider the entire family's health status and coverage needs

Type of Plan	Situation	Part D Pays First for Medically-Necessary Part D Covered Prescriptions
Employer Group Health (EGHP)	You're 65 or older and have retiree coverage	Yes
	You're 65 or older with EGHP coverage through current employment (yours or your spouse's)	If the employer has less than 20 employees
	You're under 65 with a disability and have EGHP coverage through current employment (yours or a family member's)	If the employer has less than 100 employees
	You're eligible for Medicare due to End- Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and you have EGHP coverage	When the 30-month coordination period ends, or if you had Medicare before you had ESRD
Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)	You're 65 or older and have a disability and have COBRA continuation coverage	In most cases
May 2016	You have COBRA continuation coverage and are eligible for Medicare due to ESRD Coordination of Benefits	When your 30-month coordination period ends

Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) usually pays first if you have retiree coverage.

Medicare Part D pays first also for

- Working-aged individuals 65 and older (they or their covered spouse is still working) with Medicare
 and an Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) with fewer than 20 employees
- A person with a disability with an EGHP with 100 or less employees
- End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) with an EGHP of any size after a 30-month coordination period

NOTE: The Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program is a type of EGHP. It covers participating current and retired federal employees. There's usually not much benefit to having both Part D and FEHB coverage, unless you qualify for Extra Help. If you have both, and are retired, Part D would pay first.

Part D generally pays first before Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) coverage for people 65 and older and those who have a disability.

Medicare Part D pays first, if you have COBRA and have ESRD, once you're out of your 30-month coordination period.

Type of Plan	Situation	Then Part D Pays First for Medically Necessary Part D Covered Prescriptions
Federal Black Lung Program	If you get these benefits, Part D plans may make a conditional payment	For prescriptions not related to lung disease and other conditions caused by coal mining
Indian Health Services (IHS)	You get benefits from the IHS	Even if you get your drugs from IHS, Tribal, or Urban Indian clinics
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	You have coverage through the VA	There's no coordination of benefits. A prescription must be paid solely by either the VA or Medicare.
TRICARE for Life	You have TRICARE for Life benefits	You generally won't need to enroll in a Part D plan
State Medicaid Programs	You're enrolled in your state's Medicaid program	For all Part D-covered drugs. States may provide Medicaid coverage of drugs the Medicare Modernization Act excludes from Part D coverage
State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs	You get assistance from a State Pharmaceutical Assistance program	Yes. The state just helps pay your Part D costs.
May 2016	Coordination of Benefits	

The **Federal Black Lung Program** covers people with lung disease from coal mining. If you get Federal Black Lung Program benefits, Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) won't cover prescriptions related to lung disease and other conditions caused by coal mining. It will pay first for all other covered prescriptions.

The **Indian Health Service** (IHS) is the primary provider for the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Medicare population. AI/AN people with Medicare can't be charged any cost-sharing. IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian (I/T/U) (a pharmacy operated by IHS, an Indian tribe or tribal organization, or an Urban Indian organization, all of which are defined in Section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 1976. 25 USC 1603) facilities must waive any copayments or deductibles that would have been applied by a Part D plan.

Many Indian health facilities participate in the Medicare prescription drug program. If you get prescription drugs through an Indian health facility, you pay nothing, and your coverage won't be interrupted. Coordination of benefits with IHS and Tribes is tied to pharmacy network contracting. Regulations require all Part D sponsors to offer network contracts to all I/T/U pharmacies operating in their service area. Plans also must demonstrate to CMS that they provide convenient access to I/T/U pharmacies for AI/AN enrollees.

Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, including prescription drug coverage, are separate and distinct from benefits provided under Part D. Legally, VA can't bill Medicare. Although a person with Medicare may be eligible to receive VA prescription drug benefits and enroll in a Part D plan, he or she can't use both benefits for a single prescription.

VA prescriptions generally must be written by a VA physician and can only be filled in a VA facility or through VA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy operations. The VA doesn't fill prescriptions for Part D sponsors. Since VA and Part D benefits are separate and distinct, a veteran's payment of a VA medication copayment doesn't count toward his or her gross covered drug costs, or true out-of-pocket costs, under his or her Part D benefit.

Since VA prescription drug coverage is creditable coverage, you won't face a penalty if you delay enrollment in a Part D plan. However, if you receive less than full VA prescription drug benefits, you may benefit from enrollment in a Part D plan—particularly if you're eligible for Extra Help.

TRICARE for Life (TFL) coverage includes prescription drug benefits. These benefits qualify as creditable coverage, meaning they're as good as or better than the Medicare Part D benefit. People with TFL don't need to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when they have the TFL pharmacy benefit. If they choose to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan at a later date, they won't be charged a late enrollment penalty.

Under the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), people with both Medicare and full Medicaid benefits (called "full-benefit dual eligibles") now receive drug coverage from Medicare instead of Medicaid. States may choose to provide Medicaid coverage of drugs the MMA excludes from Part D coverage. Some Medicare Special Needs Plans coordinate Medicare-covered services, including prescription drug coverage, for people with both Medicare and Medicaid.

If you get help from a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, Medicare Part D pays first. The states just helps pay your Part D costs.

Type of Plan	Situation	Then Part D Pays First for Medically Necessary Part D Covered Prescriptions
Workers' Compensation	If you're covered under Workers' Compensation	For prescriptions other than those for the job-related illness or injury. Medicare may make a conditional payment.
Manufacturer- sponsored Patient Assistance Program	If you get help from a Manufacturer-sponsored Patient Assistance Program	Yes
Charity	If you get help from a charity	Yes
No-fault/Liability Insurance	If you're covered by No- Fault/Liability insurance, such as for an automobile accident, injury in a public place, or malpractice	For prescriptions covered by Part D not related to the accident or injury
May 2016	Coordination of Benefits	

If you're covered under workers' compensation, Part D will pay first for covered prescriptions that aren't related to the job-related illness or injury. Part D plans will always make a conditional primary payment to ease the burden on the policyholder, unless certain situations apply. The Part D plan won't pay if it's aware that the enrollee has workers' compensation, Federal Black Lung Program benefits, or no-fault/liability coverage and has previously established that a certain drug is being used exclusively to treat a related illness or injury. For example, when an enrollee refills a prescription previously paid for by workers' compensation, the Part D plan may deny primary payment and default to Medicare secondary payer. The payment is conditional because it must be repaid to Medicare once a settlement, judgment, or award is reached.

Manufacturer-sponsored Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) may choose to structure themselves to continue providing in-kind assistance to Part D enrollees, but outside the Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) benefit. That means, the value of the PAP's in-kind assistance won't count toward a Part D enrollee's true out-of-pocket (TrOOP) costs. CMS encourages PAPs to exchange eligibility files with CMS so that Part D plans are aware of their enrollee's eligibility for PAP assistance and can set their computer system's edits to reflect when the drugs are provided free under the PAP. PAPs may charge a small copayment when providing this in-kind assistance, and this amount may count toward TrOOP. The person with Medicare will need to submit a paper claim to the drug plan, along with copayment documentation.

Charitable program members may present a retail ID card at the point of sale to get financial assistance. Charities that choose to participate in electronic data exchange can expedite adjudication of claims at the point of sale. Some charities require enrollees to submit a paper claim and then send claims to the TrOOP contractor in batch form for accurate TrOOP recalculation.

Any financial assistance a charity provides on behalf of a Part D enrollee will count toward the TrOOP catastrophic threshold, unless it's a group health plan, insurance, government-funded health program, or other third-party payment arrangement.

If you're covered by **no-fault/liability insurance**, such as for an automobile accident, injury in a public place, or malpractice, Part D pays first for prescriptions covered by Part D that aren't related to the accident or injury.

Check Your Knowledge—Question 4

For people covered by Medicare **and** full Medicaid benefits who have a medical issue that's covered by workers' compensation insurance

- a. Medicaid pays for all prescriptions
- b. Medicare pays for prescriptions other than those for the job-related injury or illness
- c. Medicare pays for all prescriptions
- d. Medicaid pays for prescriptions other than those for the job-related injury or illness

May 2016

Coordination of Benefit

Check Your Knowledge—Question 4

For people covered by Medicare **and** full Medicaid benefits who have a medical issue that's covered by worker' compensation insurance:

- a. Medicaid pays for all prescriptions
- b. Medicare pays for prescriptions other than those for the job-related injury or illness
- c. Medicare pays for all prescriptions
- d. Medicaid pays for prescriptions other than those for the job-related injury or illness

Answer: b. Medicare pays for prescriptions other than those for the job-related injury or illness.

The Medicare Modernization Act established that people with both Medicare and full Medicaid benefits will receive drug coverage from Medicare rather than Medicaid.

Coordination of Benefits Resource Guide

Resources

Medicare

Products

"Medicare & You Handbook" CMS Product No. 10050

"Your Medicare Benefits"

Medicare/TRICARE Benefit Overview **IRICARE.mil/welcome/eligibility.aspx**

Patient Assistance Program Center

CMS Product No. 10116

Benefits: Your Guide to Who Pays "Medicare and Other Health

Department of Veterans Affairs

FRICARE.mil/ **TRICARE**

CMS Product No. 02179

va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

TY 1-800-829-4833

1-800-827-1000

http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/

Veterans Affairs

Black Lung Program

View and order single copies at Medicare.gov/publications To access these products

Order multiple copies (partners

productordering.cms.hhs.gov

fou must register your organization.

Medicaid Services (CMS) Centers for Medicare &

(1-800-633-4227)1-800-MEDICARE

TTY 1-877-486-2048 Medicare.gov

Benefits Coordination & Recovery CMS.gov

Center

TTY 1-855-797-2627 1-855-798-2627

U.S. Department of Labor

1-866-4-USA-DOL

dol.gov/dol/topic/health-(1-866-487-2365)

Office of Personnel Management plans/cobra.htm

(Federal Employees Health Benefit Program)

insurance/healthcare/ opm.gov/healthcare

dol.gov/compliance/topics/benefits-compblacklung.htm

1-800-638-7072

TY 1-877-889-5627

Acronyms

AI/AN American Indian/Alaska Native

BCRC Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center

CHIP Children's Health Insurance Program

CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

COBRA Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

EGHP Employer Group Health Plan

ESRD End-Stage Renal Disease

FEHB Federal Employee Health Benefits

IHS Indian Health Services

IRS Internal Revenue Service

I/T/U Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban Indian

MMA Medicare Modernization Act

MSP Medicare Secondary Payer

NTP National Training Program

PAP Patient Assistance Program

QHP Qualified Health Plan

SEP Special Enrollment Period

SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance Program

SHOP Small Business Health Options Program

TFL TRICARE for Life

TrOOP True Out-Of-Pocket

VA Veterans Affairs

WCMSA Workers' Compensation Medicare Set-Aide Arrangement

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Coordination of Benefits

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