

# Beyond the Basics

## Part IV: Plan Design

September 22, 2022

# Webinar Logistics

- All attendees are muted and in listen-only mode
- To ask a question:
  - Click on the Q&A icon in the control panel at the bottom of your webinar screen
  - Type your question into the box
- We will monitor questions and pause to answer a few during the presentation and once more at the end
- You can also email questions to [beyondthebasics@cbpp.org](mailto:beyondthebasics@cbpp.org)
- All webinars are recorded and will be available for viewing at [www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org](http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org)

# Agenda

- Elements of qualified health plans
- Different plan types
- How cost-sharing charges work
- Meaning of metal levels and actuarial value
- Cost-sharing reductions

Part V: Plan Selection Strategies  
Thursday September 29, 2022 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

**Register for upcoming webinars at**  
**[www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/events](http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/events)**

# Elements of Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)



# What Is a Qualified Health Plan?

- Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) are insurance plans that must meet standards and include the consumer protections outlined in the Affordable Care Act
- QHPs must be certified by the federal Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based marketplace
- QHPs must include:
  - Coverage for pre-existing conditions
  - Coverage of 10 Essential Health Benefits (EHBs)
  - Cost-sharing limits that follow federal regulations
  - No annual or lifetime benefit limits

# Basic Elements of QHPs: 10 EHBs



Preventive & wellness services  
& chronic disease management



Emergency services



Ambulatory services  
(outpatient medical care)



Maternity & newborn care



Hospitalization



Mental health & substance use  
disorder services, including  
behavioral health treatment



Laboratory services



Rehabilitative & habilitative  
services & devices



Prescription drugs



Pediatric services

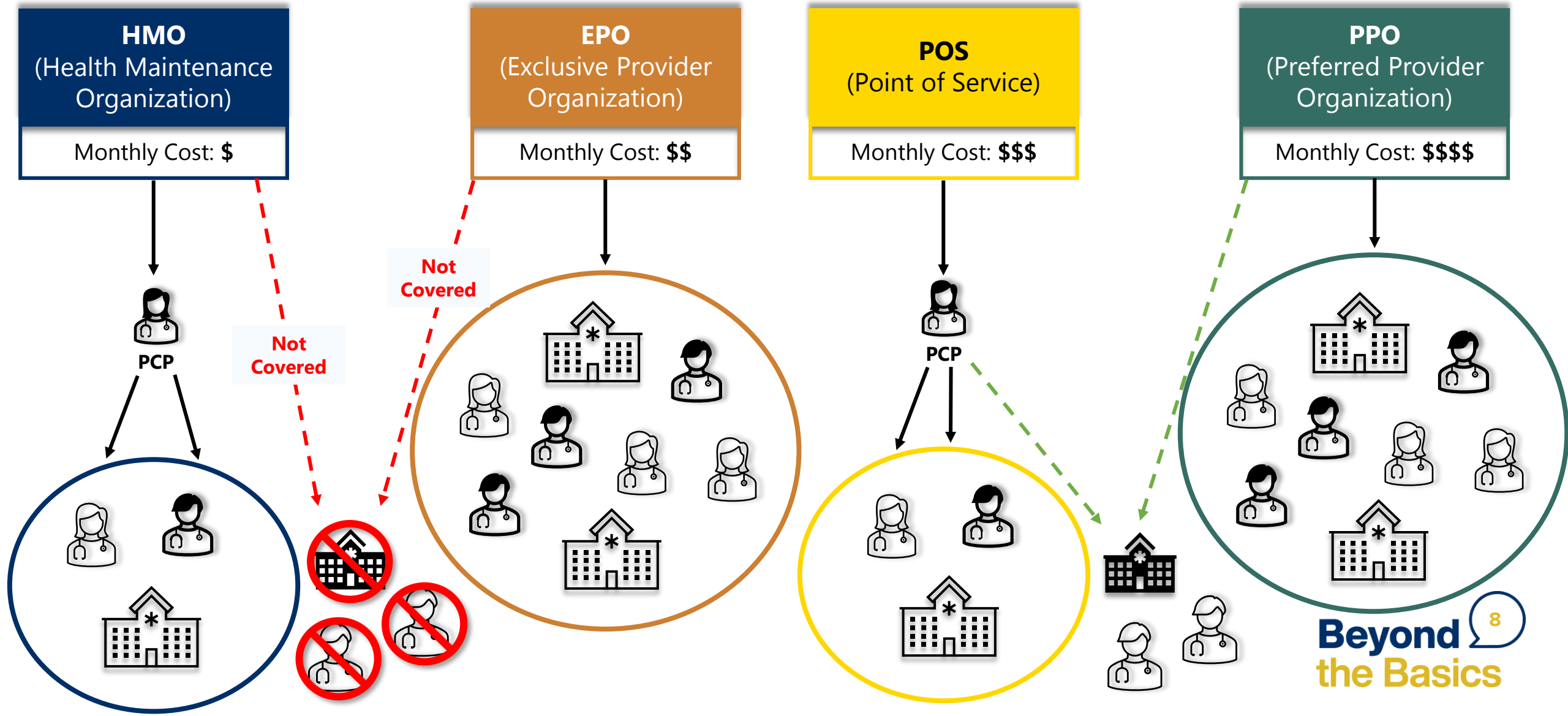
# Basic Elements of QHPs: Plan Networks

- Insurance companies contract with physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies to provide services to plan enrollees
  - These contracted providers are the plan's **network**
- Providers the insurance company doesn't contract with are considered "out-of-network"
  - Some plans will cover services the plan enrollee receives from an out-of-network provider, but the enrollee will usually have to pay more out-of-pocket than if they went to an in-network provider
  - Some plans won't cover any services received from an out-of-network provider, except in cases of a medical emergency



Each plan has its own network, even among plans offered by the same insurance company. Which is why it's important to check each plan's network when comparing options.






# Types of Plan Networks





# Basic Elements of QHPs: Formularies

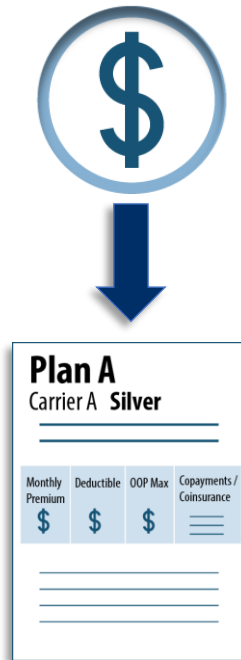
- A formulary is a list of medications an insurance plan will pay for
- The formulary splits up covered medications into categories or tiers to indicate the level of coverage the plan provides and the portion of the cost the enrollee will have to pay for various medications
- The higher the tier of the medication, the more the enrollee will likely have to pay
- Generic medications are usually the lowest tier, which means the enrollee will pay the least for these medications
- Medications not listed in the formulary are generally not covered by the plan, though exceptions apply

		
	<u>Tier 1</u>	\$
	<u>Tier 2</u>	\$\$
	<u>Tier 3</u>	\$\$\$
	<u>Tier 4</u>	\$\$\$\$

# Basic Elements of QHPs: Premiums & Cost-Sharing Charges

## Premiums

- The monthly cost a person pays for their health insurance plan
- Premiums must be paid every month or the person's plan may be terminated



VS

## Cost-Sharing Charges

- The costs a person pays as they use health care services covered by their insurance plan



# Overview of Cost-Sharing Charges



# Types of Cost-Sharing Charges

## Deductible

- The amount an enrollee must pay out-of-pocket for health care services before their insurance plan starts paying
- Resets every year

## Copayments

- Enrollee pays a set dollar amount for health care services and prescriptions

## Coinsurance

- Enrollee pays a percentage of the total cost for health care services and prescriptions

# More to Know About Cost-Sharing Charges

- Certain services may be covered before the deductible is met in some plans
  - This is sometimes referred to as “first dollar coverage”
    - Look for terms like “deductible does not apply” or “not subject to deductible” in the Summary of Benefits
- Some plans may have a separate deductible for prescription drugs
- Preventive care services are required to be provided without any cost-sharing (no deductible, copayments, or coinsurance)
  - This includes:
    - Well-woman visits
    - Screenings for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, etc.
    - Immunizations
    - FDA-approved contraceptives

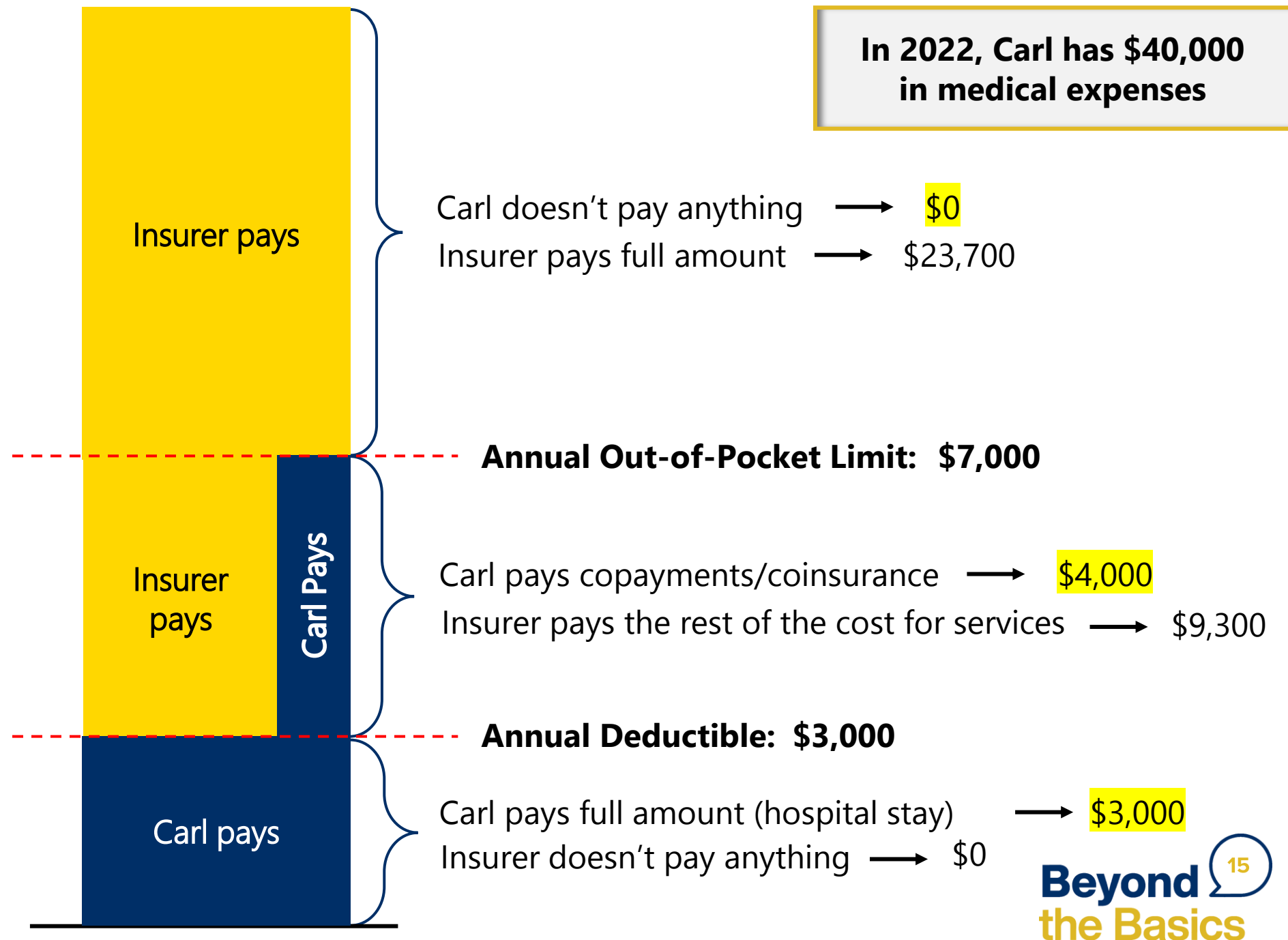
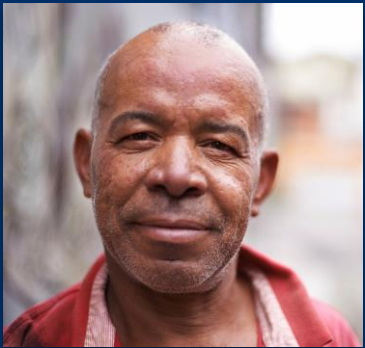
For a complete list of preventive care services, visit  
[www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-adults](http://www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-adults)

# Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limit (OOP)

- Puts a cap on the amount an enrollee can pay in cost-sharing charges in a year, protecting people from very high out-of-pocket costs
  - Set on a yearly basis
  - Applies to in-network services, generally not for out-of-network care
- OOP limit is **not** the amount that an enrollee **must** spend each year, it's the maximum an enrollee ***could*** spend in a year
- Copays, coinsurance, and the amount an enrollee pays towards their deductible are all counted
  - Premium payments are not counted
- After an enrollee reaches the OOP limit, the insurance plan pays for 100% of in-network health care costs, with no copays or coinsurance
- Some plans will have the maximum OOP limits allowed, while other plans will have lower OOP limits

Maximum OOP Limit for 2023 Coverage	
Individual OOP Limit <i>(NOTE: applies to each individual in a family plan as well)</i>	\$9,100
Family OOP Limit	\$18,200

# Example: How Cost-Sharing Works



# Example: Plan Cost-Sharing

Source: Healthcare.gov  
2022 plan, Miami-Dade  
County, FL 33101

Estimated monthly premium

\$272.40

Including a \$573 tax credit  
Was \$845.40

Plan Details

Like This Plan

AvMed

[AvMed Entrust Silver 300 \(2022\)](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 19898FL0340002

New plan - Not rated

☐ Compare

Deductible

\$3,000

Individual total

Out-of-pocket maximum

\$7,000

Individual total

Estimated total yearly costs

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance

Emergency room care	Generic drugs	Primary doctor	Specialist doctor
\$500 Copay after deductible	\$20	\$40	\$80

Plan features

✗ Adult Dental

✓ Child Dental

Add medical providers

Add your medical providers and we'll show you which plans cover them

Add prescription drugs

Add your prescription drugs and we'll show you which plans cover them.

Beyond  
the Basics

16



# Example: How Cost-Sharing Works



**In 2022, Carl has \$34,000 in total medical expenses**

Hospital	Ambulance	Imaging	Drugs
\$900/day after deductible	\$200 copay	50% after deductible	\$20 generics



**Annual Deductible: \$3,000**

**Annual OOP Limit: \$7,000**

Carl pays

Carl pays  
Insurer pays

Insurer pays

# Family Cost-Sharing Charges

- The deductible and maximum out-of-pocket limit for a family of two or more people are generally double what the amount is for an individual
- Family deductibles come in two forms: embedded and aggregate
- A plan with an aggregate deductible (or **family deductible**) will require the family to meet their entire family deductible before their plan begins to pay the health care costs for any family member
- A plan with an embedded deductible (or **individual + family deductible**) will require each family member to meet a smaller deductible, which is counted towards the larger family deductible
  - Once a family member meets their individual deductible, the plan will begin to pay for that family member's health care costs, but the plan will not pay for the health care costs of any other family member until they reach their own individual deductible, or the family reaches their family deductible



Each family member is protected by the individual maximum OOP limit of \$9,100 in 2023, which means that, even though the family OOP limit may be much higher than \$9,100, no individual family member could pay more than \$9,100 in out-of-pocket costs in 2023

# Example: In-Network vs. Out-of- Network Cost- Sharing

Plan A Carrier A Silver	Annual Deductible	Annual OOP Limit	Primary Care Visit
In-Network	\$5,000	\$9,100	\$25
Out-of-Network	\$10,000	None	50% coinsurance (of allowable charges)



Network Physician	
Doctor's bill:	\$200
Plan allowed amount:	\$100
Plan pays:	\$75
Patient pays:	\$25 (copay)

*Counts towards OOP limit*



Out-of-Network Physician	
Doctor's bill:	\$200
Plan allowed amount:	\$100
Plan pays:	\$50
Patient pays:	\$150 (50% + \$100)

*Does not count towards OOP limit*

This is known as balance billing

# Actuarial Value



# What Is Actuarial Value?

- Actuarial value (AV) is a way to compare the overall generosity of plans
  - Marketplace plans are organized into 4 metal levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum
  - Each metal level is associated with different AVs
- The higher the AV, the less cost-sharing the enrollee must pay
- AV does not represent what the plan would pay for a particular individual enrolled in the plan
  - An enrollee's actual out-of-pocket costs depend on the medical services they use
- **AV shouldn't be confused with coinsurance**, meaning that if a plan has 70% AV, that doesn't mean that the enrollee will have to pay a 30% coinsurance charge for services



Actuarial value is **not** meant to represent the quality of the plan, the quality of the care provided under the plan, or the size of the plan's network

# Cost-Sharing & Metal Tiers

- Enrollees pay less out-of-pocket with higher AV plans
- Premiums are generally higher for high AV plans

QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN (QHP) METAL LEVEL PLAN TIERS QHPs must provide plan designs consistent with actuarial values		
Costs covered by a plan	Platinum	90% actuarial value
	Gold	80% actuarial value
	Silver	70% actuarial value
	Bronze	60% actuarial value
	Catastrophic coverage	High deductible health plan available for individuals up to age 30 or those 30 and older who are granted a hardship exemption (PTC does not apply to these plans)
Premiums paid by consumer		

# Example: AV Guides Cost-Sharing Charges

Source: Healthcare.gov  
2022 plans, Dane  
County, WI 53558

Estimated monthly premium  
**\$243.39**

Dean Health Plan

[Dean Focus Network Bronze Value Copay 8650X](#)

★★★★★

Compare

Bronze | EPO | Plan ID: 38345WI0080047

Deductible ⓘ

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$8,650

\$8,650

Individual total

Individual total

Estimated total yearly costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Bronze 60% AV**

Emergency room care

Generic drugs

Primary doctor

Specialist doctor

\$325 Copayment with deductible

No Charge After Deductible

\$100 Copayment with deductible

No Charge After Deductible

Estimated monthly premium  
**\$357.71**

Dean Health Plan

[Dean Focus Network Silver HSA-E 4500X](#)

★★★★★

Compare

Silver | EPO | Plan ID: 38345WI0080048

Deductible ⓘ

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$4,500

\$7,000

Individual total

Individual total

Estimated total yearly costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Silver 70% AV**

Emergency room care

Generic drugs

Primary doctor

Specialist doctor

20% Coinsurance after deductible

20% Coinsurance after deductible

20% Coinsurance after deductible

20% Coinsurance after deductible

Estimated monthly premium  
**\$366.62**

Dean Health Plan

[Dean Focus Network Gold Value Copay 3700X](#)

★★★★★

Compare

Gold | EPO | Plan ID: 38345WI0080045

Deductible ⓘ

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$3,700

\$3,700

Individual total

Individual total

Estimated total yearly costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Gold 80% AV**

Emergency room care

Generic drugs

Primary doctor

Specialist doctor

\$325 Copayment with deductible

\$15

\$25 Copayment with deductible

No Charge After Deductible

Estimated monthly premium  
**\$417.99**

Group Health Cooperative-SCW

[Select Platinum 1000 Ded/4400 MOOP Primary Care Preferred](#)

★★★★★

Compare

Platinum | HMO | Plan ID: 94529WI0240069

Deductible ⓘ

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$1,000

\$4,400

Individual total

Individual total

Estimated total yearly costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Platinum 90% AV**

Emergency room care

Generic drugs

Primary doctor

Specialist doctor

20% Coinsurance after deductible

\$10

No Charge

\$75

# Cost-Sharing Reductions





# What Are Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs)?

- A Marketplace subsidy that reduces the out-of-pocket costs an enrollee has to pay for medical care
- People with income up to 250% FPL are eligible
- **Must enroll in a silver-level plan through the Marketplace**

3 Levels of Cost-Sharing Reduction Plans Based on Income:

	Standard Silver No CSR	CSR Plan	CSR Plan	CSR Plan
FPL Range	Above 250% FPL	200–250% FPL	150–200% FPL	Up to 150% FPL
Income Range (HH of 1)	> \$33,975	\$27,180 - \$33,975	\$20,835 - \$27,180	< \$20,385
Actuarial Value	70% AV	73% AV	87% AV	94% AV
Max OOP Limit <i>Individual in 2023</i>	\$9,100	\$7,250	\$3,000	\$3,000
Max OOP Limit <i>Family in 2023</i>	\$18,200	\$14,500	\$6,000	\$6,000

# Example Plan: Cost-Sharing Reductions

Source: Healthcare.gov  
2022 silver plan variations,  
Cook County, IL 60608

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$296.80**

Ambetter of Illinois

[Ambetter Balanced Care 31](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 27833IL0140062

**No CSR  
70% AV**

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$82.67**

Including a \$193 tax credit  
Was \$275.67

Extra Savings

Deductible ⓘ

\$5,450

Individual total

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$6,450

Individual total

Estimated total yearly  
costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Generic drugs**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Primary doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Specialist doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$28.67**

Ambetter of Illinois

[Ambetter Balanced Care 31](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 27833IL0140062

**150% - 200% FPL  
87% AV**

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$1.00**

Including a \$276 tax credit  
Was \$275.67

Extra Savings

Deductible ⓘ

\$1,200

Individual total

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$2,200

Individual total

Estimated total yearly  
costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Generic drugs**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Primary doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Specialist doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

Ambetter of Illinois

[Ambetter Balanced Care 31](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 27833IL0140062

**200% - 250% FPL  
73% AV**

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$82.67**

Including a \$193 tax credit  
Was \$275.67

Extra Savings

Deductible ⓘ

\$3,600

Individual total

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$4,575

Individual total

Estimated total yearly  
costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Generic drugs**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Primary doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Specialist doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

Including a \$247 tax credit  
Was \$275.67

Extra Savings

Ambetter of Illinois

[Ambetter Balanced Care 31](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 27833IL0140062

**<150% FPL  
94% AV**

Estimated monthly  
premium  
**\$1.00**

Including a \$276 tax credit  
Was \$275.67

Extra Savings

Deductible ⓘ

\$400

Individual total

Out-of-pocket maximum ⓘ

\$775

Individual total

Estimated total yearly  
costs ⓘ

Add yearly cost

Copayments / Coinsurance ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Generic drugs**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Primary doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Specialist doctor**  
10% Coinsurance after  
deductible

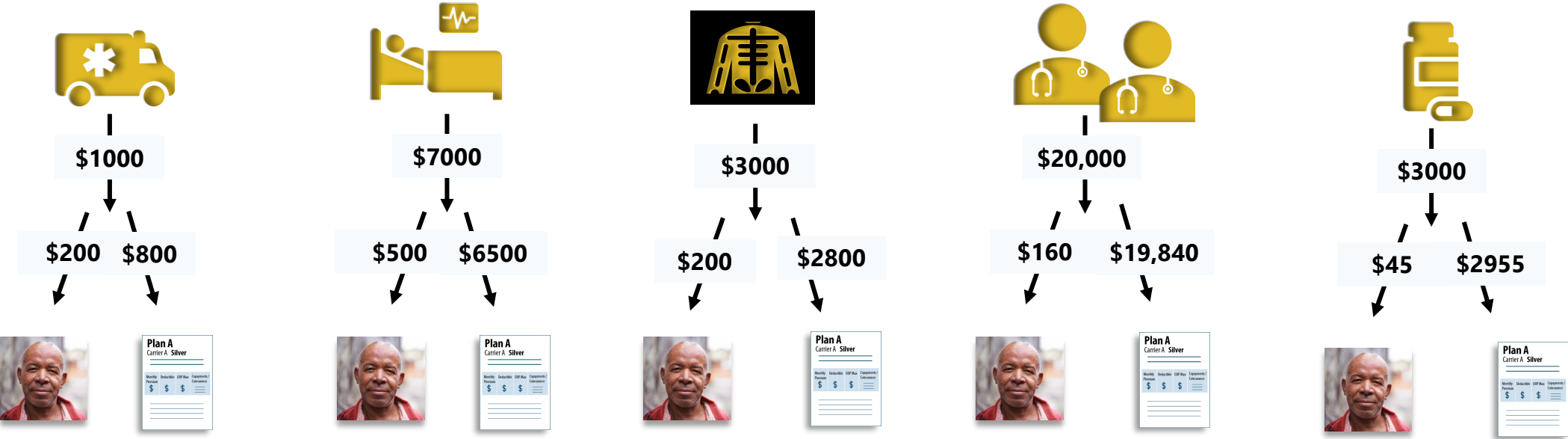
the Basics

# Example: How a CSR Plan Works



**In 2022, Carl has \$34,000 in total medical expenses.**

Ambulance	Hospital	Imaging	Doctors	Drugs
\$200 copay	\$500 copay	\$200 copay	No charge in hospital	\$15 generic



**Annual Deductible: \$0**

**Annual OOP Limit: \$2500**

**Carl's total: \$1105**

Carl pays

Carl pays  
Insurer pays

Insurer pays

# Comparing Two 87% AV CSR Plans

Estimated monthly  
premium

**\$60.94**

Including a \$247 tax credit  
Was \$307.94

Extra Savings

**Ambetter of Illinois**

[Ambetter Balanced Care 4](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 27833IL0140009



☐ Compare

**Deductible** ⓘ

**\$2,100**

Individual total

**Out-of-pocket maximum** ⓘ

**\$2,100**

Individual total

**Estimated total yearly  
costs** ⓘ

Add yearly cost

**Copayments / Coinsurance** ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**

No Charge After  
Deductible

**Generic drugs**

No Charge

**Primary doctor**

No Charge

**Specialist doctor**

\$5

Estimated monthly  
premium

**\$59.45**

Including a \$247 tax credit  
Was \$306.45

Extra Savings

**Bright HealthCare**

[Silver 200](#)

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 44522IL0010020

New plan - Not rated ⓘ

☐ Compare

**Deductible** ⓘ

**\$200**

Individual total

**Out-of-pocket maximum** ⓘ

**\$2,900**

Individual total

**Estimated total yearly  
costs** ⓘ

Add yearly cost

**Copayments / Coinsurance** ⓘ

**Emergency room  
care**

40% Coinsurance after  
deductible

**Generic drugs**

\$10

**Primary doctor**

\$10

**Specialist doctor**

40% Coinsurance after  
deductible

Source: Healthcare.gov  
2022 silver plan variations,  
Cook County, IL 60608

# Cost-Sharing for American Indians & Alaskan Natives

- Special assistance is available to members of federally recognized Native American tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation shareholders (AI/AN)
- They can enroll in or change Marketplace plans each month without needing to qualify for a Special Enrollment Period
- **For AI/AN people between 100% and 300% FPL** who qualify for PTC, zero cost-sharing plans are available
  - Enrollees pay no deductibles, copayments, or other cost-sharing when using in-network covered health care services
  - Some out-of-network care is also available with zero cost-sharing
- **For AI/AN people with incomes below 100% FPL or above 300% FPL**, there is a “limited” cost-sharing plan available
  - Enrollee pays no cost-sharing charges to receive services from an Indian Health Services (IHS) provider or from another provider if referred from an IHS provider

# Plan Design Resources



# Summary of Benefits & Coverage (SBC)

## AvMed Entrust Silver 300

Silver | HMO | Plan ID: 19898FL0340002

### Highlights

Estimated monthly premium

Deductible

Out-of-pocket maximum

Estimated total yearly costs

Medical providers in-network

Drugs covered/not covered

### Star rating

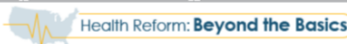

### Plan documents

[Summary of Benefits](#)

Important Questions	Answers
What is the overall deductible?	\$3,000 individual / \$6,000 family
Are there services covered before you meet your deductible?	Yes. Preventive care, office visits, certain lab tests, certain prescription drugs, ambulance and urgent care, and certain recovery services, e.g., habilitation and rehabilitation services, are covered before you meet your deductible.
Are there out-of-pocket deductibles for specific services?	No. There are no other specific deductibles.
What is the out-of-pocket limit for this plan?	\$7,000 individual / \$14,000 family Pediatric Dental is limited to \$350 per child or \$700 for 2 or more children.

Common Medical Event	Services You May Need	What You Will Pay	
		an AvMed In-Network Provider (You will pay the least)	an Out of Network Provider (You will pay the most)
If you visit a health care provider's office or clinic	Primary care visit to treat an injury or illness	No charge for first non-preventive visit; \$40 copay/visit after	Not Covered
	Specialist visit	\$80 copay/ visit	Not Covered
	Preventive care/screening/immunization	No Charge	Not Covered
If you have a test	Diagnostic test (x-ray, blood work)	\$100 copay/ visit at independent facilities; \$200 copay/ visit at hospital-owned or affiliated facilities; \$30 copay/ visit at participating labs	Not Covered
	Imaging (CT/PET scans, MRIs)	\$300 copay/ visit at independent facilities; \$600 copay/ visit at hospital-owned or affiliated facilities	Not Covered
If you need immediate medical attention	Emergency room care	\$500 copay/ visit after deductible	\$1,000 copay/ visit after deductible
	Emergency medical transportation	\$200 copay/ one way ground transport	\$200 copay/ one way ground transport
	Facility fee (e.g., hospital room)	\$900 copay/ day for the first 2 days per admission after deductible	Not Covered
If you have a hospital stay			

# Plan Comparison Worksheet

Marketplace Plan Comparison Worksheet					
Annual Projected Income	<input type="text"/>	Premium Tax Credit (monthly)	<input type="text"/>		
Household Size	<input type="text"/>	Premium Tax Credit (annual)	<input type="text"/>		
		CSR Eligible?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Main Information</b>					
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	
Insurance Company	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Insurance Plan Name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Metal Tier (bronze, silver, gold)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Plan Type (PPO, HMO, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Monthly Premium (after tax credit)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Annual Premium (after tax credit)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Tip</b> Since some plans may have similar names, make sure to include the full plan name in the worksheet					
<b>Cost Sharing</b> (your share of medical costs, in addition to the premium)					
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	
Deductible	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Out-of-Pocket Maximum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Physician Visit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Specialist Visit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Generic Drugs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Emergency Room Visit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Inpatient Hospital Stay	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Other:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Other:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Provider Network &amp; Formulary</b>					
	Name(s)	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Physician(s) In-Network	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Specialist(s) In-Network	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Hospital In-Network	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Prescription on Formulary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
 					

- This worksheet lets you compare up to 4 plans side-by-side
- You can fill it out on your computer and then print it or email it the client
- Available in:
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Chinese
  - Vietnamese
  - Korean
  - Tagalog
  - Russian
  - Arabic

Available at: <http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/plan-comparison/>



# Standardized Plans

- New in 2023: Marketplace insurers are required to offer plans with standardized cost-sharing amounts.
  - Required for every network type and at every metal level for which an insurer has a QHP in a given service area.
    - If an insurer offers a gold HMO plan in a service area, then it must also offer a gold HMO standardized plan throughout that area.
  - Doesn't apply in SBMs, Delaware, Louisiana, or Oregon.
  - Can aid plan comparisons.

	Bronze	Expanded Bronze	Standard Silver	Silver 73 CSR	Silver 87 CSR	Silver 94 CSR	Gold	Platinum
<b>Actuarial Value</b>	59.86%	64.06%	70.04%	73.10%	87.04%	94.02%	78.00%	88.00%
<b>Deductible</b>	\$9,100	\$7,500	\$5,800	\$5,700	\$800	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
<b>Annual Limitation on Cost Sharing</b>	\$9,100	\$9,000	\$8,900	\$7,200	\$3,000	\$1,700	\$8,700	\$3,000
<b>Emergency Room Services</b>	No charge after deductible	50%	40%	40%	30%	25%*	25%	\$100*
<b>Inpatient Hospital Services</b>	No charge after deductible	50%	40%	40%	30%	25%*	25%	\$350*

Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/222751d8ae7f56738f2f4128d819846b/Standardized-Plans-in-Health-Insurance-Marketplaces.pdf>

# Skimpy Plans



# Skimpy Plans

- Short-term, limited duration plans
- Association health plans
- Health care sharing ministries
- Indemnity plans

- Skimpy plans are **not** QHPs, meaning they do not have to meet standards outlined in the Affordable Care Act and are not certified by the federal Health Insurance Marketplace or state-based marketplaces
- Skimpy plans don't have to include consumer protections, so they may:
  - Charge higher premiums based on gender and pre-existing conditions
  - Deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions
  - Impose annual or lifetime coverage limits
  - Deny claims for pre-existing conditions
  - Exclude essential benefits
  - Pay out limited amounts for health care
- They expose people to high costs.
- And they're not that cheap!



# Features of Short-Term Plans

- Short-term, limited duration (STLD) plans typically exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions and deny claims related to such conditions
  - Insurers may consider a condition pre-existing even if it was not previously diagnosed or treated and even if the enrollee was not aware of the condition
  - Insurers may conduct "post-claims underwriting" or "claims eligibility reviews," in which an insurer investigates the health history of an enrollee with costly claims, in order to find a link to a pre-existing condition
  - People with pre-existing conditions may be denied a policy outright
- Short-term plans are not required to cover essential health benefits, and often don't cover:
  - Prescription drugs
  - Maternity care
  - Mental health benefits and substance-use disorder treatment
- Short-term plans can impose overall limits on plan benefits, lifetime limits, and per-service limits; they are not subject to cost-sharing limits
- A short-term plan may look like a comprehensive health plan (with a premium, deductible, and a provider network)
- Short-term plans don't count as minimum essential coverage, so when the plan ends, it **does not trigger a special enrollment period for the enrollee**

# "Direct Enrollment" Websites

- The federal marketplace allows the use of "direct enrollment" (DE) and "enhanced direct enrollment" (EDE) sites
- This is when insurers and brokers (including web brokers) use their own websites, rather than HealthCare.gov, to let people apply for and enroll in marketplace plans and receive subsidies
  - Direct enrollment websites send the consumer to HealthCare.gov for an eligibility determination and then back to the DE site for plan selection
  - Enhanced direct enrollment allows an insurer or broker to keep the consumer at their own website for the entire process, without sending them to HealthCare.gov
- Some DE and EDE sites sell short-term and other skimpy plans
  - Federal rules bar these plans from being displayed alongside QHPs, but some sites still heavily promote them
- Some DE and EDE sites try to sell skimpy plans to people eligible for Medicaid, instead of helping direct them to the right resources to enroll in Medicaid

# What You Can Do to Help

- Promote open enrollment and HealthCare.gov (or your state-based marketplace)
- Understand and inform people about the risks of short-term plans and other skimpy plans
  - Help people see past the low premiums of skimpy plans and understand the high costs they may face down the road
- Promote special enrollment periods for people who face coverage gaps
- Track and report what is happening on the ground
  - Look for misleading or fraudulent marketing tactics
  - Monitor accuracy of information provided to consumers
  - Track the experiences of consumers who enroll in these plans
  - Inform insurance regulators about potential fraud and misinformation
  - Inform individuals about their right to complain about wrongdoing

Q & A



# Resources



- Key Facts:
  - [Cost-Sharing Charges](#)
  - [Cost-Sharing Reductions](#)
  - [No Surprises Act](#)
- Papers and Blogs:
  - [Key Flaws of Short-Term Health Plans Pose Risks to Consumers](#)
  - [More States Protecting Residents Against Skimpy Short-Term Health Plans](#)
  - [Expanding Skimpy Health Plans Is the Wrong Solution for Uninsured Farmers and Farm Workers](#)
  - [“Direct Enrollment” in Marketplace Coverage Lacks Protections for Consumers, Exposes Them to Harm](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation:
  - [Understanding Short-Term Limited Duration Health Insurance](#)
- The Commonwealth Fund:
  - [Expanding Access to Short-Term Health Plans Is Bad for Consumers and the Individual Market](#)
  - [State Regulation of Coverage Options Outside of the ACA](#)
- HealthCare.gov:
  - [Glossary of Health Insurance Terms](#)



# Upcoming Webinars

## Part V: Plan Selection Strategies

- Thursday, September 29 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

## Part VI: Preventing and Resolving Data Matching Inconsistencies

- Tuesday, October 4 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

## Part VII: The Autorenewal Process

- Thursday, October 6 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

## Part VIII: Tying It All Together

- Thursday, October 13 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

## Part IX: Asistiendo a consumidores hispanos a obtener cobertura médica: consejos y mejores prácticas (en Español)

- Thursday, October 20 | 2 pm ET (11 am PT)

**Register for upcoming webinars at**  
**[www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/events](http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/events)**

**View OE10 recordings and resources:**  
**<https://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/category/oe10-webinar-series/>**

# Contact

- Sarah Lueck, [lueck@cbpp.org](mailto:lueck@cbpp.org)
- General inquiries: [beyondthebasics@cbpp.org](mailto:beyondthebasics@cbpp.org)

*This is a project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*  
[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)