Chapter 3: Using the plan’s coverage for your health care and other covered services

**Introduction**

This chapter has specific terms and rules you need to know to get health care and other covered services with <plan name>. It also tells you about your Care Coordinator [*Plans should replace the term “Care Coordinator” as needed throughout this chapter with the term they use*],how to get care from different kinds of providers and under certain special circumstances (including from out-of-network providers or pharmacies), what to do when you are billed directly for services covered by our plan, and the rules for owning Durable Medical Equipment (DME). Key terms and their definitions appear in alphabetical order in the last chapter of the *Member Handbook*.

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

[*Plans must update the Table of Contents to this document to accurately reflect where the information is found on each page after plan adds plan-customized information to this template*.]

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# Information about “services,” “covered services,” “providers,” and “network providers”

Servicesinclude medical care, behavioral health care, long-term services and supports, supplies, prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, equipment, and others. Covered services are any of these services that our plan pays for. Covered services are listed in the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 [plans may insert page number, as applicable].

Providersare doctors, nurses, behavioral health specialists, and other people who give you services and care. The term providers also includes hospitals, home health agencies, clinics, and other places that give you health care services, medical equipment, and long-term services and supports.

Network providers are providers who work with the health plan**.** These providers have agreed to accept our payment as full payment.

# Rules for getting your health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) [*insert if applicable:* and other services] covered by the plan

<Plan name> covers services covered by Medicare and MassHealth. This includes behavioral health, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. [Plans may also insert reference to any plan-covered services listed in their approved Plan Benefit Package.]

<Plan name> will pay for the health care and services you get if you follow the plan rules listed below. To be covered by our plan:

* The care you get must be a **plan benefit.** This means that it must be included in the plan’s Benefits Chart. (The chart is in Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] of this handbook).
* The care must be **medically necessary**. Medically necessarymeans that the services are reasonable and necessary:
* For the diagnosis and treatment of your illness or injury; **or**
* To improve the functioning of a malformed body part; **or**
* Otherwise medically necessary under Medicare law
* In accordance with Medicaid law and regulation and per MassHealth, services are medically necessary if:
* They could be reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, prevent the worsening of, alleviate, correct, or cure conditions that endanger your life, cause you suffering or pain, cause physical deformity or malfunction, threaten to cause or to aggravate a disability, or result in illness or infirmity; **and**
* There is no other medical service or place of service that is available, works as well, and is suitable for you that is less expensive. The quality of medically necessary services must meet professionally recognized standards of health care, and medically necessary services must also be supported by records including evidence of such medical necessity and quality.

If you have questions about if a service is medically necessary or not, you can contact [*plans insert reference to Member Services or other applicable resource*].

* [Plans may omit or edit the PCP-related bullets as necessary, including modifying the name of the PCP and the description of the referral requirements and process.] You must have a **primary care provider** **(PCP)** that is in our plan network (a network PCP). As a plan member, you [insert as applicable: may **or** must] choose a network provider to be your PCP.
  + To learn more about choosing a PCP, refer to page <page number>.
  + In most cases, [insert as applicable: your network PCP **or** our plan] must give you approval before you can go to someone that is not your PCP or use other providers in the plan’s network. This is called a **referral**. If you don’t get a referral ahead of time, <plan name> may not cover the services. You don’t need a referral to go to certain specialists, such as women’s health specialists. To learn more about referrals, refer to page <page number>.
  + You do not need a referral from your PCP for emergency care or urgently needed care. You can also get other kinds of care without having a referral from your PCP. To learn more about this, refer to page <page number>.
  + **Note:** In your first 90 days with our plan or until your Individualized Care Plan (ICP) is complete, you can keep going to your current providers, at no cost to you, if they are not a part of our network. This is called the Continuity of Care (COC) period. During the COC period, our Care Coordinator will contact you to help you find providers in our network. After the COC period, we will no longer cover your care if you choose to use out-of-network providers.
* **You must get your care from network providers**. Usually, the plan will not cover care from a provider who does not work with the health plan. But sometimes this rule does not apply, for example:
  + The plan covers emergency or urgently needed care from an out-of-network provider. To learn more about what emergency or urgently needed caremeans, refer to Section I, page <page number>.
  + If you need care that our plan covers and our network providers cannot give it to you, you can get the care from an out-of-network provider. [Plans may specify whether authorization should be obtained from the plan prior to seeking care.] In this situation, we will cover the care [insert as applicable: as if you got it from a network provider **or** at no cost to you]. To learn about getting approval to use an out-of-network provider, refer to Section D, page<page number>.
* The plan covers kidney dialysis services when you are outside the plan’s service area for a short time. You can get these services at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility.
* If you need family planning services, you may get those services from any One Care plan provider or from any MassHealth contracted Family Planning Services Provider. For more information about family planning services, refer to Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable].
* When you first join the plan, you can continue going to the providers you use now for the Continuity of Care (COC) period [plans may include reference to description on page 4 or definition in Chapter 12].
  + [Plans should add additional exceptions as appropriate.]

# Care Coordination

## C1. What care coordination is

[Plans should provide applicable information about care coordination. Plans should replace the terms “Care Coordinator” and “Care Team” with terms they use.

In addition, Plans must also include the following language about the availability of LTS Coordinators:

Everyone who enrolls in a One Care plan also has the right to have an independent Long-term Supports (LTS) Coordinator on their care team.

An LTS Coordinator will work with you as a member of your One Care plan to find resources and services in your community that can support your wellness, independence, and recovery goals. These services are sometimes called long-term services and supports (LTSS). LTS Coordinators may also be able to help you access behavioral health resources and services.

LTS Coordinators do not work for One Care plans. They come from independent community organizations and are experts in areas like independent living, recovery, and aging. This means that they can work for you and help you advocate for your needs.

You can choose to have an LTS Coordinator work with you as a full member of your care team at any time. This is a free service for you.

[Plans should include explanations for the following subsections. Plans should replace the terms “Care Coordinator” and “Care Team” with terms they use].]

## C2. How you can contact your Care Coordinator or Long-term Supports (LTS) Coordinator

## C3. How you can change your Care Coordinator

# Care from your primary care provider, specialists, other network providers, and out-of-network providers

## D1. Care from a primary care provider

[**Note:** Insert this section only if your plan uses PCPs. Plans may edit this section to refer to a Physician of Choice (POC) instead of a PCP.]

You [insert as applicable: may **or** must] choose a primary care provider (PCP) to provide and manage your care.

### Definition of “PCP,” and what a PCP does for you

[Plans should describe the following in the context of their plans, as appropriate:

What a PCP is

What types of providers may be a PCP

The role of a PCP in:

* Coordinating covered services
* Making a referral
* Making decisions about prior authorization (approval before you can get a service)

When a clinic can be your primary care [insert as appropriate: physician **or** provider] (RHC/FQHC)]

### Your choice of PCP

[Plans must describe how to choose a PCP.]

### Option to change your PCP

You may change your PCP for any reason, at any time. Also, it’s possible that your PCP might leave our plan’s network. We help you find a new PCP if the one you have now leaves our network.

[Plans should describe how to change a PCP and indicate when that change will take effect (e.g., on the first day of the month following the date of the request, immediately upon receipt of the request, etc.).]

[Plans that are obligated under MassHealth to have a transition benefit when a doctor leaves a plan must discuss that benefit here.]

### Services you can get without first getting approval from your PCP

[**Note:** Insert this section only if plans use referrals to network providers.]

In most cases, you need a **referral** to use any provider that is not your PCP. A referral is approval from [plans should insert as applicable: your PCP or our plan].

Sometimes you **do not need a referral.** You can get services like the ones listed below without first getting a referral or authorization from your PCP:

* Emergency services from network or out-of-network providers.
* Urgently needed care from network providers.
* Urgently needed care from out-of-network providers when you can’t get to network providers (for example, when you are outside the plan’s service area).
* Kidney dialysis services that you get at a Medicare-certified dialysis facility when you are outside the plan’s service area. (Please call Member Services before you leave the service area. We can help you get dialysis while you are away.)
* Flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations [insert if applicable: as well as hepatitis B vaccinations and pneumonia vaccinations] [insert if applicable: as long as you get them from a network provider].
* Routine women’s health care. This includes breast exams, screening mammograms (x-rays of the breast), Pap tests, and pelvic exams [insert if applicable: as long as you get them from a network provider].

[Plans should add additional bullets consistently formatted like the rest of this section as appropriate to describe other services that do not require a referral.]

If you’re not sure if you need a referral to get a service or use another provider, ask your Care Coordinator or PCP.

## D2. Care from specialists and other network providers

A specialist is a doctor who provides health care for a specific disease or part of the body. There are many kinds of specialists. Here are a few examples.

* Oncologists care for patients with cancer.
* Cardiologists care for patients with heart problems.
* Orthopedists care for patients with bone, joint, or muscle problems.

[Plans should describe how members access specialists and other network providers, including:

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

What the process for getting prior authorization is[*Plans explain that prior authorization means that the member must get approval from the plan before getting a specific service or drug or going to an out-of-network provider and include information about which plan entity makes the prior authorization decision (e.g., Medical Director, the PCP, or another entity). Plans also include the process for any ongoing authorizations that may be needed.*]

Who is responsible for getting the prior authorization[*Plans explain, for example, if it is the PCP or the member and refer members to the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4* [*plans may insert reference, as applicable*] *for information about which services require prior authorization.*]

If selection of a PCP results in being limited to specific specialists or hospitals to which that PCP refers[*For example, plans include information about subnetworks or referral circles*.]]

## D3. What to do when one of your providers leaves our plan

[Plans may edit this section if they are obligated under MassHealth to have a transition benefit when a doctor leaves the plan.]

A network provider you are using might leave our plan. If one of your providers does leave our plan, you have certain rights and protections that are summarized below:

* Even though our network of providers may change during the year, we must give you uninterrupted access to qualified providers.
* We will make a good faith effort to give you at least 30 days’ notice so that you have time to select a new provider.
* We will help you select a new qualified provider to continue managing your health care needs.
* If you are undergoing medical treatment, you have the right to ask, and we will work with you to ensure, that the medically necessary treatment you are getting is not interrupted.
* If you believe we have not replaced your previous provider with a qualified provider or that your care is not being appropriately managed, you have the right to file a complaint.

If you find out one of your providers is leaving our plan, please contact us so we can assist you in finding a new provider and managing your care. [Plans should provide contact information for assistance.]

## D4. How to get care from out-of-network providers

[One Care plans should tell members under what circumstances they may obtain services from out-of-network providers (e.g., when providers of specialized services are not available in network). Include MassHealth out-of-network requirements. Describe the process for getting authorization, including who is responsible for getting it.]

If you use an out-of-network provider, the provider must be eligible to participate in Medicare or MassHealth.

* We cannot pay a provider who is not eligible to participate in Medicare or MassHealth.
* If you use a provider who is not eligible to participate in Medicare or MassHealth, you must pay the full cost of the services you get.
* Providers must tell you if they are not eligible to participate in Medicare or MassHealth.

# How to get long-term supports and services (LTSS)

[Plans should provide applicable information about getting LTSS, including the availability of an LTS Coordinator and how the LTS Coordinator may help the member with accessing LTSS.]

# How to get behavioral health services

[Plans should provide applicable information about getting behavioral health services, including the availability of an LTS Coordinator and how the LTS Coordinator may help the member with accessing behavioral health services.]

# How to get self-directed care

[Plans should provide applicable information about getting self-directed care. This description should include the following subsections.]:

## G1. What self-directed care is

## G2. Who can get self-directed care

## G3. How to get help in employing personal care providers (if applicable)

## G4. How to request that a copy of all written notices be sent to Care Team participants the member identifies

# How to get dental and vision services

[Plans should provide applicable information about getting dental and vision services.]

# How to get covered services when you have a medical emergency or urgent need for care, or during a disaster

## I1. Care when you have a medical emergency

### Definition of a medical emergency

A medical emergency is a medical condition with symptoms such as severe pain or serious injury. The condition is so serious that if it doesn’t get immediate medical attention, anyone with an average knowledge of health and medicine could expect it to result in:

* serious risk to your health or to that of your unborn child; **or**
* serious harm to bodily functions; **or**
* serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; **or**
* in the case of a pregnant woman in active labor, when:
  + there is not enough time to safely transfer you to another hospital before delivery.
  + a transfer to another hospital may pose a threat to your health or safety or to that of your unborn child.

### What to do if you have a medical emergency

If you have a medical emergency:

* **Get help as fast as possible.** Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. Call for an ambulance if you need it. You do **not** need to get approval or a referral first.
* [Plans add if applicable: **As soon as possible, make sure that you tell our plan about your emergency.** We need to follow up on your emergency care. You or someone else [plans may replace “someone else” with “your Care Coordinator” or other applicable term] should call to tell us about your emergency care, usually within 48 hours. However, you will not have to pay for emergency services because of a delay in telling us.] [Plans must either provide the toll-free phone number and days and hours of operation or explain where to find the number (e.g., on the back of the Member ID Card).]

### Covered services in a medical emergency

[Plans that cover emergency medical care outside the United States or its territories through MassHealth may describe this coverage based on the MassHealth coverage area. Plans must also include language emphasizing that Medicare does not provide coverage for emergency medical care outside the United States and its territories.]

[Plans may modify the following sentence to identify whether this coverage is also offered outside the United States and its territories:]You may get covered emergency care whenever you need it, anywhere in the United States or its territories. If you need an ambulance to get to the emergency room, our plan covers that. To learn more, refer to the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable].

[Plans that offer a supplemental benefit covering emergency/urgent coverage or ambulance services outside of the United States or its territories, mention the benefit here and then refer members to Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for more information.]

If you have an emergency, we will talk with the doctors who give you emergency care. Those doctors will tell us when your medical emergency is over.

[Plans may modify this paragraph as needed to address the post-stabilization care for your plan.] After the emergency is over, you may need follow-up care to be sure you get better. Your follow-up care will be covered by our plan. If you get your emergency care from out-of-network providers, we will try to get network providers to take over your care as soon as possible.

### What to do if you have a behavioral health emergency

[Plans should provide applicable information about getting behavioral health emergency services, including Emergency Service Program (ESP) information.]

### Getting emergency care if it wasn’t an emergency

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you have a medical or behavioral health emergency. You might go in for emergency care, but the doctor may say it wasn’t really an emergency. As long as it was reasonable for you to think your health was in serious danger, we will cover your care.

However, after the doctor says it was not an emergency, we will cover your additional care only if:

* you go to a network provider, **or**

the care you get is considered “urgently needed care” and you follow the rules for getting this care. (Refer to the next section.)

## I2. Urgently needed care

### Definition of urgently needed care

Urgently needed care is care you get for a sudden illness, injury, or condition that isn’t an emergency but still needs to be taken care of right away. For example, you might have a flare-up of an existing condition and need to have it treated.

### Urgently needed care when you are in the plan’s service area

In most situations, we will cover urgently needed care only if:

* you get this care from a network provider, **and**

you follow the other rules described in this chapter.

However, if you can’t get to a network provider, we will cover urgently needed care that you get from an out-of-network provider.

[Plans must insert instructions for how to access urgently needed services (e.g., using urgent care centers, a provider hotline, etc.).]

### Urgently needed care when you are outside the plan’s service area

When you are outside the plan’s service area, you might not be able to get care from a network provider. In that case, our plan will cover urgently needed care that you get from any provider.

[Plans that cover urgently needed care outside the United States or its territories through MassHealth may describe this coverage based on the MassHealth coverage area.]

Our plan does not cover urgently needed care or any other [insert if plan covers emergency care outside of the United States and its territories: non-emergency] care that you get outside the United States.

[Plans that offer emergency/urgent coverage outside of the United States and its territories as a supplemental benefit, modify this section.]

## I3. 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 are still entitled to care from <plan name>.

Please visit our website for information on how to obtain needed care during a declared disaster: <web address>. [*In accordance with 42 CFR 422.100(m), plans are required to include on their web page, at a minimum, information about coverage of benefits at non-contracted facilities at network cost sharing without required prior authorization; terms and conditions of payment for non-contracted providers; and each declared disaster’s start and end dates.*]

During a declared disaster, if you cannot use a network provider, we will allow you to get care from out-of-network providers at [insert as applicable: the in-network cost-sharing rate **or** no cost to you]*.* If you cannot use a network pharmacy during a declared disaster, you will be able to fill your prescription drugs at an out-of-network pharmacy. Please refer to Chapter 5 [*plans may insert reference, as applicable*] for more information.

# What to do if you are billed directly for services covered by our plan

If a provider sends you a bill instead of sending it to the plan, you can ask us to pay the bill.

**You should not pay the bill yourself. If you do, the plan may not be able to pay you back.**

If you have paid for your covered services or if you have gotten a bill for [plans with cost sharing, insert: the full cost of] covered medical services, refer to Chapter 7 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] to learn what to do.

## J1. What to do if services are not covered by our plan

<Plan name> covers all services:

* that are medically necessary, **and**
* that are listed in the plan’s Benefits Chart (refer to Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable]), **and**

that you get by following the plan’s rules.

If you get services that aren’t covered by our plan, **you will have to pay the full cost yourself.**

If you want to know if we will pay for any medical service or care, you have the right to ask us verbally or in writing. If we say we will not pay for your services, you have the right to appeal our decision.

Chapter 9 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains what to do if you want the plan to pay for a medical service it doesn’t usually pay for. It also tells you how to appeal a decision about a service. You may also call Member Services at <toll-free number> to learn more about this.

We will pay for some services up to a certain limit. If you go over the limit, you will have to pay the full cost to get more of that type of service. Call Member Services to find out what the limits are and how close you are to reaching them.

# Coverage of health care services when you are in a clinical research study

## K1. Definition of a clinical research study

A clinical research study (also called a clinical trial) is a way for doctors to test new types of health care or drugs. They ask for volunteers to help with the study. This kind of study helps doctors decide if a new kind of health care or drug works, and if it is safe.

Once Medicare [plans that conduct or cover clinical trials that are not approved by Medicare, insert: or our plan]approves a study that you want to be in, someone who works on the study will contact you. That person will tell you about the study and find out if you qualify to be in it. You can be in the study as long as you meet the required conditions. You must also understand and accept what you must do for the study.

While you are in the study, you may stay enrolled in our plan. That way, you can continue to get care from our plan not related to the study.

If you want to participate in a Medicare-approved clinical research study, you do **not** need to get approval from us [plans that do not use PCPs may delete the rest of this sentence] or your primary care provider. The providers that give you care as part of the study do **not** need to be network providers.

[If applicable, plans should describe MassHealth’s role in providing coverage for clinical research studies.]

**You do need to tell us before you start participating in a clinical research study.** If you plan to be in a clinical research study, you or your Care Coordinator should contact Member Services to let us know you will be in a clinical trial.

## K2. Payment for services when you are in a clinical research study

If you volunteer for a clinical research study that Medicare approves, you will pay nothing for the services covered under the study and Medicare will pay for services covered under the study as well as routine costs associated with your care. Once you join a Medicare-approved clinical research study, you are covered for most items and services you get as part of the study. This includes:

* 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 that is part of the research study, **and**

treatment of any side effects and complications of the new care.

[Plans that conduct or cover clinical trials that are not approved by Medicare insert: We will pay any costs if you volunteer for a clinical research study that Medicare does not approve but that our plan approves.] If you are part of a study that Medicare [plans that conduct or cover clinical trials that are not approved by Medicare, insert: or our plan]has **not approved**, you will have to pay any costs for being in the study.

[If applicable, plans should describe MassHealth’s role in paying for clinical research studies.]

## K3. Learning more about clinical research studies

You can learn more about joining a clinical research study by reading “Medicare & Clinical Research Studies” on the Medicare website ([www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/02226-Medicare-and-Clinical-Research-Studies.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/02226-Medicare-and-Clinical-Research-Studies.pdf)). You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users (people who have difficulty hearing or speaking) should call 1-877-486-2048.

# How your health care services are covered when you get care in a religious nonmedical health care institution

[If applicable, plans should revise this section as needed to describe MassHealth’s role in providing care in religious non-medical health care institutions.]

## L1. Definition of a religious nonmedical health care institution

A religious nonmedical health care institution is a place that provides care that you would normally get in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. If getting care in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility is against your religious beliefs, then we will cover care in a religious nonmedical health care institution.

You may choose to get health care at any time for any reason. This benefit is only for Medicare Part A inpatient services (nonmedical health care services). Medicare will pay for nonmedical health care services provided only by religious nonmedical health care institutions.

## L2. Getting care from a religious nonmedical health care institution

To get care from a religious nonmedical health care institution, you must sign a legal document that says you are against getting medical treatment that is “non-excepted.”

* “Non-excepted” medical treatment is any care that is **voluntary** and **not required** by any federal, state, or local law.

“Excepted” medical treatment is any care that is **not voluntary** and is **required** under federal, state, or local law.

To be covered by our plan, the care you get from a religious nonmedical health care institution must meet the following conditions.

* The facility providing the care must be certified by Medicare.
* Services are limited to nonreligious aspects of care.
* If you get services in a facility, the following applies:
  + The services must be for a medical condition that we would cover as inpatient hospital care or skilled nursing facility care.
  + [Omit this bullet if not applicable.] You must get approval from our plan before you are admitted to the facility or your stay will not be covered.

[Plans must explain whether Medicare Inpatient Hospital coverage limits apply (include a reference to the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable]) or whether there is unlimited coverage for this benefit.]

# Durable medical equipment (DME)

## M1. DME as a member of our plan

DMEmeans certain items ordered by a provider for use in your own home. Examples of these items are wheelchairs, crutches, powered mattress systems, diabetic supplies, hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home, intravenous (IV) infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment and supplies, nebulizers, and walkers.

You will always own certain items, such as prosthetics.

In this section, we discuss DME you must rent. As a member of <plan name>, you [insert if the plan sometimes allows transfer of ownership to the member: usually] will not own DME that you rent, no matter how long you rent it.

[If the plan allows transfer of ownership of certain DME items to members, the plan must modify this section to explain the conditions under which and when the member can own specified DME.]

[If the plan sometimes allows transfer of ownership to the member for DME items other than prosthetics, insert: In certain situations, we will transfer ownership of the DME item to you. Call Member Services to find out about the requirements you must meet and the papers you need to provide.]

[If the plan never allows transfer of ownership to the member (except as noted above, for example, for prosthetics), insert:Even if you had the DME for up to 12 months in a row under Medicare before you joined our plan, you will not own the equipment.]

[Plans should modify this section as necessary to explain any additional MassHealth coverage of DME.]

## M2. DME ownership when you switch from One Care to Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage

In the Original Medicareprogram, people who rent certain types of DME own it after 13 months. In a Medicare Advantageplan, the plan can set the number of months people must rent certain types of DME before they own it.

**Note:** You can find definitions of Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans in Chapter 12. You can also find more information about them in the *Medicare & You 2022* handbook. If you don’t have a copy of this booklet, you can get it at the Medicare website ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)) or by calling 1‑800‑MEDICARE (1‑800‑633‑4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1‑877‑486‑2048.

You will have to make 13 payments in a row under Original Medicare, or you will have to make the number of payments in a row set by the Medicare Advantage plan, to own the DME item if:

* you did not become the owner of the DME item while you were in our plan; **and**

you leave our plan and get your Medicare benefits outside of any health plan in the Original Medicare program or a Medicare Advantage plan.

If you made payments for the DME item under Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan before you joined our plan**, those Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage plan payments do not count toward the payments you need to make after leaving our plan**.

* You will have to make 13 new payments in a row under Original Medicare or a number of new payments in a row set by the Medicare Advantage plan to own the DME item.
* There are no exceptions to this case when you return to Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan.

## M3. Oxygen equipment benefits as a member of our plan

If you qualify for oxygen equipment covered by Medicare and you are a member of our plan, we will cover the following:

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

Oxygen equipment must be returned to the owner when it’s no longer medically necessary for you or if you leave our plan.

## M4. Oxygen equipment when you switch to Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage

When oxygen equipment is medically necessary and **you leave our plan and switch to Original Medicare**, you will rent it from a supplier for 36 months. Your monthly rental payments cover the oxygen equipment and the supplies and services listed above.

If oxygen equipment is medically necessary **after you rent it for 36 months**:

* your supplier must provide the oxygen equipment, supplies, and services for another 24 months.
* your supplier must provide oxygen equipment and supplies for up to 5 years if medically necessary.

If oxygen equipment is still medically necessary **at the end of the 5-year period**:

* your supplier no longer has to provide it, and you may choose to get replacement equipment from any supplier.
* a new 5-year period begins.
* you will rent from a supplier for 36 months.
* your supplier must then provide the oxygen equipment, supplies, and services for another 24 months.
* a new cycle begins every 5 years as long as oxygen equipment is medically necessary.

When oxygen equipment is medically necessary and **you leave our plan and switch to a Medicare Advantage plan**, the plan will cover at least what Original Medicare covers. You can ask your Medicare Advantage plan what oxygen equipment and supplies it covers and what your costs will be.