Chapter 12: Definitions of important words

**Introduction**

This chapter includes key terms used throughout the *Member Handbook* with their definitions. The terms are listed in alphabetical order. If you can’t find a term you’re looking for or if you need more information than a definition includes, contact Member Services.

[Plans should insert definitions as appropriate to the plan type described in the Member Handbook. You may insert definitions not included in this model and exclude definitions not applicable to your plan or to your contractual obligations with CMS and the state or enrolled Medicare/Medicaid members.]

[If revisions to terminology (e.g., changing “Member Services” to “Customer Service,” using Michigan Medicaid instead of Medicaid) affect glossary terms, plans should rename the term and alphabetize it correctly within the glossary.]

[If you use any of the following terms in your Member Handbook, you must add a definition of the term to the first section where you use it and here in Chapter 12, with a reference from the section where you use it: IPA, network, PHO, plan medical group, and point of service.]

[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.]

Activities of daily living: The things people do on a normal day, such as eating, using the toilet, getting dressed, bathing, or brushing the teeth.

Aid paid pending: You can continue getting your benefits while you are waiting for a decision about an appeal or fair hearing. This continued coverage is called “aid paid pending.”

Ambulatory surgical center: A facility that provides outpatient surgery to patients who do not need hospital care and who are not expected to need more than 24 hours of care.

Appeal: A way for you to challenge our action if you think we made a mistake. You can ask us to change a coverage decision by filing an appeal. Chapter 9 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains appeals, including how to make an appeal.

Brand name drug: A prescription drug that is made and sold by the company that originally made the drug. Brand name drugs have the same ingredients as the generic versions of the drugs. Generic drugs are made and sold by other drug companies.

Care Coordinator: One main person who works with you, with the health plan, and with your care providers to make sure you get the care you need.

Care plan: A plan for what supports and services you will get and how you will get them.

Care team: A care team may include doctors, nurses, counselors, or other health professionals who are there to help you get the care you need. Your care team will also help you make a care plan.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): The federal agency in charge of Medicare. Chapter 2 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains how to contact CMS.

Complaint: A written or spoken statement saying that you have a problem or concern about your covered services or care. This includes any concerns about the quality of your care, network providers, or network pharmacies. The formal name for “making a complaint” is “filing a grievance.”

Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF): A facility that mainly provides rehabilitation services after an illness, accident, or major operation. It provides a variety of services, including physical therapy, social or psychological services, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and home environment evaluation services.

Coverage decision: A decision about what benefits we cover. This includes decisions about covered drugs and services or the amount we will pay for your health services. Chapter 9 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains how to ask us for a coverage decision.

Covered drugs: The term we use to mean all of the prescription drugs covered by our plan.

Covered services: The general term we use to mean all of the health care, long term supports and services, supplies, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, equipment, and other services covered by our plan.

Cultural Competence training: Training that provides additional instruction for our health care providers that helps them better understand your background, values, and beliefs to adapt services to meet your social, cultural, and language needs.

Disenrollment: The process of ending your membership in our plan. Disenrollment may be voluntary (your own choice) or involuntary (not your own choice).

[Plans that do not have cost sharing should add this paragraph.] Drug Tiers: Groups of drugs on our Drug List. Generic, brand, or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs are examples of drug tiers. Every drug on the Drug List is in one of [insert number of tiers] tiers.

Durable medical equipment (DME): Certain items your doctor or other health care provider orders 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, IV infusion pumps, speech generating devices, oxygen equipment and supplies, nebulizers, and walkers.

Emergency: A medical emergency is when you, or any other person with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that need immediate medical attention to prevent death, loss of a body part, or loss of function of a body part. The medical symptoms may be a serious injury or severe pain.

Emergency care: Covered services that are given by a provider trained to give emergency services and needed to treat a medical emergency.

Exception: Permission to get coverage for a drug that is not normally covered or to use the drug without certain rules and limitations.

Extra Help: Medicare program that helps people with limited incomes and resources reduce Medicare Part D drug costs, such as premiums, deductibles, and copays. Extra Help is also called the “Low-Income Subsidy,” or “LIS.”

Fair hearing: A chance for you to tell your problem in court and show that a decision we made is wrong.

**Freedom to Work:** A program that provides health coverage to working people with disabilities in Michigan who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. People in the Freedom to Work program get full Medicaid coverage in exchange for a monthly premium. If you have questions about the Freedom to Work program, contact your local Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) office. You can find contact information for your local MDHHS office by visiting <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_5461---,00.html>.

Generic drug: A prescription drug that is approved by the federal government to use in place of a brand name drug. A generic drug has the same active ingredients as a brand name drug. It is usually cheaper and works just as well as the brand name drug.

Grievance: A complaint you make about us or one of our network providers or pharmacies. This includes a complaint about the quality of your care.

Health plan: An organization made up of doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, providers of long term supports and services, and other providers. It also has Care Coordinators [plans should change “Care Coordinator” to the term used by the state and/or plan] to help you manage all your providers and services. They all work together to provide the care you need.

Health risk assessment: A review of a patient’s medical history and current condition. It is used to figure out the patient’s health and how it might change in the future.

Home health aide: A person who provides services that do not need the skills of a licensed nurse or therapist, such as help with personal care (like bathing, using the toilet, dressing, or carrying out the prescribed exercises). Home health aides do not have a nursing license or provide therapy.

Hospice: A program of care and support to help people who have a terminal prognosis live comfortably. A terminal prognosis means that a person has a terminal illness and is expected to have six months or less to live.

* An enrollee who has a terminal prognosis has the right to elect hospice.
* A specially trained team of professionals and caregivers provide care for the whole person, including physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs.
* <Plan name> must give you a list of hospice providers in your geographic area.

Improper/inappropriate billing: A situation when a provider (such as a doctor or hospital) bills you more than the plan’s cost sharing amount for services. Show your <plan name> Member ID Card when you get any services or prescriptions. Call Member Services if you get any bills you do not understand. Because <plan name> pays the entire cost for your services, you do not owe any cost sharing. Providers should not bill you anything for these services.

Inpatient: A term used when you have been formally admitted to the hospital for skilled medical services. If you were not formally admitted, you might still be considered an outpatient instead of an inpatient even if you stay overnight.

*List of Covered Drugs* (Drug List): A list of prescription drugs covered by the plan. The plan chooses the drugs on this list with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The Drug List tells you if there are any rules you need to follow to get your drugs. The Drug List is sometimes called a “formulary.”

Long term supports and services (LTSS): Long term supports and services are services that help improve a long term condition. LTSS includes nursing home services as well as home and community-based services. The home and community-based services help you stay in your home so you don't have to go to a nursing home or hospital.

Low-income subsidy (LIS): See “Extra Help.”

Medically necessary: This describes services, supplies, or drugs you need to prevent, diagnose, or treat a medical condition or to maintain your current health status. This includes care that keeps you from going into a hospital or nursing home. It also means the services, supplies, or drugs must meet accepted standards of medical practice. A specific service is determined medically (clinically) appropriate, necessary to meet needs, consistent with your diagnosis or health issue, is the most cost-effective option in the least restrictive environment, and is consistent with clinical standards of care. Medical necessity includes those supports and services designed to assist you to attain or maintain a sufficient level of functioning to enable you to live in your community.

Medicare: The federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease (generally those with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a kidney transplant). People with Medicare can get their Medicare health coverage through Original Medicare or a managed care plan (see “Health plan”).

Medicare Advantage Plan: A Medicare program, also known as “Medicare Part C” or “MA Plans,” that offers plans through private companies. Medicare pays these companies to cover your Medicare benefits.

Medicare-covered services: Services covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. All Medicare health plans, including our plan, must cover all of the services that are covered by Medicare Part A and Part B.

Medicare-Medicaid enrollee: A person who qualifies for Medicare and Medicaid coverage. A Medicare-Medicaid enrollee is also called a “dually eligible individual.”

Medicare Part A: The Medicare program that covers most medically necessary hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health and hospice care.

Medicare Part B: The Medicare program that covers services (like lab tests, surgeries, and doctor visits) and supplies (like wheelchairs and walkers) that are medically necessary to treat a disease or condition. Medicare Part B also covers many preventive and screening services.

Medicare Part C: The Medicare program that lets private health insurance companies provide Medicare benefits through a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Medicare Part D: The Medicare prescription drug benefit program. (We call this program “Part D” for short.) Part D covers outpatient prescription drugs, vaccines, and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B or Medicaid. <Plan name> includes Medicare Part D.

Medicare Part D drugs: Drugs that can be covered under Medicare Part D. Congress specifically excluded certain categories of drugs from coverage as Part D drugs. Medicaid may cover some of these drugs.

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

*Member Handbook* and Disclosure Information: This document, along with your enrollment form and any other attachments or riders, which explains your coverage, what we must do, your rights, and what you must do as a member of our plan.

Member Services: A department within our planresponsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits, grievances, and appeals. See Chapter 2 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about how to contact Member Services.

Michigan Medicaid (or Medical Assistance): A program run by the federal government and the state that helps people with limited incomes and resources pay for long-term supports and services and medical costs. It covers extra services and drugs not covered by Medicare. Medicaid programs vary from state to state, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Michigan Medicaid. See Chapter 2 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about how to contact Michigan Medicaid.

Network pharmacy: A pharmacy (drug store) that has agreed to fill prescriptions for our plan members. We call them “network pharmacies” because they have agreed to work with our plan. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered only if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies.

Network provider: “Provider” is the general term we use for doctors, nurses, and other people who give you services and care. The term also includes hospitals, home health agencies, clinics, and other places that give you health care services; medical equipment; behavioral health, substance use disorder, intellectual/developmental disability, and long term supports and services.

* They are licensed or certified by Medicare and by the state to provide health care services.
* We call them “network providers” when they agree to work with the health plan and accept our payment and not charge our members an extra amount.
* While you are a member of our plan, you must use network providers to get covered services. Network providers are also called “plan providers.”

Nursing home or facility: A place that provides care for people who cannot get their services at home but who do not need to be in the hospital.

Ombudsman: An office in your state that works as an advocate on your behalf. They can answer questions if you have a problem or complaint and can help you understand what to do. The ombudsman’s services are free. You can find more information about the ombudsman in Chapters 2 and 9 of this handbook.

Organization determination: The plan has made an organization determination when it, or one of its providers, makes a decision about whether services are covered or how much you have to pay for covered services. Organization determinations are called “coverage decisions” in this handbook. Chapter 9 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains how to ask us for a coverage decision.

Original Medicare (traditional Medicare or fee-for-service Medicare): Original Medicare is offered by the government. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers amounts that are set by Congress.

* You can see any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. Original Medicare has two parts: Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance).
* Original Medicare is available everywhere in the United States.
* If you do not want to be in our plan, you can choose Original Medicare.

Out-of-network pharmacy: A pharmacy that has not agreed to work with our plan to coordinate or provide covered drugs to members of our plan. Most drugs you get from out‑of‑network pharmacies are not covered by our plan unless certain conditions apply.

Out-of-network provider or Out-of-network facility: A provider or facility that is not employed, owned, or operated by our plan and is not under contract to provide covered services to members of our plan. Chapter 3 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] explains out-of-network providers or facilities.

Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs: Over-the-counter drugs refers to any drug or medicine that a person can buy without a prescription from a healthcare professional.

Part A: See “Medicare Part A.”

Part B: See “Medicare Part B.”

Part C: See “Medicare Part C.”

Part D: See “Medicare Part D.”

Part D drugs: See “Medicare Part D drugs.”

Patient Pay Amount (PPA): The amount of money you may be asked to pay for the time you stay in a nursing home. This amount is based on your income and set by the state.

Personal health information (also called Protected health information) (PHI): Information about you and your health, such as your name, address, social security number, physician visits and medical history. See <plan name>’s Notice of Privacy Practices for more information about how <plan name> protects, uses, and discloses your PHI, as well as your rights with respect to your PHI.

Person-centered Planning Process: A process for planning and supporting a person getting services. The process builds on the individual’s desire to engage in activities that promote community life and that honor the individual’s preferences, choices, and abilities. The individual leads the person-centered planning process, and it involves families, friends, legal representatives, and professionals as the individual desires or requires.

[Plans that do not use PCPs may omit this paragraph.] Primary care provider (PCP): Your primary care provider is the doctor or other provider you see first for most health problems.

* He or she makes sure you get the care you need to stay healthy. He or she also may talk with other doctors and health care providers about your care and refer you to them.
* In many Medicare health plans, you must see your primary care provider before you see any other health care provider.
* See Chapter 3 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about getting care from primary care providers.

Prior authorization: [Plans may delete applicable words or sentences if it does not require prior authorization for any medical services or any drugs.] An approval from <plan name> you must get before you can get a specific service or drug or see an out-of-network provider. <Plan name> may not cover the service or drug if you don’t get approval.

Some network medical services are covered only if your doctor or other network provider gets prior authorization from our plan.

* Covered services that need our plan’s prior authorization are marked in the Benefits Chart in Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable].

Some drugs are covered only if you get prior authorization from us.

* Covered drugs that need our plan’s prior authorization are marked in the *List of Covered Drugs*.

Prosthetics and Orthotics: These are medical devices ordered by your doctor or other health care provider. Covered items include, but are not limited to, arm, back, and neck braces; artificial limbs; artificial eyes; and devices needed to replace an internal body part or function, including ostomy supplies and enteral and parenteral nutrition therapy.

Quality improvement organization (QIO): A group of doctors and other health care experts who help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. They are paid by the federal government to check and improve the care given to patients. See Chapter 2 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about how to contact the QIO for your state.

Quantity limits: A limit on the amount of a drug you can have. Limits may be on the amount of the drug that we cover per prescription.

Referral: [Plans may delete applicable words or sentences if it does not require referrals for any medical services or any drugs.] A referral means that your primary care provider (PCP) must give you approval before you can see someone that is not your PCP. If you don’t get approval, <plan name> may not cover the services. You don’t need a referral to see certain specialists, such as women’s health specialists. You can find more information about referrals in Chapter 3 and about services that require referrals in Chapter 4.

Rehabilitation services: Treatment you get to help you recover from an illness, accident or major operation. See Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] to learn more about rehabilitation services.

Self-Determination: Self-determination is an option available to enrollees getting services through the MI Health Link HCBS home and community-based waiver program. It is a process that allows you to design and exercise control over your own life. This includes managing a fixed amount of dollars to cover your authorized supports and services. Often, this is referred to as an “individual budget.” If you choose to do so, you would also have control over the hiring and management of providers.

Service area: A geographic area where a health plan accepts members if it limits membership based on where people live. For plans that limit which doctors and hospitals you may use, it is also generally the area where you can get routine (non-emergency) services. Only people who live in our service area can get <plan name>.

Skilled nursing facility (SNF): A nursing facility with the staff and equipment to give skilled nursing care and, in most cases, skilled rehabilitative services and other related health services.

Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care: Skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services provided on a continuous, daily basis, in a skilled nursing facility. Examples of skilled nursing facility care include physical therapy or intravenous (IV) injections that a registered nurse or a doctor can give.

Specialist: A doctor who provides health care for a specific disease or part of the body.

State Medicaid agency: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This is the agency that runs Michigan’s Medicaid program, helping people with limited incomes and resources pay for medical care and long term supports and services.

Step therapy: A coverage rule that requires you to first try another drug before we will cover the drug you are asking for.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): A monthly benefit paid by Social Security to people with limited incomes and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 and older. SSI benefits are not the same as Social Security benefits.

Urgently needed care: Care you get for a sudden illness, injury, or condition that is not an emergency but needs care right away. You can get urgently needed care from out-of-network providers when network providers are unavailable or you cannot get to them.

[*Plans may add a back cover for the Member Handbook that contains contact information for Member Services. Below is an example plans may use. Plans also may add a logo and/or photographs, as long as these elements do not make it difficult for members to find and read the contact information.*]

**<Plan name> Member Services**

| Type | Details |
| --- | --- |
| **CALL** | [*Insert phone number(s).*]  Calls to this number are free. [*Insert days and hours of operation, including information on the use of alternative technologies.*]  Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers. |
| **TTY** | [*Insert number.*]  [*Insert if plan uses a direct TTY number:* This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.]  Calls to this number are free. [*Insert days and hours of operation.*] |
| **FAX** | [*Optional:* *Insert fax number.*] |
| **WRITE** | [*Insert address.*]  [***Note****: Plans may add email addresses here.*] |
| **WEB SITE** | [*Insert URL.*] |