

2026 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option
Section 10. Definitions of Terms We Use in This Brochure
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For more information, see *Differences between our allowance and the bill* in Section 4. For more information about how we pay providers overseas, see Section 5(i).

Post-service claims

Any claims that are not pre-service claims. In other words, post-service claims are those claims where treatment has been performed and the claims have been sent to us in order to apply for benefits.

Precertification

The requirement to contact the local Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan serving the area where the services will be performed before being admitted for inpatient care. Please refer to the precertification information listed in Section 3.

Preferred provider organization (PPO) arrangement

An arrangement between Local Plans and physicians, hospitals, healthcare institutions, and other covered healthcare professionals (or for retail pharmacies, between pharmacies and CVS Caremark) to provide services to you at a reduced cost. The PPO provides you with an opportunity to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses for care by selecting your facilities and providers from among a specific group. PPO providers are available in most locations; using them whenever possible helps contain healthcare costs and reduces your out-of-pocket costs. The selection of PPO providers is solely the Local Plan's (or for pharmacies, CVS Caremark's) responsibility. We cannot guarantee that any specific provider will continue to participate in these PPO arrangements.

Pre-service claims

Those claims (1) that require precertification or prior approval, and (2) where failure to obtain precertification or prior approval results in a reduction of benefits.

Preventive care, adult

Adult preventive care includes the following services: preventive office visits and exams (including health screening services to measure height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate, and Body Mass Index (BMI)); general health panel; basic or comprehensive metabolic panel; fasting lipoprotein profile; urinalysis; CBC; screening for diabetes mellitus, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and latent tuberculosis; screening for alcohol/substance use disorders; counseling on reducing health risks; screening for depression; screening for chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, HPV, and HIV; screening for intimate partner violence for women of reproductive age; administration and interpretation of a Health Risk Assessment questionnaire; cancer screenings including low-dose CT screening for lung cancer; screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms; osteoporosis screening, as specifically stated in this brochure; and immunizations as licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA).

Note: Anesthesia services and pathology services associated with preventive colorectal surgical screenings are also paid as preventive care.

Prior approval

Written assurance that benefits will be provided by:

1. The Local Plan where the services will be performed; or
2. The Retail Pharmacy Program, the Mail Service Prescription Drug Program, or the Specialty Drug Pharmacy Program.

For more information, see the benefit descriptions in Section 5 and *Other services* in Section 3, under *You need prior Plan approval for certain services*.

Reimbursement

A Carrier's pursuit of a recovery if a covered individual has suffered an illness or injury and has received, in connection with that illness or injury, a payment from any party that may be liable, any applicable insurance policy, or a workers' compensation program or insurance policy, and the terms of the Carrier's health benefits plan require the covered individual, as a result of such payment, to reimburse the Carrier out of the payment to the extent of the benefits initially paid or provided. The right of reimbursement is cumulative with and not exclusive of the right of subrogation.

Repatriation

The act of returning to the country of birth, citizenship or origin.

Routine services

Services that are not related to a specific illness, injury, set of symptoms, or maternity care (other than those routine costs associated with a clinical trial).

Screening service

An examination or test of an individual with no signs or symptoms of the specific disease for which the examination or test is being done, to identify the potential for that disease and prevent its occurrence.