Chapter 6: What you pay for your Medicare and Medicaid prescription drugs

[Plans with no cost sharing for all outpatient drugs, delete Sections C, D, E, and F and change section G to section C.]

[Plans should refer members to other parts of the handbook using the appropriate chapter number, section, and/or page number. For example, "see Chapter 9, Section A, page 1."   
An instruction [plans may insert reference, as applicable] is listed next to each cross reference throughout the handbook.]

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Introduction

This chapter tells what you pay for your outpatient prescription drugs. By “drugs,” we mean:

* Medicare Part D prescription drugs, ***and***
* drugs and items covered under Medicaid, ***and***
* drugs and items covered by the plan as additional benefits.

Because you are eligible for Medicaid, you are getting “Extra Help” from Medicare to help pay for your Medicare Part D prescription drugs.

To learn more about prescription drugs, you can look in these places:

* **The plan’s *List of Covered Drugs.***We call this the “Drug List.” It tells you:
* Which drugs the plan pays for
* Which of the <number of tiers> cost sharing tiers each drug is in
* Whether there are any limits on the drugs

If you need a copy of the Drug List, call Member Services. You can also find the Drug List on our website at <web address>. The Drug List on the website is always the most current.

* **Chapter 5 of this Member Handbook.** Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] tells how to get your outpatient prescription drugs through the plan. It includes rules you need to follow. It also tells which types of prescription drugs are *not* covered by our plan.
* **The plan’s *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*** In most cases, you must use a network pharmacy to get your covered drugs. Network pharmacies are pharmacies that have agreed to work with our plan. The *Provider and Pharmacy Directory* has a list of network pharmacies. You can read more about network pharmacies in Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable].

# The Explanation of Benefits (EOB)

[Plans with a single payment stage (i.e., no cost sharing differences between the Initial Coverage Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage), modify this section as necessary.]

Our plan keeps track of your prescription drugs. We keep track of two types of costs:

* Your *out-of-pocket costs*. This is the amount of money you, or others paying for you, pay for your prescriptions.
* Your *total drug costs.* This is the amount of money you, or others paying for you, pay for your prescriptions, plus the amount the plan pays.

When you get prescription drugs through the plan, we send you a report called the *Explanation of Benefits.* We call it the *EOB* for short. The EOB includes:

* **Information for the month**. The report tells what prescription drugs you got. It shows the total drug costs, what the plan paid, and what you and others paying for you paid.
* **“Year-to-date” information.** This is your total drug costs and the total payments made since January 1.
* We offer coverage of drugs not covered under Medicare. Payments made for these drugs will not count towards your total out-of-pocket costs. [Insert only if the plan pays for OTC drugs as part of its administrative costs under Part D, rather than as a Medicaid benefit: We also pay for some over-the-counter drugs. You do not have to pay anything for these drugs.] To find out which drugs our plan covers, see the Drug List.

# Keeping track of your drug costs

To keep track of your drug costs and the payments you make, we use records we get from you and from your pharmacy. Here is how you can help us:

## 1. Use your plan ID card.

Show your plan ID card every time you get a prescription filled. This will help us know what prescriptions you fill and what you pay.

## 2. Make sure we have the information we need.

Give us copies of receipts for drugs that you have paid for. You can ask us to help you get paid back for [insert if plan has cost sharing: our share of the cost of] the drug. Contact your service coordinator for information on how to get paid back.

Here are some times when you should give us copies of your receipts:

* When you buy a covered drug at a network pharmacy at a special price or using a discount card that is not part of our plan’s benefit
* When you pay a co-pay for drugs that you get under a drug maker’s patient assistance program
* When you buy covered drugs at an out-of-network pharmacy
* When you pay the full price for a covered drug
* To learn how to ask us to pay you back for [insert if plan has cost sharing: our share of the cost of] the drug, see Chapter 7 [plans may insert reference, as applicable].

## 3. Send us information about the payments others have made for you.

Payments made by certain other people and organizations also count toward your out-of-pocket costs. For example, payments made by [plans without an SPAP in their state, delete the next item:] a state pharmaceutical assistance program, an AIDS drug assistance program, the Indian Health Service, and most charities count toward your out-of-pocket costs. [Plans should delete the rest of this paragraph if they cover all Part D drugs at $0 cost-sharing:] This can help you qualify for catastrophic coverage. When you reach the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, <plan name> pays all of the costs of your Part D drugs for the rest of the year.

## 4. Check the reports we send you.

When you get an Explanation of Benefits in the mail, please make sure it is complete and correct. If you think something is wrong or missing from the report, or if you have any questions, please call Member Services. [Plans that allow members to manage this information online may describe that option here.] Be sure to keep these reports. They are an important record of your drug expenses.

# [*Plans with two payment stages, insert:* Drug Payment Stages for Medicare Part D drugs] [*Plans with one payment stage, insert:* What you pay for a one-month [*insert if applicable*: or long-term] supply of drugs]

[Plans with two payment stages (i.e., those charging LIS cost-shares in the initial coverage stage), include the following paragraph and table.]

There are two payment stages for your Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage under <plan name>. How much you pay depends on which stage you are in when you get a prescription filled or refilled. These are the two stages:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage 1:** Initial Coverage Stage | **Stage 2:** Catastrophic Coverage Stage |
| During this stage, **the plan pays part of the costs** of your drugs, and you pay your share. Your share is called the co-pay.  You begin in this stage when you fill your first prescription of the year. | During this stage, **the plan pays all of the costs** of your drugs through <end date>.  You begin this stage when you have paid a certain amount of out-of-pocket costs. |

[Plans with one payment stage (i.e., those with no cost-sharing for all Part D drugs), include the following information up to Section D.]

## The plan’s cost-sharing tiers

[Plans should provide an explanation of cost sharing tiers; see the example of tiered co-pays below.

Cost-sharing tiers are groups of drugs with the same co-pay. Every drug in the plan’s   
Drug List is in one of <number of tiers> cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the tier number, the higher the co-pay. To find the cost-sharing tiers for your drugs, you can   
look in the Drug List.

* Tier 1 drugs have the lowest co-pay. They are generic drugs. The co-pay is from <amount> to <amount>, depending on your income.
* Tier 2 drugs have a medium co-pay. They are brand name drugs. The co-pay is from <amount> to <amount>, depending on your income.
* Tier 3 drugs have the highest co-pay. They have a co-pay of <amount>.]

## Your pharmacy choices

How much you pay for a drug depends on whether you get the drug from:

* a network pharmacy, ***or***
* an out-of-network pharmacy.
* In limited cases, we cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies. See Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] to find out when we will do that.
* To learn more about these pharmacy choices, see Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] in this handbook and the plan’s *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

## Getting a long-term supply of a drug

[Plans that do not offer extended supplies, delete the following two paragraphs:]

For some drugs, you can get a long-term supply (also called an “extended supply”) when you fill your prescription. A long-term supply is [insert if applicable: up to] a <number of days>-day supply. [Plans with cost sharing, insert: It costs you the same as a one-month supply.] [Plans with no cost sharing, insert: There is no cost to you for a long-term supply.]

* For details on where and how to get a long-term supply of a drug, see Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] or the *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

## How much do you pay?

[Plans that have co-pays on at least one tier must include the following language:] You may pay a co-pay when you fill a prescription. If your covered drug costs less than the co-pay, you will pay the lower price.

* You can contact Member Services to find out how much your co-pay is for any covered drug.

## Your share of the cost when you get a *one-month* [insert if applicable: or long-term] supply of a covered prescription drug from:

[Keep entire chart on one page.]

[Plans may delete columns and modify the table as necessary to reflect the plan’s prescription drug coverage. Include the high/low ranges in the chart, as well as a statement that the co-pays for prescription drugs may vary based on the level of Extra Help the member receives (if the plan charges co-pays for any of its Part D drugs). Modify the chart as necessary to include co-pays for non-Medicare covered drugs.]

[Plans should add or remove tiers as necessary. If mail-order is not available for certain tiers, plans should insert the following text in the cost sharing cell: Mail-order is not available for drugs in [insert tier].]

|  | **A network pharmacy**  A one-month or up to a <number of days>-day supply | **The plan’s mail-order service**  A one-month or up to a <number of days>-day supply | **A network long-term care pharmacy**  Up to a <number of days>-day supply | **An out-of-network pharmacy**  Up to a <number of days>-day supply. Coverage is limited to certain cases. See Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for details. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 1**  ([Insert description; e.g., “generic drugs.”]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 2**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 3**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 4**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |

* For information about which pharmacies can give you long-term supplies, see the plan’s *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

# Stage 1: The Initial Coverage Stage [*Plans with one coverage stage should delete this section*]

During the Initial Coverage Stage, the plan pays a share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your share. Your share is called the *co-pay.* The co-pay depends on what cost sharing tier the drug is in and where you get it.

## The plan’s cost sharing tiers

[Plans should provide an explanation of cost sharing tiers; see the example of tiered co-pays below.

Cost sharing tiers are groups of drugs with the same co-pay. Every drug in the plan’s   
Drug List is in one of <number of tiers> cost sharing tiers. In general, the higher the tier number, the higher the co-pay. To find the cost sharing tiers for your drugs, you can   
look in the Drug List.

* Tier 1 drugs have the lowest co-pay. They are generic drugs. The co-pay is from <amount> to <amount>, depending on your income.
* Tier 2 drugs have a medium co-pay. They are brand name drugs. The co-pay is from <amount> to <amount>, depending on your income.
* Tier 3 drugs have the highest co-pay. They have a co-pay of <amount>.]

## Your pharmacy choices

How much you pay for a drug depends on whether you get the drug from:

* a network pharmacy, ***or***
* an out-of-network pharmacy.
* In limited cases, we cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies. See Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] to find out when we will do that.
* To learn more about these pharmacy choices, see Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] in this handbook and the plan’s *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

## Getting a long-term supply of a drug

[Plans that do not offer extended supplies, delete the following two paragraphs:]

For some drugs, you can get a long-term supply (also called an “extended supply”) when you fill your prescription. A long-term supply is [insert if applicable: up to] a <number of days>-day supply. [Plans with cost sharing, insert: It costs you the same as a one-month supply.] [Plans with no cost sharing, insert: There is no cost to you for a long-term supply.]

* For details on where and how to get a long-term supply of a drug, see Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] or the *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

## How much do you pay?

During the Initial Coverage Stage, you will pay a co-pay each time you fill a prescription. If your covered drug costs less than the co-pay, you will pay the lower price.

* You can contact Member Services to find out how much your co-pay is for any covered drug.

**Your share of the cost when you get a *one-month* [insert if applicable: or long-term] supply of a covered prescription drug from:**

[Keep entire chart on one page.]

[Plans may delete columns and modify the table as necessary to reflect the plan’s prescription drug coverage. Include the high/low ranges in the chart, as well as a statement that the co-pays for prescription drugs may vary based on the level of Extra Help the member receives. Modify the chart as necessary to include co-pays for non-Medicare covered drugs.]

[Plans should add or remove tiers as necessary. If mail-order is not available for certain tiers, plans should insert the following text in the cost sharing cell: Mail-order is not available for drugs in [insert tier].]

|  | **A network pharmacy**  A one-month or up to a <number of days>-day supply | **The plan’s mail-order service**  A one-month or up to a <number of days>-day supply | **A network long-term care pharmacy**  Up to a <number of days>-day supply | **An out-of-network pharmacy**  Up to a <number of days>-day supply. Coverage is limited to certain cases. See Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for details. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 1**  ([Insert description; e.g., “generic drugs.”]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 2**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 3**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |
| **Cost Sharing  Tier 4**  ([Insert description.]) | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] | [Insert co-pay.] |

* For information about which pharmacies can give you long-term supplies, see the plan’s *Provider and Pharmacy Directory.*

## When does the Initial Coverage Stage end?

The Initial Coverage Stage ends when your total out-of-pocket costs reach [insert as applicable: $<initial coverage limit> **or** $<TrOOP amount>]. At that point, the Catastrophic Coverage Stage begins. The plan covers all your drug costs from then until the end   
of the year.

Your Explanation of Benefits reports will help you keep track of how much you have paid for your drugs during the year. We will let you know if you reach the [insert as applicable: $<initial coverage limit> **or** $<TrOOP amount>] limit. Many people do not reach it in a year.

# Stage 2: The Catastrophic Coverage Stage [*Plans with one coverage stage should delete this section*]

When you reach the out-of-pocket limit of [$<TrOOP amount>] for your prescription drugs, the Catastrophic Coverage Stage begins. You will stay in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage until the end of the calendar year. During this stage, the plan will pay all of the costs for your Medicare drugs.

[Plans with an out-of-pocket limit on **all** drug spending, delete the following sentence:]

* [*Plans that do not reduce the co-pays for Medicaid-covered drugs in the catastrophic coverage stage should insert the following language:*] When you are in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you will continue to make co-pays for your Medicaid-covered drugs.

# Your drug costs if your doctor prescribes less than a full month’s supply [*Plans with no Part D drug cost-sharing should delete this section*]

[*Insert as appropriate*: Typically ***or*** In some cases], you pay a co-pay to cover a full month’s supply of a covered drug. However, your doctor can prescribe less than a month’s supply of drugs. There may be times when you want to ask your doctor about prescribing less than a month’s supply of a drug (for example, when you are trying a drug for the first time that is known to have serious side effects). If your doctor agrees, you will not have to pay for the full month’s supply for certain drugs.

When you get less than a month’s supply of a drug, your co-pay will be based on the number of days of the drug that you receive. We will calculate the amount you pay per day for your drug (the “daily cost sharing rate”) and multiply it by the number of days of the drug you receive.

* [Plans may revise the information in this paragraph to reflect the appropriate number of days for their one-month supplies as well as the cost-sharing amount in the example*.*]Here’s an example: Let’s say the co-pay for your drug for a full month’s supply (a 30-day supply) is $1.20. This means that the amount you pay per day for your drug is $0.04. If you receive a 7 days’ supply of the drug, your payment will be $0.04 per day multiplied by 7 days, for a total payment of $0.28.
* [If plans revised the example in the paragraph above, the example should be updated in this paragraph as well.] You should not have to pay more per day just because you begin with less than a month’s supply. Let’s go back to the example above. Let’s say you and your doctor agree that the drug is working well and that you should continue taking the drug after your 7 days’ supply runs out. If you receive a second prescription for the rest of the month, or 23 days more of the drug, you will still pay $0.04 per day, or $0.92. Your total cost for the month will be $0.28 for your first prescription and $0.92 for your second prescription, for a total of $1.20 – the same as your co-pay would be for a full month’s supply.

Daily cost sharing allows you to make sure a drug works for you before you have to pay for an entire month’s supply.

# Vaccinations

[Plans may revise this section as needed.]

Our plan covers Medicare Part D vaccines. There are two parts to our coverage of Medicare Part D vaccinations:

1. The first part of coverage is for the cost of **the vaccine itself**. The vaccine is a prescription drug.
2. The second part of coverage is for the cost of **giving you the vaccine**.

## Before you get a vaccination

[Plans may revise this section as needed.]

We recommend that you call us first at Member Services whenever you are planning to get a vaccination.

* We can tell you about how your vaccination is covered by our plan [insert if the plan has cost sharing: and explain your share of the cost].
* [Insert if applicable: We can tell you how to keep your costs down by using network pharmacies and providers. Network pharmacies are pharmacies that have agreed to work with our plan. A network provider is a provider who works with the health plan. A network provider should work with <plan name> to ensure that you do not have any upfront costs for a Part D vaccine.]

[Plans that do not charge any Part D vaccine co-pays may delete the following section.]

## How much you pay for a Medicare Part D vaccination

What you pay for a vaccination depends on the type of vaccine (what you are being vaccinated for).

* Some vaccines are considered health benefits rather than drugs. These vaccines are covered at no cost to you. To learn about coverage of these vaccines, see the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 [*plans may insert reference, as applicable*].
* Other vaccines are considered Medicare Part D drugs. You can find these vaccines listed in the plan’s Drug List*.* [*Insert if applicable:* You may have to pay a co-pay for Medicare Part D vaccines.]

Here are three common ways you might get a Medicare Part D vaccination.

1. You get the Medicare Part D vaccine at a network pharmacy and get your shot   
   at the pharmacy.

* You will pay [*insert as applicable:* nothing***or***a co-pay] for the vaccine.

1. You get the Medicare Part D vaccination at your doctor’s office and the doctor gives you the shot.

* You will pay [*insert as applicable*: nothing ***or*** a co-pay] to the doctor for the vaccine.
* Our plan will pay for the cost of giving you the shot.
* The doctor’s office should call our plan in this situation so we can make sure they know you only have to pay [*insert as applicable*: nothing ***or*** a co-pay] for the vaccine.

1. You get the Medicare Part D vaccine itself at a pharmacy and take it to your doctor’s office to get the shot.

* You will pay [*insert as applicable:* nothing***or***a co-pay] for the vaccine.
* Our plan will pay for the cost of giving you the vaccine.

[Insert any additional information about your coverage of vaccinations.]