

**Booklet**

**Prepared for:**

Employer:	Jackson Township Board of Education
Contract number:	MSA-0181151
Plan name:	Standalone Pharmacy \$15/\$30 2X MOD
Booklet:	8
Plan effective date:	July 1, 2022
Plan issue date:	January 12, 2023

**Third Party Administrative Services provided by  
Aetna Life Insurance Company**

## Table of contents

Welcome .....	3
Coverage and exclusions.....	4
Complaints, claim decisions and appeals procedures .....	13
Eligibility, starting and stopping coverage .....	17
General provisions – other things you should know.....	20
Glossary .....	23
Schedule of benefits	Issued with your booklet

# Welcome

---

At Aetna, your health goals lead the way, so we're joining you to put them first. We believe that whatever you decide to do for your health, you can do it with the right support. And no matter where you are on this personal journey, it's our job to enable you to feel the joy of achieving your best health.

Welcome to Aetna.

## Introduction

This is your booklet. It describes your **covered services** – what they are and how to get them. It also describes how we manage the plan, according to our policies, and applicable laws and regulations. The schedule of benefits tells you how we share expenses for **covered services** and explains any limits. Together, these documents describe the benefits covered by your Employer's self-funded health benefit plan. Each may have amendments attached to them. These change or add to the document. This booklet takes the place of any others sent to you before.

It's really important that you read the entire booklet and your schedule of benefits.

If your coverage under any part of this plan replaces coverage under another plan, your coverage for benefits provided under the other coverage may reduce benefits paid by this plan. See the Coordination of benefits, Effect of prior plan coverage section.

If you need help or more information, see the *Contact us* section below.

## How we use words

When we use:

- "You" and "your" we mean you and any covered dependents (if your plan allows dependent coverage)
- "Us," "we," and "our" we mean Aetna Life Insurance Company (Aetna)
- Words that are in bold, these are defined in the *Glossary* section

## Contact us

For questions about your plan, you can contact us by:

- Calling the toll-free number on your ID card
- Writing us at 151 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06156
- Visiting <https://www.aetna.com> to access your member website

Your member website is available 24/7. With your member website, you can:

- See your coverage, benefits and costs
- Print an ID card and various forms
- Find a **provider**, research **providers**, care and treatment options
- View and manage claims
- Find information on health and wellness

## Your ID card

Show your ID card each time you get **covered services** from a **provider**. Only members on your plan can use your ID card. We will mail you your ID card. If you haven't received it before you need prescription **covered services**, or if you lose it, you can print a temporary one using your member website.

## Coverage and exclusions

---

### Providing covered services

Your plan provides **covered services**. These are:

- Described in this section.
- Not listed as an exclusion in this section or the *General plan exclusions* section.
- Not beyond any limits in the schedule of benefits.
- **Medically necessary**. See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section and the *Glossary* for more information.
- Services that are not prohibited by state or local law. See *Services not permitted under applicable state or local laws* in the *General plan exclusions* section for greater detail on this exclusion.

For **covered services** under the outpatient **prescription** drug plan:

- You need a **prescription** from the prescribing **provider**
- You need to show your ID card to the network pharmacy when you get a **prescription** filled

Some services require **precertification** from us. For more information see the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section.

The **covered services** and exclusions below appear alphabetically to make it easier to find what you're looking for. If a service isn't listed here as a **covered service** or is listed as not covered under a specific service, it still may be covered. If you have questions, ask your **provider** or contact us. You can find out about limitations for **covered services** in the schedule of benefits.

### Prescription drugs - outpatient

Read this section carefully. This plan does not cover all **prescription** drugs and some coverage may be limited. This doesn't mean you can't get **prescription** drugs that aren't covered; you can, but you have to pay for them yourself. For more information about **prescription** drug benefits, including limits, see the schedule of benefits.

#### **Important note:**

A pharmacy may refuse to fill or refill a **prescription** when, in the professional judgement of the pharmacist, it should not be filled or refilled.

Your plan provides standard safety checks to encourage safe and appropriate use of medications. These checks are intended to avoid adverse events and align with the medication's FDA-approved prescribing information and current published clinical guidelines and treatment standards. These checks are routinely updated as new medications come to market and as guidelines and standards are updated.

**Covered services** are based on the drugs in the **drug guide**. We exclude **prescription** drugs listed on the **formulary exclusions list** unless we approve a medical exception. The formulary exclusions list is a list of **prescription** drugs not covered under the plan. This list is subject to change. If it is **medically necessary** for you to use a **prescription** drug that is not on this **drug guide**, you or your **provider** must request a medical exception. See the *Requesting a medical exception* section or just contact us.

Your **provider** can give you a **prescription** in different ways including:

- A written **prescription** that you take to a network pharmacy
- Calling or e-mailing a **prescription** to a network pharmacy
- Submitting the **prescription** to a network pharmacy electronically

## How to access network pharmacies

A network pharmacy will submit your claim. You will pay your cost share to the pharmacy.

You can find a network pharmacy either online or by phone. See the *Contact us* section for how.

You may go to any of our network pharmacies. If you don't get your **prescriptions** at a selected pharmacy, your **prescriptions** will not be a **covered service** under the plan.

Some **prescription** drugs are subject to quantity limits. This helps your **provider** and pharmacy ensure your **prescription** drug is being used correctly and safely. We rely on medical guidelines, FDA-approved recommendations and other criteria developed by us to set these limits.

Any **prescription** drug made to work beyond one month shall require the **copayment** amount that equals the expected duration of the medication.

The pharmacy may substitute a **generic prescription drug** for a **brand-name prescription drug**. Your cost share may be less if you use a **generic drug** when it is available.

## Pharmacy types

### Retail pharmacy

A **retail pharmacy** may be used for up to a 90 day supply of a **prescription** drug.

### Mail order pharmacy

The drugs available through mail order are maintenance drugs that you take on a regular basis for a chronic or long-term medical condition. A **mail order pharmacy** may be used for up to a 90 day supply of a **prescription** drug.

**Prescription** refills after the first fill can be filled at a network **mail order pharmacy**.

### Specialty pharmacy

A **specialty pharmacy** may be used for up to a 30 day supply of a **specialty prescription drug**. You can view the list of **specialty prescription drugs**. See the *Contact us* section for how.

All **specialty prescription drug** fills including the first fill must be filled at a network **specialty pharmacy** unless it is an urgent situation.

**Prescription** drugs covered by this plan are subject to misuse, waste, or abuse utilization review by us, your **provider**, and/or your network pharmacy. The outcome of this review may include:

- Limiting coverage of a drug to one prescribing **provider** or one network pharmacy
- Quantity, dosage or day supply limits
- Requiring a partial fill or denial of coverage

## When the pharmacy you use leaves the network

Sometimes a pharmacy might leave the network. If this happens, you will have to get your **prescriptions** filled at another network pharmacy. You can use your **provider** directory or call us to find another network pharmacy in your area.

## How to get an emergency prescription filled

You may not have access to a network pharmacy in an emergency or urgent situation or you may be traveling outside of your plan's service area. If you must fill a **prescription** in any of these situations, we will reimburse you as shown in the table below:

Type of pharmacy	Your cost share is
A network pharmacy	The plan cost share
An out-of-network pharmacy	The full cost of the <b>prescription</b>

When you pay the full cost of the **prescription** at an out-of-network pharmacy:

- You will fill out and send a **prescription** drug refund form to us, including all itemized pharmacy receipts
- Coverage will be limited to items obtained in connection with the out-of-area emergency or urgent situation
- Submission of the refund form doesn't guarantee a refund. If approved, you will be reimbursed the cost of the **prescription** less your network cost share

## Other covered services

### Contraceptives (birth control)

For females who are able to become pregnant, **covered services** include certain drugs and devices that the FDA has approved to prevent pregnancy. You will need a **prescription** from your **provider** and must fill it at a network pharmacy. At least one form of each FDA-approved contraception method is a **covered service**. You can access a list of covered drugs and devices. See the *Contact us* section for how.

We also cover over-the-counter (OTC) and **generic prescription drugs** and devices for each method of birth control approved by the FDA at no cost to you. If a generic drug or device is not available for a certain method, we will cover the **brand-name prescription drug** or device at no cost share.

#### Preventive contraceptives important note:

You may qualify for a medical exception if your **provider** determines that the contraceptives covered as preventive **covered services** under the plan are not medically appropriate for you. Your **provider** may request a medical exception and submit it to us for review. If the exception is approved, the **brand-name prescription drug** contraceptive will be covered at 100%.

## Diabetic supplies

**Covered services** include but are not limited to the following:

- Alcohol swabs
- Blood glucose calibration liquid
- Diabetic syringes, needles and pens
- Continuous glucose monitors
- Insulin infusion disposable pumps
- Lancet devices and kits
- Test strips for blood glucose, ketones, urine
- Blood glucose meters and insulin pumps

## Immunizations

**Covered services** include preventive immunizations as required by the ACA when given by a network pharmacy. You can find a participating network pharmacy by contacting us. Check with the pharmacy before you go to make sure the vaccine you need is in stock. Not all pharmacies carry all vaccines.

## Infertility drugs

**Covered services** include synthetic ovulation stimulant **prescription** drugs used to treat the underlying medical cause of **infertility**.

## Obesity drugs

**Covered services** include **prescription** drugs used only for the purpose of weight loss. These are sometimes called anti-obesity agents.

You must be diagnosed by your **provider**, including a physical exam and outpatient diagnostic lab work, with one of the medical conditions listed here:

- Morbid obesity
- Obesity with one or more of the following obesity-related risk factors:
  - Coronary artery disease
  - Dyslipidemia (LDL and HDL cholesterol, triglycerides)
  - Hypertension
  - Obstructive sleep apnea
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

## Preventive care drugs and supplements

**Covered services** include preventive care drugs and supplements, including OTC ones, as required by the ACA.

## Risk reducing breast cancer prescription drugs

**Covered services** include **prescription** drugs used to treat people who are at:

- Increased risk for breast cancer
- Low risk for medication side effects

## Sexual enhancement or dysfunction prescription drugs

**Covered services** include **prescription** drugs for the treatment of sexual dysfunction or enhancement.

For the most up-to-date information on covered **prescription** drugs and doses, contact us.

## Tobacco cessation prescription and OTC drugs

**Covered services** include FDA approved **prescription** and OTC drugs to help stop the use of tobacco products.

You must receive a **prescription** from your **provider** and submit the **prescription** to the pharmacy for processing.

The following are not **covered services**:

- Abortion drugs (except for abortion drugs dispensed by a **provider**, including a **telemedicine provider**)
- Allergy sera and extracts given by injection
- Any services related to providing, injecting or application of a drug
- Compounded **prescriptions** containing bulk chemicals not approved by the FDA including compounded bioidentical hormones
- Cosmetic drugs including medication and preparations used for cosmetic purposes
- Devices, products and appliances unless listed as a **covered service**
- Dietary supplements including medical foods
- Drugs or medications
  - Administered or entirely consumed at the time and place it is prescribed or provided
  - Which do not require a **prescription** by law, even if a **prescription** is written, unless we have approved a medical exception
  - That include the same active ingredient or a modified version of an active ingredient as a covered **prescription** drug unless we approve a medical exception
  - That is therapeutically the same or an alternative to a covered **prescription** drug, unless we approve a medical exception
  - Not approved by the FDA or not proven safe or effective
  - That includes vitamins and minerals unless recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

- That are used to treat sexual dysfunction, enhance sexual performance or increase sexual desire, including drugs, implants, devices or preparations to correct or enhance erectile function, enhance sensitivity or alter the shape or appearance of a sex organ unless listed as a **covered service**
  - That are used for the purpose of weight gain or loss including but not limited to stimulants, preparations, foods or diet supplements, dietary regimens and supplements, food or food supplements, appetite suppressants or other medications
  - That are drugs or growth hormones used to stimulate growth and treat idiopathic short stature unless there is evidence that the member meets one or more clinical criteria detailed in our **precertification** and clinical policies
- Duplicative drug therapy; for example, two antihistamines for the same condition
  - Genetic care including:
    - Any treatment, device, drug, service or supply to alter the body’s genes, genetic makeup or the expression of the body’s genes unless listed as a covered service
  - Immunizations related to travel or work
  - Immunization or immunological agents except as specifically stated in the schedule of benefits or the booklet
- Implantable drugs and associated devices except as specifically stated in the schedule of benefits or the booklet
- Injectables including:
    - Any charges for the administration or injection of **prescription** drugs
    - Needles and syringes except for those used for insulin administration
    - Any drug which, due to its characteristics as determined by us, must typically be administered or supervised by a qualified **provider** or licensed certified **health professional** in an outpatient setting with the exception of Depo Provera and other injectable drugs for contraception
  - Off-label drug use except for indications recognized through peer-reviewed medical literature
  - **Prescription** drugs:
    - That are considered oral dental preparations and fluoride rinses except pediatric fluoride tablets or drops as specified on the plan’s **drug guide**
    - That are being used or abused in a manner that is determined to be furthering an addiction to a habit-forming substance, the use of or intended use of which is illegal, unethical, imprudent, abusive, not **medically necessary** or otherwise improper and drugs obtained for use by anyone other than the member as identified on the ID card
- Replacement of lost or stolen **prescriptions**
  - Test agents except diabetic test agents
  - Tobacco cessation drugs, unless recommended by the USPSTF
  - We reserve the right to exclude:
    - A manufacturer’s product when the same or similar drug (one with the same active ingredient or same therapeutic effect), supply or equipment is on the plan’s **drug guide**
    - Any dosage or form of a drug when the same drug is available in a different dosage or form on the plan’s **drug guide**

## General plan exclusions

---

The following are not **covered services** under your plan:

### **Court-ordered services and supplies**

This includes court-ordered services and supplies, or those required as a condition of parole, probation, release or because of any legal proceeding, unless they are a **covered service** under your plan

### **Experimental or investigational**

**Experimental or investigational** drugs, devices, treatments or procedures unless otherwise covered under clinical trials.

### **Prescription or non-prescription drugs and medicines – outpatient**

- Outpatient **prescription** or non-**prescription drugs** and medicines
- **Specialty prescription drugs** except as stated in the *Coverage and exclusions* section.

### **Drugs received outside of the United States**

Outpatient **prescription** drugs or supplies received outside of the United States. They are not covered even if they are covered in the United States under this booklet.

## How your plan works

---

### How your prescription drug plan works while you are covered in-network

Your in-network coverage helps you get and pay for a lot of, but not all, health care services. Your cost share is lower when you use a **network provider**.

### What the plan pays and what you pay

Who pays for your **covered services** – this plan, both of us, or just you? That depends.

#### The general rule

The schedule of benefits lists what you pay for each type of **covered service**. In general, this is how your benefit works:

- You pay the **deductible**, when it applies.
- Then the plan and you share the expense. Your share is called a **copayment** or **payment percentage**.
- Then the plan pays the entire expense after you reach your **maximum out-of-pocket limit**.

When we say “expense” in this general rule, we mean the **negotiated charge** for a **network provider**, and **recognized charge** for an **out-of-network provider**.

#### Negotiated charge

For **prescription** drug services:

When you get a **prescription** drug, we have agreed to this amount for the **prescription** or paid this amount to the network pharmacy or third party vendor that provided it. The **negotiated charge** may include a rebate, additional service or risk charges and administrative fees. It may include additional amounts paid to or received from third parties under price guarantees.

### Medical necessity and precertification requirements

Your plan pays for its share of the expense for **covered services** only if the general requirements are met. They are:

- The service is **medically necessary**
- For in-network benefits, you get the service from a **network provider**
- You or your **provider precertifies** the service when required

#### Medically necessary, medical necessity

The **medical necessity** requirements are in the *Glossary* section, where we define “**medically necessary, medical necessity**.” That is where we also explain what our medical directors or a **physician** they assign consider when determining if a service is **medically necessary**.

#### Important note:

We cover **medically necessary**, sex-specific **covered services** regardless of identified gender.

### Benefit payments and claims

A claim is a request for payment that you or your health care **provider** submits to us when you want or get **covered services**. There are different types of claims. You or your **provider** may contact us at various times, to make a claim, to request approval, or payment, for your benefits. This can be before you receive your benefit, while you are receiving benefits and after you have received the benefit.

It is important that you carefully read the previous sections within *How your plan works*. When a claim comes in,

we review it, make a decision and tell you how you and we will split the expense. The amount of time we have to tell you about our decision on a claim depends on the type of claim.

## **Claim type and timeframes**

### **Urgent care claim**

An urgent claim is one for which the doctor treating you decides a delay in getting medical care could put your life or health at risk. Or a delay might put your ability to regain maximum function at risk. It could also be a situation in which you need care to avoid severe pain. We will make a decision within 72 hours.

If you are pregnant, an urgent claim also includes a situation that can cause serious risk to the health of your unborn baby.

### **Pre-service claim**

A pre-service claim is a claim that involves services you have not yet received and which we will pay for only if we **precertify** them. We will make a decision within 15 days.

### **Post-service claim**

A post-service claim is a claim that involves health care services you have already received. We will make a decision within 30 days.

### **Concurrent care claim extension**

A concurrent care claim extension occurs when you need us to approve more services than we already have approved. Examples are extending a **hospital stay** or adding a number of visits to a **provider**. You must let us know you need this extension 24 hours before the original approval ends. We will have a decision within 24 hours for an urgent request. You may receive the decision for a non-urgent request within 15 days.

### **Concurrent care claim reduction or termination**

A concurrent care claim reduction or termination occur when we decide to reduce or stop payment for an already approved course of treatment. We will notify you of such a determination. You will have enough time to file an appeal. Your coverage for the service or supply will continue until you receive a final appeal decision from us or an external review organization if the situation is eligible for external review.

During this continuation period, you are still responsible for your share of the costs, such as **copayments**, **payment percentage** and **deductibles** that apply to the service or supply. If we uphold our decision at the final internal appeal, you will be responsible for all of the expenses for the service or supply received during the continuation period.

### **Filing a claim**

When you see a **network provider**, that office will usually send us a detailed bill for your services. If you see an **out-of-network provider**, you may receive the bill (proof of loss) directly. This bill forms the basis of your post-service claim. If you receive the bill directly, you or your **provider** must send us the bill within 12 months of the date you received services, unless you are legally unable to notify us. You must send it to us with a claim form that you can either get online or contact us to provide. You should always keep your own record of the date, **providers** and cost of your services.

The benefit payment determination is made based on many things, such as your **deductible** or **payment percentage**, the necessity of the service you received, when or where you receive the services, or even what other insurance you may have. We may need to ask you or your **provider** for some more information to make a final decision. You can always contact us directly to see how much you can expect to pay for any service.

We will pay the claim within 30 days from when we receive all the information necessary. Sometimes we may pay only some of the claim. Sometimes we may deny payment entirely. We may even rescind your coverage

entirely. Rescission means you lose coverage going forward and going backward. If we paid claims for your past coverage, we will want the money back.

We will give you our decision in writing. You may not agree with our decision. There are several ways to have us review the decisions. Please see the *Complaints, claim decisions and appeal procedures* section for that information.

# Complaints, claim decisions and appeals procedures

---

## The difference between a complaint and an appeal

### A Complaint

You may not be happy about a **provider** or an operational issue, and you may want to complain. You can call or write Member Services. Your complaint should include a description of the issue. You should include copies of any records or documents that you think are important. We will review the information and provide you with a written response within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint. We will let you know if we need more information to make a decision.

### An Appeal

You can ask us to re-review an adverse benefit determination. This is called an appeal. You can appeal to us verbally or in writing.

## Claim decisions and appeal procedures

Your **provider** may contact us at various times to make a claim, or to request approval for payment based on your benefits. This can be before you receive your benefit, while you are receiving benefits and after you have received the benefit. You may not agree with our decision. As we said in *Benefit payments and claims* in the *How your plan works* section, we pay many claims at the full rate, except for your share of the costs. But sometimes we pay only some of the claim. Sometimes we deny payment entirely.

Any time we deny even part of the claim, it is an “adverse benefit determination” or “adverse decision.” For any adverse decision, you will receive an explanation of benefits in writing. You can ask us to review an adverse benefit determination. This is the internal appeal process. If you still don’t agree, you can also appeal that decision. There are times you may skip the two levels of internal appeal. But in most situations, you must complete both levels before you can take any other actions, such as an external review.

## Appeals of adverse benefit determinations

You can appeal our adverse benefit determination. We will assign your appeal to someone who was not involved in making the original decision. You must file an appeal within 180 calendar days from the time you receive the notice of an adverse benefit determination.

You can appeal by sending a written appeal to Member Services at the address on the notice of adverse benefit determination. Or you can call Member Services at the number on your ID card. You need to include:

- Your name
- The employer’s name
- A copy of the adverse benefit determination
- Your reasons for making the appeal
- Any other information you would like us to consider

Another person may submit an appeal for you, including a **provider**. That person is called an authorized representative. You need to tell us if you choose to have someone else appeal for you (even if it is your **provider**). You should fill out an authorized representative form telling us that you are allowing someone to appeal for you. You can get this form by contacting us. You can use an authorized representative at any level of appeal.

You can appeal two times under this plan. If you appeal a second time you must present your appeal within 60 calendar days from the date you receive the notice of the first appeal decision.

## Urgent care or pre-service claim appeals

If your claim is an urgent claim or a pre-service claim, your **provider** may appeal for you without having you fill out an authorized representative form telling us that you are allowing the provider to appeal for you.

We will provide you with any new or additional information that we used or that was developed by us to review your claim. We will provide this information at no cost to you before we give you a decision at your last available level of appeal. This decision is called the final adverse benefit determination. You can respond to this information before we tell you what our final decision is.

## Timeframes for deciding appeals

The amount of time that we have to tell you about our decision on an appeal claim depends on the type of claim. The chart below shows a timetable view of the different types of claims and how much time we have to tell you about our decision.

Type of notice	Urgent care claim	Pre-service claim	Post-service claim	Concurrent care claim
Appeal determinations at each level (us)	36 hours	15 days	30 days	As appropriate to type of claim
Extensions	None	None	None	

## Exhaustion of appeals process

In most situations you must complete the two levels of appeal with us before you can take these other actions:

- Appeal through an external review process.
- Pursue arbitration, litigation or other type of administrative proceeding.

But sometimes you do not have to complete the two levels of appeals process before you may take other actions. These situations are:

- You have an urgent claim or a claim that involves ongoing treatment. You can have your claim reviewed internally and at the same time through the external review process.
- We did not follow all of the claim determination and appeal requirements of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. But, you will not be able to proceed directly to external review if:
  - The rule violation was minor and not likely to influence a decision or harm you.
  - The violation was for a good cause or beyond our control.
  - The violation was part of an ongoing, good faith exchange between you and us.

## External review

External review is a review done by people in an organization outside of **Aetna**. This is called an external review organization (ERO).

You have a right to external review only if:

- Our claim decision involved medical judgment.
- We decided the service or supply is not **medically necessary** or not appropriate.
- We decided the service or supply is **experimental or investigational**.
- You have received an adverse determination.

You may also request external review if you want to know if the federal surprise bill law applies to your situation.

If our claim decision is one for which you can seek external review, we will say that in the notice of adverse benefit determination or final adverse benefit determination we send you. That notice also will describe the external review process. It will include a copy of the Request for External Review form at the final adverse determination level.

You must submit the Request for External Review Form:

- To **Aetna**
- Within 123 calendar days (four months) of the date you received the decision from us
- And you must include a copy of the notice from us and all other important information that supports your request

You will pay for any information that you send and want reviewed by the ERO. We will pay for information we send to the ERO plus the cost of the review.

**Aetna will:**

- Contact the ERO that will conduct the review of your claim.
- Assign the appeal to one or more independent clinical reviewers that have the proper expertise to do the review.
- Consider appropriate credible information that you sent.
- Follow our contractual documents and your plan of benefits.
- Send notification of the decision within 45 calendar days of the date we receive your request form and all the necessary information.

We will stand by the decision that the ERO makes, unless we can show conflict of interest, bias or fraud.

### **How long will it take to get an ERO decision?**

We will tell you of the ERO decision not more than 45 calendar days after we receive your Notice of External Review Form with all the information you need to send in.

But sometimes you can get a faster external review decision. Your **provider** must call us or send us a Request for External Review Form.

There are two scenarios when you may be able to get a faster external review:

#### **For initial adverse determinations**

Your **provider** tells us that a delay in your receiving health care services would:

- Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function, or
- Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental or investigational** treatment)

#### **For final adverse determinations**

Your **provider** tells us that a delay in your receiving health care services would:

- Jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function
- Be much less effective if not started right away (in the case of **experimental or investigational** treatment), or
- The final adverse determination concerns an admission, availability of care, continued stay or health care service for which you received **emergency services**, but have not been discharged from a facility

If your situation qualifies for this faster review, you will receive a decision within 72 hours of us getting your request.

**Recordkeeping**

We will keep the records of all complaints and appeals for at least 10 years.

**Fees and expenses**

We do not pay any fees or expenses incurred by you in pursuing a complaint or appeal.

## Eligibility, starting and stopping coverage

---

### Eligibility

#### Who is eligible

Your employer decides and tells us who is eligible for health coverage.

#### When you can join the plan

You must live or work in the service area to enroll in this plan.

You can enroll:

- At the end of any waiting period your employer requires
- Once each year during the annual enrollment period
- At other special times during the year (see the *Special times you can join the plan* section below)

You can enroll eligible family members (these are your “dependents”) at this time too.

If you don’t enroll when you first qualify for benefits, you may have to wait until the next annual enrollment period to join.

#### Who can be a dependent on this plan

You can enroll the following family members:

- Your legal spouse
- Dependent children – yours or your spouse’s
  - Dependent children must be:
    - Under 26 years of age
  - Dependent children include:
    - Natural children
    - Stepchildren
    - Adopted children including those placed with you for adoption
    - Foster children
    - Children you are responsible for under a qualified medical support order or court order
    - Grandchildren in your legal custody

#### Adding new dependents

You can add new dependents during the year. These include any dependents described in the *Who can be a dependent on this plan* section above.

Coverage begins on the date of the event for new dependents that join your plan for the following reasons:

- Birth
- Adoption or placement for adoption
- Marriage
- Legal guardianship
- Court or administrative order

We must receive a completed enrollment form not more than 31 days after the event date.

#### Special times you can join the plan

You can enroll in these situations:

- You didn't enroll before because you had other coverage and that coverage has ended
- Your COBRA coverage has ended
- A court orders that you cover a dependent on your health plan

- When your dependent moves outside the service area for your employee plan

We must receive the completed enrollment information within 31 days of the date when coverage ends.

You can also enroll in these situations:

- You or your dependent lose your eligibility for enrollment in Medicaid or an S-CHIP plan
- You are now eligible for state fee assistance under Medicaid or S-CHIP which will pay your fee contribution under this plan

We must receive the completed enrollment information within 60 days of the date when coverage ends.

### **Notification of change in status**

Tell us of any changes that may affect your benefits. Please contact us as soon as possible when you have a:

- Change of address
- Dependent status change
- Dependent who enrolls in Medicare or any other health plan

### **Starting coverage**

Your coverage under this plan has a start and an end. You must start coverage after you complete the eligibility and enrollment process. You can ask your employer to confirm your effective date.

### **Stopping coverage**

Your coverage typically ends when you leave your job; but it can happen for other reasons. Ending coverage doesn't always mean you lose coverage with us. There will be circumstances that will still allow you to continue coverage. See the *Special coverage options after your coverage ends* section.

We will send you notice if your coverage is ending. This notice will tell you the date that your coverage ends.

### **When will your coverage end**

Your coverage under this plan will end if:

- This plan is no longer available
- You ask to end coverage
- Your employer asks to end coverage
- You are no longer eligible for coverage, including when you move out of the service area
- Your work ends
- You stop making required contributions, if any apply
- We end your coverage
- You start coverage under another medical plan offered by your employer

### **When dependent coverage ends**

Dependent coverage will end if:

- A dependent is no longer eligible for coverage.
- You stop making contributions, if any apply.
- Your coverage ends for any of the reasons listed above except:
  - You enroll under a group Medicare plan we offer. However, dependent coverage will end if your coverage ends under the Medicare plan.

### **What happens to your dependents if you die?**

Coverage for dependents may continue for some time after your death. See the *Special coverage options after your coverage ends* section for more information.

### **Why would we end your coverage?**

We may immediately end your coverage if you commit fraud or you intentionally misrepresented yourself when you applied for or obtained coverage. You can refer to the *General provisions – other things you should know* section for more information on rescissions.

On the date your coverage ends, we will refund to your employer any prepayment for periods after the date your coverage ended.

### **Special coverage options after your coverage ends**

#### **When coverage may continue under the plan**

This section explains options you may have after your coverage ends under this plan. Your individual situation will determine what options you will have. Contact your employer to see what options apply to you.

In some cases, fee payment is required for coverage to continue. Your coverage will continue under the plan as long as your employer and we have agreed to do so. It is your employer's responsibility to let us know when your work ends. If your employer and we agree in writing, we will extend the limits.

#### **Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)**

The federal COBRA law usually applies to employers of group sizes of 20 or more and gives employees and most of their covered dependents the right to keep their health coverage for 18, 29 or 36 months after a qualifying event. The qualifying event is something that happens that results in you losing your coverage.

The qualifying events are:

- Your active employment ends for reasons other than gross misconduct
- Your working hours are reduced
- You divorce or legally separate and are no longer responsible for dependent coverage
- You become entitled to benefits under Medicare
- Your covered dependent children no longer qualify as dependents under the plan
- You die
- You are a retiree eligible for retiree health coverage and your former employer files for bankruptcy

Talk with your employer if you have questions about COBRA or to enroll.

#### **How you can extend coverage for your disabled child beyond the plan age limits**

You have the right to extend coverage for your dependent child beyond plan age limits, if the child is not able to be self-supporting because of mental or physical disability and depends mainly (more than 50% of their income) on you for support.

The right to coverage will continue only as long as a **physician** certifies that your child still is disabled.

We may ask you to send us proof of the disability within 90 days of the date coverage would have ended. Before we extend coverage, we may ask that your child get a physical exam. We will pay for that exam.

We may ask you to send proof that your child is disabled after coverage is extended. We won't ask for this proof more than once a year. You must send it to us within 31 days of our request. If you don't, we can terminate coverage for your dependent child.

## General provisions – other things you should know

---

### Administrative provisions

#### How you and we will interpret this booklet

We prepared this booklet according to federal and state laws that apply. You and we will interpret it according to these laws. Also, you are bound by our interpretation of this booklet when we administer your coverage.

#### How Aetna administers this plan

Aetna will administer the Plan in accordance with this booklet and apply policies and procedures which Aetna has developed to administer this plan.

#### Who's responsible to you

We are responsible to you for what our employees and other agents do.

We are not responsible for what is done by your **providers**. Even **network providers** are not our employees or agents.

### Claim administrator

#### Aetna's authority as claim administrator

Aetna has been delegated the authority to make claim and appeal determinations under the Plan. In exercising this responsibility, Aetna has full discretionary authority to make factual determinations, to determine eligibility for benefits, to determine the amount of benefits for each claim received, and to construe terms of the Plan with respect to benefits. Aetna's decisions are final and binding upon you and any person making a claim on your behalf. Your employer retains sole and complete authority to determine eligibility of persons to participate in the Plan.

### Coverage and services

#### Your coverage can change

Your coverage is defined by the group contract. This document may have amendments too. Under certain circumstances, we, the Customer/Employer or the law may change your plan. When an emergency or epidemic is declared, we may modify or waive **precertification**, **prescription** quantity limits or your cost share if you are affected. Only we may waive a requirement of your plan. No other person, including the Customer/Employer or **provider**, can do this.

#### Physical examination and evaluations

At our expense, we have the right to have a **physician** of our choice examine you. This will be done at reasonable times while certification or a claim for benefits is pending or under review.

#### Records of expenses

You should keep complete records of your expenses. They may be needed for a claim. Important things to keep are:

- Names of **physicians** and others who furnish services
- Dates expenses are incurred
- Copies of all bills and receipts

## Honest mistakes and intentional deception

### Honest mistakes

You or the Customer/Employer may make an honest mistake when you share facts with us. When we learn of the mistake, we may make a fair change in contributions or in your coverage. If we do, we will tell you what the mistake was. We won't make a change if the mistake happened more than 2 years before we learned of it.

### Intentional deception

If we learn that you defrauded us or you intentionally misrepresented material facts, we can take actions that can have serious consequences for your coverage. These serious consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Rescission of coverage
- Denial of benefits
- Recovery of amounts we already paid

We also may report fraud to criminal authorities. See the *Benefit payments and claims, Filing a claim* section for information about rescission.

You have special rights if we rescind your coverage:

- We will give you 30 days advance written notice of any rescission of coverage
- You have the right to an appeal
- You have the right to a third party review conducted by an independent ERO

## Some other money issues

### Legal action

You must complete the internal appeal process, if your plan has one, before you take any legal action against us for any expense or bill. See the *Complaints, claim decisions, and, appeal procedures* section.

You cannot take any action until 60 days after we receive written submission of a claim.

No legal action can be brought to recover payment under any benefit after 3 years from the deadline for filing claims.

### Assignment of benefits

When you see a **network provider**, they will usually bill us directly. When you see an **out-of-network provider**, we may choose to pay you or to pay the **provider** directly. To the extent allowed by law, we will not accept an assignment to an **out-of-network provider**.

### Financial sanctions exclusions

If coverage provided under this booklet violates or will violate any economic or trade sanctions, the coverage will be invalid immediately. For example, we cannot pay for **covered services** if it violates a financial sanction regulation. This includes sanctions related to a person or a country under sanction by the United States, unless it is allowed under a written license from the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC). You can find out more by visiting <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx>

### Recovery of overpayments

If a benefit payment is made by the Plan, to or on your behalf, which exceeds the benefit amount that you are entitled to receive, the Plan has the right to require the return of the overpayment. One of the ways Aetna recovers overpayments is by reducing future payments to the provider by the amount of the overpayment. These future payments may involve this Plan or other health plans that are administered by Aetna. Aetna would then credit the recovered amount to the plan that overpaid the provider. Payments to providers under this Plan may be subject to this same process when Aetna recovers overpayments for other plans administered by Aetna.

This right does not affect any other right of recovery the Plan may have with respect to overpayments.

## **Your health information**

We will protect your health information. We will only use or share it with others as needed for your care and treatment. We will also use and share it to help us process your claims and manage your plan.

You can get a free copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. Just contact us.

When you accept coverage under this plan, you agree to let your **providers** share information with us. We need information about your physical and mental condition and care.

## Glossary

---

### Brand-name prescription drug

An FDA-approved drug marketed with a specific name or trademark name by the company that manufactures it; often the same company that developed and patents it.

### Copay, copayment

This is the dollar amount you pay for **covered services**. In most plans, you pay this after you meet your **deductible** limit. In **prescription** drug plans, it is the amount you pay for covered drugs.

### Covered service

The benefits, subject to varying cost shares, covered under the plan. These are:

- Described in the *Providing covered services* section
- Not listed as an exclusion in the *Coverage and exclusions – Providing covered services* section or the *General plan exclusions* section
- Not beyond any limits in the schedule of benefits
- **Medically necessary**. See the *How your plan works – Medical necessity and precertification requirements* section and the *Glossary* for more information

### Deductible

A **deductible** is the amount you pay out-of-pocket for **covered services** per year before we start to pay.

### Drug guide

A list of **prescription** and OTC drugs and devices established by us or an affiliate. It does not include all **prescription** and OTC drugs and devices. This list can be reviewed and changed by us or an affiliate. A copy is available at your request. Go to <https://www.aetna.com/individuals-families/find-a-medication.html>

### Experimental or investigational

Drugs, treatments or tests not yet accepted by **physicians** or by insurance plans as standard treatment. They may not be proven as effective or safe for most people.

A drug, device, procedure, or treatment is **experimental or investigational** if:

- There is not enough outcome data available from controlled clinical trials published in the peer-reviewed literature to validate its safety and effectiveness for the illness or injury involved.
- The needed approval by the FDA has not been given for marketing.
- A national medical or dental society or regulatory agency has stated in writing that it is **experimental or investigational** or suitable mainly for research purposes.
- It is the subject of a Phase I, Phase II or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial. These terms have the meanings given by regulations and other official actions and publications of the FDA and Department of Health and Human Services.
- Written protocols or a written consent form used by a facility **provider** state that it is **experimental or investigational**.

### Generic prescription drug

An FDA-approved drug with the same intended use as the brand-name product, that is considered to be as effective as the brand-name product. It offers the same:

- Dosage
- Safety

- Strength
- Quality
- Performance

## Health professional

A person who is authorized by law to provide health care services to the public; for example, **physicians**, nurses and physical therapists.

## Mail order pharmacy

A pharmacy where **prescription** drugs are legally dispensed by mail or other carrier.

## Maximum out-of-pocket limit

The **maximum out-of-pocket limit** is the most a covered person will pay per year in **copayments** and **contribution** if any, for **covered services**.

## Medically necessary, medical necessity

Health care services or supplies that prevent, evaluate, diagnose, or treat an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are all of the following, as determined by us within our discretion:

- In accordance with “generally accepted standards of medical practice”
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, place of service and duration, and considered effective for your illness, injury or disease
- Not primarily for your convenience, the convenience of your **physician** or other health care **provider**
- Not more costly than an alternative service, place of service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your illness, injury or disease.

Generally accepted standards of medical practice means:

- Standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, and
- Following the standards set forth in our clinical policies and applying clinical judgment.

### Important note:

We develop and maintain clinical policy bulletins that describe the generally accepted standards of medical practice, credible scientific evidence, and prevailing clinical guidelines that support our decisions regarding specific services. We use these bulletins and other resources to help guide individualized coverage decisions under our plans and to determine whether an intervention is **experimental or investigational**. They are subject to change. You can find these bulletins and other information at <https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html>. You can also contact us. See the *Contact us* section for how.

## Payment Percentage

The specific percentage the plan pays for a health care service listed in the schedule of benefits.

## Physician

A **health professional** trained and licensed to practice and prescribe medicine under the laws of the state where they practice; specifically, doctors of medicine or osteopathy. Under some plans, a **physician** can also be a **primary care physician (PCP)**.

## **Precertification, precertify**

Pre-approval that you or your **provider** receives from us before you receive certain **covered services**. This may include a determination by us as to whether the service is **medically necessary** and eligible for coverage.

## **Prescription**

This is an instruction written by a **physician** or other **provider** that authorizes a patient to receive a service, supply, medicine or treatment.

## **Provider**

A **physician**, pharmacist, **health professional**, person, or facility, licensed or certified by law to provide health care services to you. If state law does not specifically provide for licensure or certification, they must meet all Medicare approval standards even if they don't participate in Medicare.

## **Specialty prescription drug**

An FDA-approved **prescription** drug that typically has a higher cost and requires special handling, special storage or monitoring. These drugs may be administered:

- Orally (mouth)
- Topically (skin)
- By inhalation (mouth or nose)
- By injection (needle)

## **Specialty pharmacy**

A pharmacy that fills **prescriptions** for specialty drugs.

## **Continuation of Coverage During an Approved Leave of Absence Granted to Comply With Federal Law**

This continuation of coverage section applies only for the period of any approved family or medical leave (approved FMLA leave) required by Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). If your Employer grants you an approved FMLA leave for a period in excess of the period required by FMLA, any continuation of coverage during that excess period will be subject to prior written agreement between Aetna and your Employer.

If your Employer grants you an approved FMLA leave in accordance with FMLA, you may, during the continuance of such approved FMLA leave, continue Health Expense Benefits for you and your eligible dependents.

At the time you request the leave, you must agree to make any contributions required by your Employer to continue coverage. Your Employer must continue to make premium payments.

If Health Expense Benefits has reduction rules applicable by reason of age or retirement, Health Expense Benefits will be subject to such rules while you are on FMLA leave.

Coverage will not be continued beyond the first to occur of:

- The date you are required to make any contribution and you fail to do so.
- The date your Employer determines your approved FMLA leave is terminated.
- The date the coverage involved discontinues as to your eligible class. However, coverage for health expenses may be available to you under another plan sponsored by your Employer.

Any coverage being continued for a dependent will not be continued beyond the date it would otherwise terminate.

If Health Expense Benefits terminate because your approved FMLA leave is deemed terminated by your Employer, you may, on the date of such termination, be eligible for Continuation Under Federal Law on the same terms as though your employment terminated, other than for gross misconduct, on such date. If the group contract provides any other continuation of coverage (for example, upon termination of employment, death, divorce or ceasing to be a defined dependent), you (or your eligible dependents) may be eligible for such continuation on the date your Employer determines your approved FMLA leave is terminated or the date of the event for which the continuation is available.

If you acquire a new dependent while your coverage is continued during an approved FMLA leave, the dependent will be eligible for the continued coverage on the same terms as would be applicable if you were actively at work, not on an approved FMLA leave.

If you return to work for your Employer following the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated, your coverage under the group contract will be in force as though you had continued in active employment rather than going on an approved FMLA leave provided you make request for such coverage within 31 days of the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave to be terminated. If you do not make such request within 31 days, coverage will again be effective under the group contract only if and when Aetna gives its written consent.

If any coverage being continued terminates because your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated, any Conversion Privilege will be available on the same terms as though your employment had terminated on the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated.