Chapter 7: Asking us to pay a bill you got for covered services or drugs

Introduction

This chapter tells you how and when to send us a bill to ask for payment. It also tells you how to make an appeal if you do not agree with a coverage decision. Key terms and their definitions appear in alphabetical order in the last chapter of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

[*Plans should refer to other parts of the Evidence of Coverage using the appropriate chapter number and section. For example, "refer to* ***Chapter 9****,* ***Section A****." An instruction* [*insert reference, as applicable*] *appears with many cross references throughout the Evidence of Coverage. Plans may always include additional references to other sections, chapters, and/or member materials when helpful to the reader*.]

[*Plans may not revise the chapter or section headings except as indicated*.]

[*Plans must update the Table of Contents to this document to accurately reflect where the information is found on each page after plan adds plan-customized information to this template*.]

Table of Contents

[A. Asking us to pay for your services or drugs 2](#_Toc166158572)

[B. Sending us a request for payment 4](#_Toc166158573)

[C. Coverage decisions 5](#_Toc166158574)

[D. Appeals 6](#_Toc166158575)

# Asking us to pay for your services or drugs

You should not get a bill for in-network services or drugs. Our network providers must bill the plan for your covered services and drugs after you get them. A network provider is a provider who works with the health plan.

We do not allow <plan name> providers to bill you for these services or drugs. We pay our providers directly, and we protect you from any charges.

**If you get a bill for health care or drugs, do not pay the bill and send the bill to us.** To send us a bill, refer to [*plans may insert reference, as applicable*].

* If we cover the services or drugs, we will pay the provider directly.
* If we cover the services or drugs and you already paidthe bill, it is your right to be paid back.
  + If you paid for services covered by Medicare, we will pay you back.
* If we do not cover the services or drugs, we will tell you.

Contact Member Services [*insert if appropriate:* or your Care Manager] if you have any questions. If you get a bill and you don’t know what to do about it, we can help. You can also call if you want to tell us information about a request for payment you already sent to us.

Here are examples of times when you may need to ask us to pay you back or to pay a bill you got:

1. When you get emergency or urgently needed health care from an out-of-network provider

Ask the provider to bill us.

* If you pay the full amount when you get the care, ask us to pay you back. Send us the bill and proof of any payment you made.
* You may get a bill from the provider asking for payment that you think you don’t owe. Send us the bill and proof of any payment you made.
  + If the provider should be paid, we will pay the provider directly.
  + If you already paid for the Medicare service, we will pay you back.

1. When a network provider sends you a bill

Network providers must always bill us. It’s important to show your Member ID Card when you get any services or prescriptions. But sometimes they make mistakes and ask you to pay for your services. **Call Member Services** [*insert if appropriate:* or your Care Manager] at the number at the bottom of this page **if you get any bills.**

* Because we pay the entire cost for your services, you are not responsible for paying any costs. Providers should not bill you anything for these services.
* Whenever you get a bill from a network provider, send us the bill. We will contact the provider directly and take care of the problem.
* If you already paid a bill from a network provider for Medicare-covered services, send us the bill and proof of any payment you made. We will pay you back for your covered services.

1. If you are retroactively enrolled in our plan

Sometimes your enrollment in the plan can be retroactive. (This means that the first day of your enrollment has passed. It may have even been last year.)

* If you were enrolled retroactively and you paid a bill after the enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back.
* Send us the bill and proof of any payment you made.

1. When you use an out-of-network pharmacy to get a prescription filled

If you use an out-of-network pharmacy, you pay the full cost of your prescription.

* In only a few cases, we will cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies. Send us a copy of your receipt when you ask us to pay you back.
* Refer to **Chapter 5** of your *Evidence of Coverage* to learn more about out-of-network pharmacies.
* We may not pay you back the difference between what you paid for the drug at the out-of-network pharmacy and the amount that we would pay at an in-network pharmacy.

1. When you pay the prescription cost because you don’t have your Member ID Card with you

If you don’t have your Member ID Card with you, you can ask the pharmacy to call us or look up your plan enrollment information.

* If the pharmacy can’t get the information right away, you may have to pay the full prescription cost yourself or return to the pharmacy with your Member ID Card.
* Send us a copy of your receipt when you ask us to pay you back.
* We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

1. When you pay the full prescription cost for a drug that’s not covered

You may pay the full prescription cost because the drug isn’t covered.

* The drug may not be on our *List of Covered Drugs* (*Formulary*) on our website, or it may have a requirement or restriction that you don’t know about or don’t think applies to you. If you decide to get the drug, you may need to pay the full cost.
  + If you don’t pay for the drug but think we should cover it, you can ask for a coverage decision (refer to **Chapter 9** of your *Evidence of Coverage*)*.*
  + If you and your doctor or other prescriber think you need the drug right away, (within 24 hours), you can ask for a fast coverage decision (refer to **Chapter 9** of your *Evidence of Coverage*).
* Send us a copy of your receipt when you ask us to pay you back. In some cases, we may need to get more information from your doctor or other prescriber to pay you back for the drug. We may not pay you back the full cost you paid if the price you paid is higher than our negotiated price for the prescription.

When you send us a request for payment, we review it and decide whether the service or drug should be covered. This is called making a “coverage decision.” If we decide the service or drug should be covered, we pay for it.

If we deny your request for payment, you can appeal our decision. To learn how to make an appeal, refer to **Chapter 9** of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

# Sending us a request for payment

[*Plans may edit this section to include a second address if they use different addresses for processing health care and drug claims*.]

[*Plans may edit this section as necessary to describe their claims process.*]

Send us your bill and proof of any payment you made for Medicare services [*Insert if allowed*: or call us]. Proof of payment can be a copy of the check you wrote or a receipt from the provider. **It’s a good idea to make a copy of your bill and receipts for your records.** [*Plans with Care Managers who can assist, insert:* You can ask your Care Manager for help.] [*Insert if applicable:* You must send your information to us within <timeframe> of the date you received the service, item, or drug.]

[*If the plan has a specific form for requesting payment, insert the following language:* To make sure you give us all the information we need to decide, you can fill out our claim form to ask for payment.

* You aren’t required to use the form, but it helps us process the information faster.
* You can get the form on our website (<URL>), or you can call Member Services and ask for the form.]

Mail your request for payment together with any bills or receipts to this address:

<Address>

[*If the plan allows members to submit oral payment requests, insert the following language:* You may also call us to ask for payment.] [Plans include all applicable numbers and days and hours of operation.]

[*Insert if applicable*: **You must submit your claim to us within <timeframe>** of the date you got the service, item, or drug.]

# Coverage decisions

When we get your request for payment, we make a coverage decision. This means that we decide if our plan covers your service, item, or drug.

* We will let you know if we need more information from you.
* If we decide that our plan covers the service, item, or drug and you followed all the rules for getting it, we will pay for it. If you already paid for the service or drug, we will mail you a check for what you paid. If you paid the full cost of a drug, you might not be reimbursed the full amount you paid (for example, if you obtained a drug at an out-of-network pharmacy or if the cash price you paid is higher than our negotiated price). If you haven’t paid, we will pay the provider directly.

**Chapter 3** of your *Evidence of Coverage* explains the rules for getting your services covered. **Chapter 5** of your *Evidence of Coverage* explains the rules for getting your Medicare Part D prescription drugs covered.

* If we decide not to pay for the service or drug, we will send you a letter with the reasons. The letter also explains your rights to make an appeal.
* To learn more about coverage decisions, refer to **Chapter 9** [*insert reference, as applicable*].

# Appeals

If you think we made a mistake in turning down your request for payment, you can ask us to change our decision. This is called “making an appeal.”

The formal appeals process has detailed procedures and deadlines. To learn more about appeals, refer to **Chapter 9** of your *Evidence of Coverage*: [*plans may insert reference, as applicable*].

* To make an appeal about getting paid back for a health care service, refer to **Section F** [*insert reference, as applicable*].
* To make an appeal about getting paid back for a drug, refer to **Section G** [*insert reference, as applicable*].