

# Important Disclosures

Small Group Plan

## **HMO for Small Business Plans Disclosure Form ALT**

Provider Network: Access+

Local Access+

Trio

[blueshieldca.com](http://blueshieldca.com)



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## Notice

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**This disclosure form is only a summary. Consult the Evidence of Coverage itself to determine the governing contractual provisions.**

The Evidence of Coverage discloses the terms and conditions of your coverage. You should read this disclosure form and the Evidence of Coverage completely and carefully. If you or a covered family member have special health care needs, you should read any relevant sections closely.



Consult the health plan benefits and coverage matrix for additional information.

Applicants for coverage under this plan have a right to view the Evidence of Coverage prior to enrollment. Applicants may contact Blue Shield for additional information about this plan's Benefits. Call Shield Concierge at 1-855-258-3744.

Blue Shield will furnish a copy of the Evidence of Coverage upon request.

## General disclosures

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### **Principal Benefits and coverages**

Your plan includes certain Benefits and coverages, including coverage for acute and subacute care. Blue Shield provides coverage for Medically Necessary services and supplies only. Experimental or Investigational services and supplies are not covered.

All Benefits are subject to:

- Your Cost Share;
- Any Benefit maximums;
- The provisions of the medical management section of the Evidence of Coverage; and
- The terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Evidence of Coverage.

You can receive many outpatient Benefits in a variety of settings, including your home, a Physician's office, an urgent care center, an Ambulatory Surgery Center, or a Hospital. Blue Shield's medical management helps your provider to ensure that your care is provided safely and effectively in a setting that is appropriate to your needs. Your Cost Share for outpatient Benefits may vary depending on where you receive them.

Review your Summary of Benefits and your Evidence of Coverage to understand the specifics and costs associated with your principal Benefits and coverages.



### Principal Benefits and Coverages




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Acupuncture services

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Allergy testing and immunotherapy Benefits

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Ambulance services

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Bariatric surgery Benefits

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Chiropractic services (This benefit is only available in select plans)

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Clinical trials for treatment of cancer or life-threatening diseases or conditions Benefits

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Diabetes care services

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Diagnostic X-ray, imaging, pathology, laboratory, and other testing services

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Dialysis Benefits

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Durable medical equipment

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## Principal Benefits and Coverages

Emergency Benefits

Family planning Benefits

Home health services

Hospice program services

Hospital services

Medical treatment of the teeth, gums, jaw joints, and jaw bones

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits

Pediatric dental Benefits

Pediatric vision Benefits

Physician and other professional services

PKU formulas and special food products

Podiatric services

Pregnancy and maternity care

Prescription Drug Benefits

Preventive Health Services

Reconstructive Surgery Benefits

Rehabilitative and habilitative services

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services

Transplant services

Urgent care services



### **Principal exclusions and limitations on Benefits**



Review your Evidence of Coverage to learn more about this plan's general exclusions and limitations. Prescription Drug, pediatric dental, and pediatric vision Benefits each have additional exclusions and limitations.



Questions? Visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com), use the Blue Shield mobile app, or call Shield Concierge at 1-855-258-3744.

This section has the following tables:



- General exclusions and limitations (for medical Benefits);
- Outpatient prescription Drug exclusions and limitations;
- Pediatric dental exclusions; and
- Pediatric dental limitations.



 <b>General exclusions and limitations</b> 	
1	<p>This plan only covers services that are Medically Necessary. A Physician or other Health Care Provider's decision to prescribe, order, recommend, or approve a service or supply does not, in itself, make it Medically Necessary.</p>
2	<p>Routine physical examinations solely for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunizations and vaccinations, by any mode of administration, for the purpose of travel; or</li> <li>• Licensure, employment, insurance, court order, parole, or probation.</li> </ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.</p>
3	<p>Hospitalization solely for X-ray, laboratory or any other outpatient diagnostic studies, or for medical observation.</p>
4	<p>Routine foot care items and services that are not Medically Necessary, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callus treatment;</li> <li>• Corn paring or excision;</li> <li>• Toenail trimming;</li> <li>• Over-the-counter shoe inserts or arch supports; or</li> <li>• Any type of massage procedure on the foot.</li> </ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to items or services provided through a Participating Hospice Agency or covered under the diabetes care Benefit.</p>
5	<p>Home services, hospitalization, or confinement in a health facility primarily for rest, custodial care, or domiciliary care.</p> <p>Custodial care is assistance with Activities of Daily Living furnished in the home primarily for supervisory care or supportive services, or in a facility primarily to provide room and board.</p> <p>Domiciliary care is a supervised living arrangement in a home-like environment for adults who are unable to live alone because of age-related impairments or physical, mental, or visual disabilities.</p>
6	<p>Continuous Nursing Services, private duty nursing, or nursing shift care, except as provided through a Participating Hospice Agency.</p>



 <b>General exclusions and limitations</b> 	
7	Prescription and non-prescription oral food and nutritional supplements. This exclusion does not apply to services listed in the <i>Home infusion and injectable medication services</i> and <i>PKU formulas and special food products</i> sections of the Evidence of Coverage, or as provided through a Participating Hospice Agency. This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.
8	Hearing aids, hearing aid examinations for the appropriate type of hearing aid, fitting, and hearing aid recheck appointments.
9	For Members 19 years of age and older: eye exams and refractions, lenses and frames for eyeglasses, lens options, treatments, and contact lenses, except as listed under the <i>Prosthetic equipment and devices</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage.  For all Members: video-assisted visual aids or video magnification equipment for any purpose, or surgery to correct refractive error.
10	Any type of communicator, voice enhancer, voice prosthesis, electronic voice producing machine, or any other language assistive device. This exclusion does not apply to items or services listed under the <i>Prosthetic equipment and devices</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage.
11	Dental services and supplies for treatment of the teeth, gums, and associated periodontal structures, including but not limited to the treatment, prevention, or relief of pain or dysfunction of the temporomandibular joint and muscles of mastication. This exclusion does not apply to items or services provided under the <i>Medical treatment of the teeth, gums, or jaw joints and jaw bones</i> , <i>Pediatric dental Benefits</i> , and <i>Hospital services</i> sections of the Evidence of Coverage.
12	Surgery that is performed to alter or reshape normal structures of the body to improve appearance. This exclusion does not apply to Medically Necessary treatment for complications resulting from cosmetic surgery, such as infections or hemorrhages.
13	Unless selected as an optional Benefit by your Employer, any services related to assisted reproductive technology (including associated services such as radiology, laboratory, medications, and procedures) including but not limited to the harvesting or stimulation of the human ovum, in vitro fertilization, Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT) procedure, Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT), Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), pre-implantation genetic screening, donor services or procurement and storage of donor embryos, oocytes, ovarian tissue, or sperm, any type of artificial insemination, services or medications to treat low sperm count, or services incident to reversal of surgical sterilization,



 <b>General exclusions and limitations</b> 	
	except for Medically Necessary treatment of medical complications of the reversal procedure.
14	Home testing devices and monitoring equipment. This exclusion does not apply to COVID-10 at-home testing kits, sexually transmitted disease home testing kits, or items specifically described in the <i>Durable medical equipment</i> or <i>Diabetes care services</i> sections of the Evidence of Coverage.
15	Preventive Health Services performed by a Non-Participating Provider, except laboratory services under the California Prenatal Screening Program.
16	Services performed in a Hospital by house officers, residents, interns, or other professionals in training without the supervision of an attending Physician in association with an accredited clinical education program.
17	Services performed by your spouse, Domestic Partner, child, brother, sister, or parent.
18	<p>Services provided by an individual or entity that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is not appropriately licensed or certified by the state to provide health care services;</li> <li>• Is not operating within the scope of such license or certification; or</li> <li>• Does not maintain the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certificate required to perform laboratory testing services.</li> </ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to Behavioral Health Treatment Benefits listed under the <i>Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits</i> section or to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder provided by an individual trainee, associate or applicant for licensure who is supervised as required by applicable law.</p>
19	<p>Select physical and occupational therapies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Massage therapy, unless it is a component of a multimodality rehabilitative treatment plan or physical therapy treatment plan;</li> <li>• Training or therapy for the treatment of learning disabilities or behavioral problems;</li> <li>• Social skills training or therapy;</li> <li>• Vocational, educational, recreational, art, dance, music, or reading therapy; and</li> <li>• Testing for intelligence or learning disabilities.</li> </ul> <p>This exclusion does not apply to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder.</p>
20	Weight control programs and exercise programs. This exclusion does not apply to nutritional counseling provided under the <i>Diabetes care services</i> section of







 <b>General exclusions and limitations</b> 	
	the Evidence of Coverage, or to services deemed Medically Necessary Treatment of a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder, or Preventive Health Services.
21	Services or Drugs that are Experimental or Investigational in nature.
22	<p>Services that cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs;</li> <li>• Medicines;</li> <li>• Supplements;</li> <li>• Tests;</li> <li>• Vaccines;</li> <li>• Devices; and</li> <li>• Radioactive material.</li> </ul> <p>However, drugs and medicines that have received FDA approval for marketing for one or more uses will not be denied on the basis that they are being prescribed for an off-label use if the conditions set forth in California Health &amp; Safety Code Section 1367.21 have been met.</p>
23	<p>The following non-prescription (over-the-counter) medical equipment or supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxygen saturation monitors;</li> <li>• Prophylactic knee braces; and</li> <li>• Bath chairs.</li> </ul>
24	Member convenience items or services, such as internet, phones, televisions, guest trays, personal hygiene items, and food delivery services.
25	Disposable supplies for home use except as provided under the <i>Durable medical equipment</i> , <i>Home health services</i> , and <i>Hospice program services</i> sections of the Evidence of Coverage, or the Prescription Drug Benefit.
26	Services incident to any injury or disease arising out of, or in the course of, employment for salary, wage, or profit if such injury or disease is covered by any workers' compensation law, occupational disease law, or similar legislation. However, if Blue Shield provides payment for such services, we will be entitled to establish a lien up to the amount paid by Blue Shield for the treatment of such injury or disease.
27	Transportation by car, taxi, bus, gurney van, wheelchair van, and any other type of transportation (other than a licensed ambulance or psychiatric transport van).



 <b>General exclusions and limitations</b> 	
28	Drugs dispensed by a Physician or Physician's office for outpatient use.
29	Hospital care programs or services provided in a home setting (Hospital-at-home programs).



 <b>Outpatient prescription Drug exclusions and limitations</b> 	
1	Drugs packaged in convenience kits that include non-prescription convenience items, unless the Drug is not otherwise available without the non-prescription convenience items. This exclusion will not apply to items used for the administration of diabetes or asthma Drugs.
2	Drugs when prescribed for cosmetic purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, Drugs used to slow or reverse the effects of skin aging or to treat hair loss.
3	Medical devices or supplies, except as listed in the <i>Durable medical equipment</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage. This exclusion also applies to prescription preparations applied to the skin that are approved by the FDA as medical devices.
4	Non-Formulary Drugs, unless an exception request is approved. See the <i>Prescription Drug Benefits</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage for more information.
5	Drugs obtained from a Non-Participating Pharmacy. This exclusion does not apply to Drugs obtained on an emergency or urgent basis.
6	Drugs obtained from a pharmacy that is not licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy, or included on a government exclusion list.
7	Drugs that are available without a prescription (over-the-counter), including drugs for which there is an over-the-counter drug that has the same active ingredient and dosage as the prescription Drug. This exclusion will not apply to over-the-counter drugs with a United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) rating of A or B when prescribed by a Physician or to over-the-counter contraceptive Drugs and devices.
8	Prescription Drugs that are repackaged by an entity other than the original manufacturer.
9	Replacement of lost, stolen, or destroyed Drugs.



 <b>Outpatient prescription Drug exclusions and limitations</b> 	
10	Immunizations and vaccinations solely for the purpose of travel.
11	<p>Compounded medications unless all of the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A compounded medication includes at least one Drug;</li> <li>• The compounded medication does not contain a bulk chemical (except for bulk chemicals that meet FDA criteria for use as part of a Medically Necessary compound);</li> <li>• There are no FDA-approved, commercially-available, medically-appropriate alternatives; and</li> <li>• The compounded medication is self-administered.</li> </ul>
12	A manufacturer's product may be excluded when the same or similar Drug (one with the same active ingredient or same therapeutic effect) is available under this Prescription Drug Benefit. Any dosage or formulation of a Drug may be excluded when the same Drug is available under the <i>Prescription Drug Benefit</i> in a different dosage or formulation.

 <b>Pediatric dental exclusions</b> 	
1	Additional treatment costs incurred because a dental procedure is unable to be performed in the Dentist's office due to the general health and physical limitations of the Member.
2	General anesthesia or intravenous/conscious sedation unless specifically listed as a Benefit in the <i>Summary of Benefits</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage or on the pediatric dental Benefits table, or administered by a Dentist for a covered oral surgery.
3	Cosmetic dental care.
4	Treatment for which payment is made by any governmental agency, including any foreign government.
5	Services of Dentists or other practitioners of healing arts not associated with the plan, except upon referral arranged by a Dental Provider and authorized by the DPA, or when required in a covered emergency.
6	Hospital charges of any kind.
7	Procedures, appliances, or restorations to correct congenital or developmental malformations, unless specifically listed in the <i>Summary of Benefits</i> section of the Evidence of Coverage or on the pediatric dental Benefits table.

 <b>Pediatric dental exclusions</b> 	
8	Malignancies.
9	Drugs not normally supplied in a dental office.
10	Dental Care Services administered by a pediatric Dentist, except when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Member child's primary Dental Provider is a pediatric Dentist; or</li> <li>• The Member child is referred to a pediatric Dentist by the primary Dental Provider.</li> </ul>
11	The cost of precious metals used in any form of dental Benefits.
12	Loss or theft of dentures or bridgework.
13	Charges for second opinions, unless previously authorized by the DPA.

 <b>Pediatric dental limitations</b> 	
<b>Preventive (D1000- D1999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluoride treatment (D1206 and D1208) is only a Benefit for prescription-strength fluoride products;</li> <li>• Fluoride treatments do not include treatments that use fluoride with prophylaxis paste or the topical application of fluoride to the prepared portion of a tooth prior to restoration and applications of aqueous sodium fluoride; and</li> <li>• The application of fluoride is only a Benefit for caries control and is reimbursed when covered as a full mouth treatment regardless of the number of teeth treated.</li> </ul>
<b>Restorative (D2000- D2999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative services provided solely to replace tooth structure lost due to attrition, abrasion, erosion, or for cosmetic purposes;</li> <li>• Restorative services when the prognosis of the tooth is questionable due to non-restorability or periodontal involvement;</li> <li>• Restorations for primary teeth near exfoliation;</li> <li>• Replacement of otherwise satisfactory amalgam restorations with resin-based composite restorations, unless a specific allergy has been documented by a medical specialist (allergist) on his or her professional letterhead or prescription;</li> <li>• Prefabricated crowns for primary teeth near exfoliation;</li> <li>• Prefabricated crowns for abutment teeth for cast metal framework partial dentures (D5213 and D5214);</li> </ul>

 <b>Pediatric dental limitations</b> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefabricated crowns provided solely to replace tooth structure lost due to attrition, abrasion, erosion, or for cosmetic purposes;</li> <li>• Prefabricated crowns when the prognosis of the tooth is questionable due to non-restorability or periodontal involvement;</li> <li>• Prefabricated crowns when a tooth can be restored with an amalgam or resin-based composite restoration;</li> <li>• Restorative services provided solely to replace tooth structure lost due to attrition, abrasion, erosion, or for cosmetic purposes;</li> <li>• Laboratory crowns when the prognosis of the tooth is questionable due to non-restorability or periodontal involvement; and</li> <li>• Laboratory processed crowns when the tooth can be restored with an amalgam or resin-based composite.</li> </ul>
<b>Endodontic (D3000- D3999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endodontic procedures when the prognosis of the tooth is questionable due to non-restorability or periodontal involvement;</li> <li>• Endodontic procedures when extraction is appropriate for a tooth due to non-restorability, periodontal involvement, or for a tooth that is easily replaced by an addition to an existing or proposed prosthesis in the same arch; and</li> <li>• Endodontic procedures for third molars, unless the third molar occupies the first or second molar positions or is an abutment for an existing fixed or removable partial denture with cast clasps or rests.</li> </ul>
<b>Periodontal (D4000- D4999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tooth-bounded spaces shall only be counted in conjunction with osseous surgeries (D4260 and D4261) that require a surgical flap. Each tooth-bounded space shall only count as one tooth space regardless of the number of missing natural teeth in the space.</li> </ul>
<b>Prosthodontic (D5000- D5899)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosthodontic services provided solely for cosmetic purposes;</li> <li>• Temporary or interim dentures to be used while a permanent denture is being constructed;</li> <li>• Spare or backup dentures;</li> <li>• Evaluation of a denture on a maintenance basis;</li> <li>• Preventative, endodontic, or restorative procedures for teeth to be retained for overdentures. Only extractions for the retained teeth are covered;</li> <li>• Partial dentures to replace missing third molars;</li> <li>• Laboratory relines (D5760 and D5761) for resin-based partial dentures (D5211 and D5212);</li> </ul>

 <b>Pediatric dental limitations</b> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory relines (D5750, D5751, D5760, and D5761) within 12 months of chairside relines (D5730, D5731, D5740, and D5741);</li> <li>Chairside relines (D5730, D5731, D5740, and D5741) within 12 months of laboratory relines (D5750, D5751, D5760, and D5761);</li> <li>Tissue conditioning (D5850 and D5851) is only covered to heal unhealthy ridges prior to a definitive prosthodontic treatment; and</li> <li>Tissue conditioning (D5850 and D5851) is covered the same date of service as an immediate prosthesis that required extractions.</li> </ul>
<b>Implant (D6000- D6199)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implant services are covered only when exceptional medical conditions are documented and the services are considered Medically Necessary. Single tooth implants are not a Benefit.</li> </ul>
<b>Prosthodontic (Fixed) (D6200- D6999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed partial dentures (bridgework); however, the fabrication of a fixed partial denture shall be considered when medical conditions or employment preclude the use of a removable partial denture;</li> <li>Fixed partial dentures when the prognosis of the retainer (abutment) teeth is questionable due to non-restorability or periodontal involvement;</li> <li>Posterior fixed partial dentures when the number of missing teeth requested to be replaced in the quadrant does not significantly impact masticatory ability;</li> <li>Fixed partial denture inlay/onlay retainers (abutments) (D6545-D6634); and</li> <li>Cast resin bonded fixed partial dentures (Maryland Bridges).</li> </ul>
<b>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (D7000- D7999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prophylactic extraction of third molars;</li> <li>Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction procedures are limited to differential diagnosis and symptomatic care. TMJ treatment modalities that involve prosthodontics, orthodontics, and full or partial occlusal rehabilitation are not covered;</li> <li>TMJ dysfunction procedures solely for the treatment of bruxism; and</li> <li>Suture procedures (D7910, D7911 and D7912) for the closure of surgical incisions.</li> </ul>
<b>Orthodontic</b>	<p>Orthodontic procedures are covered when Medically Necessary to treat handicapping malocclusion, cleft palate, or facial growth management cases for Members under the age of 19, when prior authorization is obtained.</p> <p>Medically Necessary orthodontic treatment is limited to the following instances related to an identifiable medical condition. An initial orthodontic exam (D0140), called the Limited Oral Evaluation, must</p>



## Pediatric dental limitations



be conducted. This exam includes completion and submission of the completed Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviation (HLD) Score Sheet with the Specialty Referral Request Form. The HLD Score Sheet is the preliminary measurement tool used in determining if the Member qualifies for Medically Necessary orthodontic services.



Orthodontic procedures are covered only when the diagnostic casts verify a minimum score of 26 points on the HLD Index California Modification Score Sheet Form, DC016 (06/09), one of the six automatic qualifying conditions below exist; or when there is written documentation of a craniofacial anomaly from a credentialed specialist on his or her professional letterhead.

The immediate qualifying conditions are:

- Cleft lip and or palate deformities;
- Craniofacial Anomalies including the following:
  - Crouzon's syndrome;
  - Treacher-Collins syndrome;
  - Pierre-Robin syndrome; and
  - Hemi-facial atrophy, Hemi-facial hypertrophy and other severe craniofacial deformities that result in a physically handicapping malocclusion as determined by our dental consultants;
- Deep impinging overbite, where the lower incisors are destroying the soft tissue of the palate and tissue laceration and/or clinical attachment loss are present. (Contact only does not constitute deep impinging overbite.);
- Crossbite of individual anterior teeth when clinical attachment loss and recession of the gingival margin are present, such as stripping of the labial gingival tissue on the lower incisors. Treatment of bi-lateral posterior crossbite is not covered;
- Severe traumatic deviation must be justified by attaching a description of the condition; and
- Overjet greater than 9mm or mandibular protrusion (reverse overjet) greater than 3.5mm.

The remaining conditions must score 26 or more to qualify (based on the HDL Index).

- Coverage for the following conditions is excluded:
  - Crowded dentitions (crooked teeth);
  - Excessive spacing between teeth;
  - Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) conditions and/or horizontal/vertical (overjet/overbite) discrepancies;
  - Treatment in progress prior to the effective date of coverage;
  - Extractions required for orthodontic purposes;
  - Surgical orthodontics or jaw repositioning;

 <b>Pediatric dental limitations</b> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Myofunctional therapy;</li> <li>○ Macroglossia;</li> <li>○ Hormonal imbalances;</li> <li>○ Orthodontic retreatment when initial treatment was rendered under this plan or changes in orthodontic treatment necessitated by any kind of accident;</li> <li>○ Palatal expansion appliances;</li> <li>○ Services performed by outside laboratories; and</li> <li>○ Replacement or repair of lost, stolen or broken appliances damaged due to the neglect of the Member.</li> </ul>

### **Prepayment fees**

Your Employer is responsible for a monthly payment to Blue Shield for health care coverage for the Subscriber and any enrolled Dependents. This monthly payment is a Premium. Any amount the Subscriber must contribute to the Premium is set by your Employer.

The contract states the monthly Premiums for this plan for the Subscriber and any enrolled Dependents.

### **Other charges**

Your Cost Share is the amount you pay for Covered Services. It is your portion of the Blue Shield Allowed Charges.

Your Cost Share includes any:

- Deductible;
- Copayment amount; and
- Coinsurance amount.

### **Allowed Charges and capitation**

Participating Providers agree to accept the Allowed Charges as payment in full for Covered Services provided or arranged by Blue Shield, except as stated in the Exception for other coverage and Reductions – third party liability sections of the Agreement. Covered Services provided or arranged by the Medical Group are paid for by capitation payments. Every month, Blue Shield pays a set dollar amount to the Medical Group for each enrolled Member. The capitation payments are available to cover the cost of services when you need them.

If there is a payment dispute between Blue Shield and a Participating Provider over Covered Services you receive, the Participating Provider must resolve that dispute with Blue Shield. You are not required to pay for Blue Shield's portion of the Allowed Charges. You are only required to pay your Cost Share for those services.

When you see a Participating Provider, you are responsible for your Cost Share.



## Calendar Year Deductible

The Deductible is the amount you pay each Calendar Year for Covered Services before Blue Shield begins payment. Blue Shield will pay for some Covered Services before you meet your Deductible.

Amounts you pay toward your Deductible count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Some plans do not have a Deductible. For plans that do, there may be separate Deductibles for:

- An individual Member and an entire Family; and
- Medical and pharmacy Benefits.

If you have a Family plan, there is an individual Deductible within the Family Deductible. This means an individual family member can meet the individual Deductible before the entire Family meets the Family Deductible.

If you have an individual plan and you enroll a Dependent, your plan will become a Family plan. Any amount you have paid toward the Deductible for your individual plan will be applied to both the individual Deductible and the Family Deductible for your new plan.

See the Summary of Benefits for details on which Covered Services are subject to the Deductible and how the Deductible works for your plan.

## Prior carrier Deductible credit

If you pay all or part of a Deductible for another Employer-sponsored health plan in the same Calendar Year you enroll in this plan, that amount will be applied to this plan's Deductible if:

- You were enrolled in an Employer-sponsored health plan with another carrier during the same Calendar Year this contract becomes effective and you enroll as of the original effective date of coverage under this contract;
- You were enrolled in another Blue Shield plan sponsored by the same Employer which this plan is replacing; or
- You were enrolled in another Blue Shield plan sponsored by the same Employer and you are transferring to this plan during open enrollment.

## Copayment and Coinsurance

A Covered Service may have a Copayment or a Coinsurance. A Copayment is a specific dollar amount you pay for a Covered Service. A Coinsurance is a percentage of the Allowed Charges you pay for a Covered Service.

Your provider will ask you to pay your Copayment or Coinsurance at the time of service. For Covered Services that are subject to your plan's Deductible, you are also responsible for all costs up to the Allowed Charges until you reach your Deductible.

You will continue to pay the Copayment or Coinsurance for each Covered Service you receive until you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

## **Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum**

The Out-of-Pocket Maximum is the most you are required to pay in Cost Share for Covered Services in a Calendar Year. Your Cost Share includes Deductible, Copayment, and Coinsurance and these amounts count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum, except as listed below. Once you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum, Blue Shield will pay 100% of the Allowed Charges for Covered Services for the rest of the Calendar Year. If you want information about your Out-of-Pocket Maximum, you can call Shield Concierge.

If you have a Family plan, you will have a separate Out-of-Pocket Maximum for each individual Member and one for the entire Family.

If you have a Family plan, there is an individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum within the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum. This means an individual family member can meet the individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum before the entire Family meets the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

If you have an individual plan and you enroll a Dependent, your plan will become a Family plan. Any amount you have paid toward the Out-of-Pocket Maximum for your individual plan will be applied to both the individual Out-of-Pocket Maximum and the Family Out-of-Pocket Maximum for your new plan.

The following do not count toward your Out-of-Pocket Maximum:

- Charges for services that are not covered;
- Charges over the Allowed Charges; and
- Charges for services over any Benefit maximum.

You will continue to be responsible for these costs even after you reach your Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

See the Summary of Benefits section of the Evidence of Coverage for details on how the Out-of-Pocket Maximum works for your plan.

## **Monthly accrual balance**

Blue Shield provides a summary of your accrual balances toward your Calendar Year Deductible, if any, and Out-of-Pocket Maximum for every month in which your Benefits were used until the full amount has been met. This summary will be mailed to you unless you opt to receive it electronically or have already opted out of paper mailings. You can opt back in to receive paper mailings at any time or elect to receive your balance summary electronically by logging into your member portal online and updating your communication preferences, or by calling Shield Concierge at the number on the back of your ID card. You can also check your accrual balances at any time by logging into your member portal online, which is updated daily, or calling Shield Concierge. Your accrual balance information is updated once a claim is received and processed and may not reflect recent services.

## **Ratio of health care services**

For Blue Shield small group health plans in 2017, the ratio of the value of health services provided to the amount Blue Shield collected in premiums was 77.5%, which means that

for each dollar of premiums it collected, Blue Shield paid \$0.775 for health care services. This ratio was calculated after provider discounts were applied.

## **Continuity of care**

Continuity of care may be available if:

- Blue Shield, the Medical Group, or the MHSA no longer contracts with your Former Participating Provider for the services you are receiving;
- You are a newly-covered Member whose coverage choices do not include out-of-network benefits; or
- You are a newly-covered Member whose previous health plan was withdrawn from the market.

Continuity of care may also be available to you when your Employer terminates its contract with Blue Shield and contracts with a new health plan (insurer) that does not include your Blue Shield Participating Provider in its network.

If your Former Participating Provider is no longer available to you for one of the reasons noted above, Blue Shield, the Medical Group, or the MHSA will notify you of the option to continue treatment with your Former Participating Provider.

You can request to continue treatment with your Former Participating Provider in the situations described above if you are currently receiving the following care:

<b>Continuity of care with a Former Participating Provider</b>	
<b>Qualifying conditions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Undergoing a course of institutional or inpatient care	90 days from the date of receipt of notice of the termination of the Former Participating Provider's contract, the Employer's contract, or until the treatment concludes, whichever is sooner
Acute conditions	As long as the condition lasts
Maternal mental health condition	12 months after the condition's diagnosis or 12 months after the end of the pregnancy, whichever is later
Ongoing pregnancy care, including care immediately after giving birth	Up to 12 months
Recommended surgery or procedure documented to occur within 180 days	180 days
Ongoing treatment for a child up to 36 months old	Up to 12 months

Continuity of care with a Former Participating Provider	
Qualifying conditions	Timeframe
Serious chronic condition	Up to 12 months
Terminal illness	The duration of the terminal illness

If a condition falls within a qualifying condition under federal and state law, the more generous time frames would be followed.

To request continuity of care, visit [blueshieldca.com](https://blueshieldca.com) and fill out the Continuity of Care Application. Blue Shield will confirm your eligibility and may review your request for Medical Necessity.

Under Federal law, the Former Participating Provider must accept Blue Shield's, the Medical Group's, or the MHA's Allowed Charges as payment in full for the first 90 days of your ongoing care. Once the provider accepts and your request is authorized, you may continue to see the Former Participating Provider at the Participating Provider Cost Share.

## **Care outside of California**

If you need urgent or emergency medical care while traveling outside of California, you're covered. Blue Shield has relationships with health plans in other states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the BlueCard® Program. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association can help you access care from providers in those geographic areas.



See the *Out-of-area services* section of the Evidence of Coverage for more information about receiving care while outside of California. To find participating providers while outside of California, visit [bcbs.com](https://bcbs.com).

## **Renewal provisions**

Blue Shield will offer to renew the Group Health Service Contract except in the following instances:

- Non-payment of dues (see the *When coverage ends* section of the Evidence of Coverage);
- Fraud, misrepresentations, or omissions;
- Failure to comply with Blue Shield's applicable eligibility, participation, or contribution rules;
- Termination of plan type by Blue Shield;
- Employer relocates outside of California;
- Employer is an association and association membership ceases; or

- Employer purchases coverage through CCSB and the Employer is no longer eligible to purchase coverage through CCSB.

All group contracts will renew subject to the above.

## **Termination of Benefits**

Your coverage will end if:

- Your Employer cancels or does not renew coverage;
- The Subscriber cancels coverage; or
- Blue Shield cancels or rescinds coverage.

Please refer to the Evidence of Coverage for additional information.

### **If your Employer cancels coverage**

Your Employer may cancel coverage at any time. To cancel coverage, your Employer must provide written notice to Blue Shield and its Employees.

### **If the Subscriber cancels coverage**

If the Subscriber decides to cancel coverage, coverage will end at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on a date determined by your Employer.

### **Reinstatement**

If the Subscriber voluntarily cancels coverage, the Subscriber can contact the Employer for reinstatement options.

### **If Blue Shield cancels coverage**

Blue Shield can cancel coverage if:

- You are no longer eligible for coverage in this plan;
- Your Employer fails to meet Blue Shield's Employer eligibility, participation, and contribution requirements;
- Blue Shield terminates this plan; or
- You or your Employer commit fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact.

Blue Shield will provide 30 days' advance written notice of cancellation of coverage to your Employer if your Employer fails to meet Blue Shield's Employer eligibility, participation, and contribution requirements. It is your Employer's responsibility to provide a copy of the notice to its Employees.

### **Cancellation for Subscriber's nonpayment of Premiums**

Blue Shield can cancel your coverage if your Employer does not pay the required Premiums in full and on time. Your Employer is responsible for all Premiums during the term of coverage, including the 30-day grace period.

If Blue Shield cancels coverage due to nonpayment of Premiums, Blue Shield will send the Notice of End of Coverage to you and your Employer no later than five calendar days after the date coverage ends.

**Cancellation or rescission for fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact**

Blue Shield may cancel or rescind your coverage if you, your Dependent, or your Employer commit fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact. Blue Shield will send the Notice of Cancellation, Rescission or Nonrenewal to your Employer prior to any rescission. Your Employer must provide you with a copy of the Notice of Cancellation, Rescission or Nonrenewal. Rescission voids the Contract as if it never existed. Cancellation is effective on the date specified in the Notice of Cancellation, Rescission or Nonrenewal and the Notice of End of Coverage.

## **Choice of Physicians and providers**

This plan covers care from Participating Providers within your Medical Group.

### **Participating Providers**

Participating Providers have a contract with a Medical Group in this plan's network. With an HMO plan, there is generally no coverage for services from providers outside of your Medical Group.

If a provider leaves your Medical Group, you will not have coverage for services received from that provider. See the *Continuity of Care* section for more information on how to continue treatment with a Non-Participating Provider.

### **Non-Participating Providers**

Non-Participating Providers do not have a contract with Blue Shield to accept Blue Shield's Allowed Charges as payment in full for Covered Services. Except for Emergency Services, Urgent Services, services received at a Participating Provider facility (Hospital, Ambulatory Surgery Center, laboratory, radiology center, imaging center, or certain other outpatient settings) under certain conditions, and services provided by a 988 center, Mobile Crisis Team, or other provider of Behavioral Health Crisis Services, this plan does not cover services from Non-Participating Providers.

#### **Non-Participating Providers at a Participating Provider facility**

When you receive care at a Participating Provider facility, some Covered Services may be provided by a Non-Participating Provider. Your Cost Share will be the same as the amount due to a Participating Provider under similar circumstances, and you will not be responsible for additional charges above the Allowed Charges, unless the Non-Participating Provider provides you written notice of what they may charge and you consent to those terms.

#### **If you cannot find a Participating Provider**

Call Shield Concierge if you need help finding a Participating Provider who can provide the care you need close to home. If a Participating Provider is not available, you can ask to see a Non-Participating Provider at the Participating Provider Cost Share. If the services cannot reasonably be obtained from a Participating Provider, we will approve your request and you will only be responsible for the Participating Provider Cost Share.

## **Second medical opinion**

You can ask your PCP for a referral to another provider for a second medical opinion in situations including but not limited to:


- You have questions about the reasonableness or necessity of the treatment plan;
- There are different treatment options for your medical condition;
- Your diagnosis is unclear;
- Your condition has not improved after completing the prescribed course of treatment;

- You need additional information before deciding on a treatment plan; or
- You have questions about your diagnosis or treatment plan.

Your Medical Group will work with you to arrange for a second medical opinion.

Who provides your second medical opinion	
<i>If you want a second opinion on</i>	<i>It will come from</i>
A proposed treatment plan from your PCP	Another PCP in your Medical Group
A proposed treatment plan from a Specialist	A Participating Provider in the same or equivalent specialty

### **Emergency Services**



If you have a medical emergency, **call 911 or seek immediate medical attention** at the nearest hospital.

The Benefits of this plan will be provided anywhere in the world for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition. Emergency Services are covered at the Participating Provider Cost Share, even if you receive treatment from a Non-Participating Provider.

After you receive care, Blue Shield will review your claim for Emergency Services to determine if your condition was in fact an Emergency Medical Condition. If you did not require Emergency Services and did not reasonably believe an emergency existed, you will be responsible for the entire cost of that non-emergency service.

If you are admitted to the Hospital after receiving Emergency Services, you should notify your PCP within 24 hours, or as soon as possible after your condition stabilizes.

### **Reimbursement provisions**

If you receive Emergency or Urgent Services from a Non-Participating Provider, you may be required to pay the charges in full and submit a claim to Blue Shield to request reimbursement. Blue Shield may send the payment to the Subscriber or directly to the Non-Participating Provider.

Claim forms are available at [blueshieldca.com](http://blueshieldca.com). Please submit your claim form and medical records within one year of the service date.

See the *Out-of-area services* section in the *Other important information about your plan* section of the Evidence of Coverage for more information on claims for Emergency or Urgent Services outside of California.



## **Facilities**



Visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) or use the Blue Shield mobile app and click on **Find a Doctor** for a list of your plan's **Participating Providers**.

Each Blue Shield HMO plan has a network of Physicians, Hospitals, Participating Hospice Agencies, and other Health Care Providers in the Member's Medical Group Service Area. The specific network associated with a specific HMO plan is identified in the Summary of Benefits and Evidence of Coverage. Contact Shield Concierge for information on Health Care Providers in your Medical Group Service Area.

For the most up-to-date listings, check our online directories in the Find a Doctor section of [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) or by calling Shield Concierge.



## NOTICES AVAILABLE ONLINE

### Nondiscrimination and Language Assistance Services

Blue Shield complies with applicable state and federal civil rights laws. We also offer language assistance services at no additional cost.

View our nondiscrimination notice and language assistance notice: [blueshieldca.com/notices](https://blueshieldca.com/notices). You can also call for language assistance services: **(866) 346-7198 (TTY: 711)**.

If you are unable to access the website above and would like to receive a copy of the nondiscrimination notice and language assistance notice, please call Customer Care at **(888) 256-3650 (TTY: 711)**.

### Servicios de asistencia en idiomas y avisos de no discriminación

Blue Shield cumple con las leyes de derechos civiles federales y estatales aplicables. También, ofrecemos servicios de asistencia en idiomas sin costo adicional.

Vea nuestro aviso de no discriminación y nuestro aviso de asistencia en idiomas en [blueshieldca.com/notices](https://blueshieldca.com/notices). Para obtener servicios de asistencia en idiomas, también puede llamar al **(866) 346-7198 (TTY: 711)**.

Si no puede acceder al sitio web que aparece arriba y desea recibir una copia del aviso de no discriminación y del aviso de asistencia en idiomas, llame a Atención al Cliente al **(888) 256-3650 (TTY: 711)**.

### 非歧視通知和語言協助服務

Blue Shield 遵守適用的州及聯邦政府的民權法。同時，我們免費提供語言協助服務。

如需檢視我司的非歧視通知和語言幫助通知，請造訪 [blueshieldca.com/notices](https://blueshieldca.com/notices)。您還可致電尋求語言協助服務：**(866) 346-7198 (TTY: 711)**。

如果您無法造訪上述網站，且希望收到一份非歧視通知和語言幫助通知的副本，請致電客戶服務部，電話：**(888) 256-3650 (TTY: 711)**。