



## **Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills**

*Effective 1/1/2022*

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility, including a hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

### **What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?**

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain costs, like a [copayment](#), [coinsurance](#), or [deductible](#). You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

"Surprise billing" is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

### **You're protected from balance billing for:**

#### **Emergency services**

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You **can't** be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

*Please see below for information regarding California law.*

#### **Certain services at an in-network facility, including a hospital or ambulatory surgical center**

When you get services from an in-network facility, including a hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers **can't** balance bill you and may **not** ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

If you get other types of services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers **can't** balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

Please see below for information regarding California law.

### **When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have these protections**

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
  
- Generally, your health plan must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "prior authorization").
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
  - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
  - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

**California Law:** California law generally contains balance billing protections similar to those under the No Surprises Act (as described in this Notice), except that the balance billing prohibitions also apply to services received in additional in-network facilities, including laboratories or radiology imaging centers. California also has an independent dispute resolution process to resolve claims-related issues, including disputes with your provider pertaining to receipt of improper balance bills, which can be initiated through the California Department of Insurance.

**If you have a concern with how much you were billed** on the service at our facility, please contact Customer Service at 925-947-3336 for assistance. You may also choose to contact the HHS No Surprises Helpdesk at 1-800-985-3059, the entity responsible for enforcing the federal balance or surprise billing protection laws. Visit [www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers](http://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers) for more information about your rights under federal law.

**For more information about your rights under California law**, including how to initiate the dispute resolution process, contact the Department of Insurance Help Center online at [ContactUs\(ca.gov\)](http://ContactUs.ca.gov) call 1-800-927-4357, the entity responsible for enforcing state balance or surprise billing protection laws.

**THIS COMMUNICATION IS NOT A BILL. YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PAYMENT TO YOUR PROVIDER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM YOUR HEALTH PLAN OF ANY IN-NETWORK, COST-SHARING OBLIGATIONS YOU MAY HAVE.**