

# Important Disclosure Information

## Aetna Advantage Plans for Individuals and Families



Aetna is the brand name used for products and services provided by one or more of the Aetna group of subsidiary companies. The company that underwrites benefits coverage is Aetna Life Insurance Company and/or Aetna Life Insurance Company through an out-of-state Blanket Trust arrangement.

If you need this material translated into another language, please call Member Services at 1-888-982-3862.

Si usted necesita este documento en otro idioma, por favor llame a Servicios al Miembro al 1-888-982-3862.

We want you to know<sup>SM</sup>



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**This healthcare coverage may not cover all your healthcare expenses. Read your coverage documents carefully to determine which healthcare services are covered. To contact the plan if you are a member, call the number on your ID card; all others, call 1-800-230-1483.**

### **Plan of Benefits**

Your covered benefits are underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance Company, 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06156. The benefits and main characteristics of your health plan will be set forth in the Certificate of Coverage and the Summary of Coverage that you will be receiving at a later date.

Covered services include numerous types of treatment provided by physicians, specialists and hospitals. However, in order to be covered, all services, including the location (type of facility), duration and costs of services, must be **medically necessary** as defined below and as determined by Aetna.\*\* Your health plan will also exclude and/or limit coverage for several services and treatments, including but not limited to, cosmetic surgery and any experimental procedure.

The information that follows provides general information regarding your health plan. For a complete description of the benefits available to you, including procedures, exclusions and limitations, refer to your specific plan documents, which may include the Policy, Joinder Agreement, Certificate of Coverage, and any applicable riders and amendments to your plan.

### **Cost Sharing**

You are responsible for any copayments, coinsurance and deductibles for covered services rendered to yourself or any member of your family covered under the health plan. These obligations are paid directly to the provider or facility at the time the service is rendered. Copayment, coinsurance and deductible amounts are listed in your benefits summary and plan documents.

## Emergency Care

If you need emergency care, you are covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An emergency medical condition is one manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity such that a prudent layperson, who possesses average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the person's health, or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman and her unborn child.

Whether you are in or out of an Aetna service area, we simply ask that you follow the guidelines below when you believe you need emergency care.

- Call the local emergency hotline (ex. 911) or go to the nearest emergency facility. If a delay would not be detrimental to your health, call your physician. Notify your physician as soon as possible after receiving treatment.
- If you are admitted to an inpatient facility, you or a family member or friend on your behalf should notify Aetna as soon as possible.

## Prescription Drugs

The following applies if your plan provides outpatient prescription drug coverage through an Aetna pharmacy network. Pharmacies are reimbursed based upon a combination of the following payment methodologies:

- Discount from Average Wholesale Price: Pharmacy receives an agreed upon percentage discount from the Average Wholesale Price of the pharmaceutical product dispensed.
- Fee Schedule: Pharmacy is paid a fee established by Aetna for each pharmaceutical product dispensed.
- Professional Dispensing Fee: Pharmacy is paid a professional fee as agreed upon by Pharmacy and Aetna for each pharmaceutical product dispensed.

If your plan covers outpatient prescription drugs, your plan may include a preferred drug list (also known as a "drug formulary"). The preferred drug list includes a list of prescription drugs that, depending on your prescription drug benefits plan, are covered on a preferred basis. Many drugs, including many of those listed on the preferred drug list, are subject to rebate arrangements between Aetna and the manufacturer of the drugs. Such rebates are not reflected in and do not reduce the amount a member pays for a prescription drug. In addition, in circumstances where your prescription plan utilizes copayments or coinsurance calculated on a percentage basis or a deductible, your costs may be higher for a preferred drug than they would be for a non-preferred drug. For information regarding how medications are reviewed and selected for the preferred drug list, please refer to Aetna's website at [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com) or the Aetna Preferred Drug (Formulary) Guide. Printed Preferred Drug Guide information will be provided, upon request or if applicable, annually for current members and upon enrollment for new members. Additional information can be obtained by calling Member Services at the toll-free number listed on your member ID card. The medications listed on the preferred drug list are subject to change in accordance with applicable state law.

Your prescription drug benefit is generally not limited to drugs listed on the preferred drug list. Medications that are not listed on the preferred drug list (non-preferred or nonformulary drugs) may be covered subject to the limits and exclusions set forth in your plan documents. Covered nonformulary prescription drugs may be subject to higher copayments or coinsurance under some benefit plans. Some prescription drug benefit plans may exclude from coverage certain nonformulary drugs that are not listed on the preferred drug list. If it is medically necessary for members enrolled in these benefit plans to use such drugs, their physicians (or pharmacist in the case of antibiotics and analgesics) may contact Aetna to request coverage as a medical exception. Check your plan documents for details.

In addition, certain drugs may require precertification or step-therapy before they will be covered under some prescription drug benefit plans. Step-therapy is a different form of precertification which requires a trial of one or more "prerequisite therapy" medications before a "step-therapy" medication will be covered. If it is medically necessary for a member to use a

medication subject to these requirements, the member's physician can request coverage of such drug as a medical exception. In addition, some benefit plans include a mandatory generic drug cost-sharing requirement. In these plans, you may be required to pay the difference in cost between a covered brand-name drug and its generic equivalent in addition to your copayment if you obtain the brand-name drug. Non-prescription drugs and drugs in the Limitations and Exclusions section of the plan documents (received and/or available upon enrollment) are not covered, and medical exceptions are not available for them.

Depending on the plan selected, new prescription drugs not yet reviewed for possible addition to the preferred drug list are either available at the highest copay under plans with an "open" formulary, or excluded from coverage unless a medical exception is obtained under plans that use a "closed" formulary. These new drugs may also be subject to precertification or step-therapy.

Members should consult with their treating physicians regarding questions about specific medications. Refer to your plan documents or contact Member Services for information regarding terms and conditions limitations of coverage.

If you use the mail order prescription program of Aetna Rx Home Delivery, LLC, you will be acquiring these prescriptions through an affiliate of Aetna. Aetna's negotiated charge with Aetna Rx Home Delivery® may be higher than Aetna Rx Home Delivery's cost of purchasing drugs and providing mail-order pharmacy services. For these purposes, Aetna Rx Home Delivery's cost of purchasing drugs takes into account discounts, credits and other amounts that it may receive from wholesalers, manufacturers, suppliers and distributors.

If you use the Aetna Specialty Pharmacy specialty drug program, you will be acquiring these prescriptions through Aetna Specialty Pharmacy, LLC, which is jointly owned by Aetna and Priority Healthcare, Inc. Aetna's negotiated charge with Aetna Specialty Pharmacy may be higher than Aetna Specialty Pharmacy's cost of purchasing drugs and providing specialty pharmacy services. For these purposes, Aetna Specialty Pharmacy's cost of purchasing drugs takes into account discounts, credits and other amounts that it may receive from wholesalers, manufacturers, suppliers and distributors.

## **How Aetna Compensates Your Physician and Other Providers**

All the physicians in the directory are independent practicing physicians that are neither employed nor exclusively contracted with Aetna. Individual physicians are in the network by either directly contracting with Aetna and/or affiliating with a group or organization that contracts with us.

Participating physicians, hospitals and other providers in our network are compensated in various ways for the services covered under your plan.

- Per individual service or case (fee for service at contracted rates).
- Per hospital day (per diem contracted rates).

You are encouraged to ask your physicians and other providers how they are compensated for their services.

## **Claims Payment for Nonparticipating Providers and Use of Claims Software**

If your plan provides coverage for services rendered by non-participating providers, you should be aware that Aetna determines the usual, customary and reasonable fee for a provider by referring to commercially available data reflecting the customary amount paid to most providers for a given service in that geographic area or by accessing other contractual arrangements. If such data is not commercially available, our determination may be based upon our own data or other sources. Aetna may also use computer software and other tools to take into account factors such as the complexity, amount of time needed and manner of billing. You may be responsible for any charges Aetna determines are not covered under your plan.

## **Clinical Policy Bulletins**

Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletins (CPBs) describe Aetna's policy determinations of whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary, based upon a review of currently available clinical information. Clinical determinations in connection with individual coverage decisions are made on a case-by-case basis consistent with applicable policies.

Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletins (CPBs) do not constitute medical advice. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. Members should discuss any CPB related to their coverage or condition with their treating provider.

While Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletins (CPBs) are developed to assist in administering plan benefits, they do not constitute a description of plan benefits. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered, which are excluded and which are subject to dollar caps or other limits. Members and their providers will need to consult the member's benefit plan to determine if there are any exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply.

Clinical Policy Bulletins (CPBs) are regularly updated and are therefore subject to change. Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletins are available online at [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com).

### **Certification and Necessary Services**

Certification is the process of collecting information prior to inpatient admissions and performance of selected ambulatory procedures and services. The process permits advance eligibility verification, determination of coverage and communication with the physician and/or you. It also allows Aetna to coordinate the patient's transition from the inpatient setting to the next level of care (discharge planning), or to register patients for specialized programs like disease management, case management or our prenatal program. In some instances, precertification is used to inform physicians, you and other health care providers about cost-effective programs and alternative therapies and treatments.

Certain health care services, such as hospitalization or outpatient surgery, require certification with Aetna to ensure coverage for those services. When you are to obtain services requiring certification through a participating provider, this provider should certify those services prior to treatment. If your plan covers out-of-network benefits and you may self-refer for covered services, it is your responsibility to contact Aetna to certify those services which require certification.

You must obtain certification for certain types of care rendered by non-preferred providers to avoid a reduction in benefits paid for that care. Refer to your plan documents for specific information.

Only necessary services are covered. A service or supply furnished by a particular provider is necessary if Aetna determines that it is appropriate for the diagnosis, the care or the treatment of the disease or injury involved.

### **To be appropriate, the service or supply must:**

- be care or treatment, as likely to produce a significant positive outcome as and no more likely to produce a negative outcome than any alternative service or supply, both as to the disease or injury involved and the person's overall health condition;
- be a diagnostic procedure, indicated by the health status of the person, and be as likely to result in information that could affect the course of treatment as and no more likely to produce a negative outcome than any alternative service or supply, both as to the disease or injury involved and the person's overall health condition; and
- as to diagnosis, care and treatment, be no more costly (taking into account all health expenses incurred in connection with the service or supply) than any alternative service or supply to meet the above tests.

### **In determining if a service or supply is appropriate under the circumstances, Aetna will consider the following:**

- information provided on the affected person's health status;
- reports in peer-reviewed medical literature;
- reports and guidelines published by nationally recognized healthcare organizations that include supporting scientific data;
- generally recognized professional standards of safety and effectiveness in the United States for diagnosis, care or treatment;
- the opinion of health professionals in the generally recognized health specialty involved; and
- any other relevant information brought to Aetna's attention.

In no event will the following services or supplies be considered to be necessary:

- those that do not require the technical skills of a medical, a mental health or a dental professional; or
- those furnished mainly for the personal comfort or convenience of the person, any person who cares for him or her, any person who is part of his or her family, any healthcare provider or healthcare facility; or
- those furnished solely because the person is an inpatient on any day on which the person's disease or injury could safely and adequately be diagnosed or treated while not confined; or
- those furnished solely because of the setting if the service or supply could safely and adequately be furnished in a physician's or a dentist's office or other less costly setting.

To request certification, you must call the number shown on your ID card. Such certification must be obtained before care is received or in the case of an emergency admission, procedure or treatment, within 48 hours after the start of confinement as a full-time inpatient or the performance of the procedure or treatment (72 hours if the confinement starts, or if the procedure or treatment is performed on a Friday or Saturday) or as soon as reasonably possible.

### **Utilization Review/Patient Management**

Aetna has developed a patient management program to assist in determining what health care services are covered under the health plan and the extent of such coverage. The program assists members in receiving appropriate healthcare and maximizing coverage for those healthcare services.

Where such use is appropriate, our utilization review/patient management staff uses nationally recognized guidelines and resources, such as *The Milliman Care Guidelines*<sup>®</sup> to guide the precertification, concurrent review and retrospective review processes. To the extent certain utilization review/patient management functions are delegated to integrated delivery systems, independent practice associations or other provider groups ("Delegates"), such Delegates utilize criteria that they deem appropriate. Utilization review/patient management policies may be modified to comply with applicable state law.

Only medical directors make decisions denying coverage for services for reasons of medical necessity. Coverage denial letters for such decisions delineate any unmet criteria, standards and guidelines, and inform the provider and member of the appeal process.

### **Concurrent Review**

The concurrent review process assesses the necessity for continued stay, level of care and quality of care for members receiving inpatient services. All inpatient services extending beyond the initial certification period will require Concurrent Review.

### **Discharge Planning**

Discharge planning may be initiated at any stage of the patient management process and begins immediately upon identification of post-discharge needs during precertification or concurrent review. The discharge plan may include initiation of a variety of services/ benefits to be utilized by the member upon discharge from an inpatient stay.

### **Retrospective Record Review**

The purpose of retrospective review is to retrospectively analyze potential quality and utilization issues, initiate appropriate follow-up action based on quality or utilization issues, and review all appeals of inpatient concurrent review decisions for coverage of healthcare services. Aetna's effort to manage the services provided to members includes the retrospective review of claims submitted for payment, and of medical records submitted for potential quality and utilization concerns.

## Complaints, Appeals and External Review

*This Complaint Appeal and External Review Process may not apply in your state. If you have any questions contact member services at the number on your ID.*

### Filing a Complaint or Appeal

Aetna is committed to addressing members' coverage issues, complaints and problems. If you have a coverage issue or other problem, call Member Services at the toll-free number on your ID card. You can also contact Member Services through the Internet at: **www.aetna.com**. If Member Services is unable to resolve your issue to your satisfaction, it will be forwarded to the appropriate department for handling.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your initial contact, you may file an appeal. If you are not satisfied after filing a formal appeal, you may request a second level appeal of the decision. Your appeal will be decided in accordance with the procedures applicable to your plan and applicable state law. Refer to your plan documents for further details regarding your plan's appeal procedure.

### Confidentiality and Privacy Notices

Aetna considers personal information to be confidential and has policies and procedures in place to protect it against unlawful use and disclosure. By "personal information," we mean information that relates to a member's physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to the member or payment for the provision of health care to the member. Personal information does not include publicly available information or information that is available or reported in a summarized or aggregate fashion but does not identify the member.

When necessary or appropriate for your care or treatment, the operation of our health plans, or other related activities, we use personal information internally, share it with our affiliates, and disclose it to health care providers (doctors, dentists, pharmacies, hospitals and other caregivers), payors (health care provider organizations and others who may be financially responsible for payment for the services or benefits you receive under your plan), other insurers, third-party administrators, vendors, consultants, government authorities, and their respective agents.

These parties are required to keep personal information confidential as provided by applicable law. Participating network providers are also required to give you access to your medical records within a reasonable amount of time after you make a request.

Some of the ways in which personal information is used include claims payment; utilization review and management; medical necessity reviews; coordination of care and benefits; preventive health, early detection, and disease and case management; quality assessment and improvement activities; auditing and antifraud activities; performance measurement and outcomes assessment; health claims analysis and reporting; health services research; data and information systems management; compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; formulary management; litigation proceedings; transfer of policies or contracts to and from other insurers; underwriting activities; and due diligence activities in connection with the purchase or sale of some or all of our business. We consider these activities key for the operation of our health plans. To the extent permitted by law, we use and disclose personal information as provided above without member consent. However, we recognize that many members do not want to receive unsolicited marketing materials unrelated to their health benefits. We do not disclose personal information for these marketing purposes unless the member consents. We also have policies addressing circumstances in which members are unable to give consent.

To obtain a printed copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, which describes in greater detail our practices concerning use and disclosure of personal information, please write to Aetna's Legal Support Services Department at 151 Farmington Avenue, W121, Hartford, CT 06156. You can also visit our Internet site at **www.aetna.com**. You can link directly to the Notice of Privacy Practices by selecting the "Privacy Notices" link at the bottom of the page.

## Notice to Members

While this information is believed to be accurate as of the print date, it is subject to change.

This material is for informational purposes only and is neither an offer of coverage nor medical advice. It contains only a partial, general description of plan benefits or programs and does not constitute a contract. Aetna arranges for the provision of health care services. However, Aetna itself is not a provider of health care services and therefore, cannot guarantee any results or outcomes. Consult the plan documents [Policy and Certificate of Coverage or, under the Trust, your Joinder Agreement and your Certificate of Coverage] to determine governing contractual provisions, including procedures, exclusions and limitations relating to the plan. The availability of a plan or program may vary by geographic service area and by plan design. These plans contain exclusions and some benefits are subject to limitations or visit maximums.

With the exception of Aetna Rx Home Delivery<sup>®</sup>, all participating physicians, hospitals and other health care providers are independent contractors and are neither agents nor employees of Aetna. Aetna Rx Home Delivery, LLC. Is a subsidiary of Aetna Inc. The availability of any particular provider cannot be guaranteed, and provider network composition is subject to change. Notice of the change shall be provided in accordance with applicable state law. Certain primary care physicians are affiliated with integrated delivery systems or other provider groups (such as independent practice associations and physician-hospital organizations), and members who select these providers will generally be referred to specialists and hospitals within those systems or groups. However, if a system or group does not include a provider qualified to meet a member's medical needs, a member may request to have services provided by non-system or non-group providers. A member's request will be reviewed and will require prior authorization from the system or group and/or Aetna to be a covered benefit.

For up-to-date information, please visit our DocFind<sup>®</sup> online provider directory at [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com).