

COPAYMENTS & COINSURANCE



Copays, deductibles and coinsurance all work together to limit your out-of-pocket medical expenses and help protect your finances.

Let's take a look at how Copays and Coinsurance affect your overall medical expenses.

Copays / Copayments:

Most people are familiar with copays, a flat fee or fixed amount you pay toward health services such as doctor visits or prescriptions. A copay or copayment is the amount of money you are required to pay directly to the healthcare provider (doctor, hospital etc.) per visit, or to a pharmacy for every prescription filled.

With some plans, you will have a copay for prescriptions, and doctor or urgent care visits. For example, your plan may require a \$20 copay for a visit to your primary physician, \$40 copay for a specialist or \$100 copay for an emergency room visit. Copayments do not (typically) count toward your deductible, but they are now required to count toward your out-of-pocket maximum. Copays are applicable until the annual out-of-pocket maximum is reached.

Insurance plans now waive copays for preventive care visits like annual physicals or child wellness checkups.

High-deductible health plans (HDHP) (usually) do not have a copay.



Coinsurance:

Some people get confused about copay versus coinsurance. Just remember, they are not the same thing. Coinsurance is the amount you pay for the cost of a health care service usually in the form of a fixed percentage. The catch is, this percentage doesn't kick in until after you've paid 100% of your deductible. When you reach your deductible, you then pay a percentage of the remaining costs of your care—this is the coinsurance amount.

Let's say you have a policy with 20% coinsurance. That means the insurance company will pay 80% of covered services after your deductible has been met and you pay the remaining 20%.

But, you won't have to pay that 20% forever. You pay until you reach your out-of-pocket maximum. Then, Cigna (or your provider) will cover the rest of qualifying medical expenses for that calendar year.

Example: You have a \$100,000 hospital bill, and a Cigna plan with a \$1,000 annual deductible and 20% in-network coinsurance. You pay your co-pay, the \$1,000 deductible, and 20% coinsurance until you reach your \$3,000 annual out-of-pocket maximum.



Questions about your plan?

Review the Summary of Benefits for the plan you selected by visiting www.totalhealthcampus.com; find your school district; select the benefits tab.

You may also call Cigna at **1.800. 244-6224** anytime. A Cigna representative will be happy to take your call—and explain everything in detail. We want to make sure you understand your health coverage.

