

Member guide to managed care terms

Term	Definition
Appeal	A request for your managed care organization to review a denial or a grievance again.
Complaint	A grievance that you communicate to your health insurer or plan.
Copayment	A fixed amount (for example, \$15) you pay for a covered health care service, usually when you receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of covered health care service.
Durable medical equipment (DME)	Equipment ordered by a health care provider for everyday or extended use. Coverage for DME may include but is not limited to: oxygen equipment, wheelchairs, crutches, or diabetic supplies.
Emergency medical condition	An illness, injury, symptom, or condition so serious that a reasonable person would seek care right away to avoid harm.
Emergency medical transportation	Ground or air ambulance services for an emergency medical condition.
Emergency room care	Emergency services you get in an emergency room.
Emergency services	Evaluation of an emergency medical condition and treatment to keep the condition from getting worse.
Excluded services	Health care services that your health insurance or plan doesn't pay for or cover.
Grievance	A complaint to your health insurer or plan.
Habilitation services and devices	Health care services such as physical or occupational therapy that help a person keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living.
Health insurance	A contract that requires your health insurer to pay your covered health care costs in exchange for a premium.
Home health care	Health care services a person receives in a home.
Hospice services	Services to provide comfort and support for persons in the last stages of a terminal illness and their families.
Hospitalization	Care in a hospital that requires admission as an inpatient and usually requires an overnight stay.

Term	Definition
Hospital outpatient care	Care in a hospital that usually doesn't require an overnight stay.
Medically necessary	Health care services or supplies needed to prevent, diagnose, or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine.
Network	The facilities, providers, and suppliers your health insurer or plan has contracted with to provide health care services.
Non-participating provider	A provider who doesn't have a contract with your health insurer or plan to provide covered services to you. It may be more difficult to obtain authorization from your health insurer or plan to obtain services from a non-participating provider instead of a participating provider. In limited cases, such as when there are no other providers, your health insurer can contract to pay a non-participating provider.
Participating provider	A provider who has a contract with your health insurer or plan to provide covered services to you.
Physician services	Health care services a licensed medical physician (M.D.—Medical Doctor or D.O.—Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) provides or coordinates.
Plan	A benefit, like Medicaid, which provides and pays for your health care services.
Pre-authorization	A decision by your health insurer or plan that a health care service, treatment plan, prescription drug, or durable medical equipment that you or your provider has requested, is medically necessary. This decision or approval, sometimes called prior authorization, prior approval, or pre-certification, must be obtained prior to receiving the requested service. Pre-authorization isn't a promise your health insurance or plan will cover the cost.
Premium	The amount that must be paid for your health insurance or plan.
Prescription drug coverage	Health insurance or plan that helps pay for prescription drugs and medications.
Prescription drugs	Drugs and medications that by law require a prescription.
Primary care physician	A physician (M.D. - Medical Doctor or D.O. - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) who directly provides or coordinates a range of health care services for a patient.

Term	Definition
Primary care provider	A physician (M.D.—Medical Doctor or D.O.—Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine), nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant, as allowed under state law, who provides, coordinates, or helps a patient access a range of health care services.
Provider	A physician (M.D.—Medical Doctor or D.O.—Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine), health care professional, or health care facility licensed, certified, or accredited as required by state law.
Rehabilitation services and devices	Health care services such as physical or occupational therapy that help a person keep, get back, or improve skills and functioning for daily living that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, hurt, or disabled.
Skilled nursing care	Services from licensed nurses in your own home or in a nursing home.
Specialist	A physician specialist focuses on a specific area of medicine or a group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent, or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions.
Urgent care	Care for an illness, injury, or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require emergency room care.