

# Glossary of Health Coverage and Medical Terms

- This glossary has many commonly used terms, but isn't a full list. These glossary terms and definitions are intended to be educational and *may be different from the terms and definitions in the MHBF Fund Booklet*. Some of these terms also might not have exactly the same meaning when used in your plan, and in any such case, the MHBF Fund Booklet governs:
- **Bold** text indicates a term defined in this Glossary.
- See page 4 for an example showing how **deductibles**, **co-insurance** and **out-of-pocket limits** work together in a real life situation.

## Allowed Amount

Maximum amount on which payment is based for covered health care services. This may be called "eligible expense," "payment allowance" or "negotiated rate." If your **provider** charges more than the allowed amount, you may have to pay the difference. (See **Balance Billing**.)

## Appeal

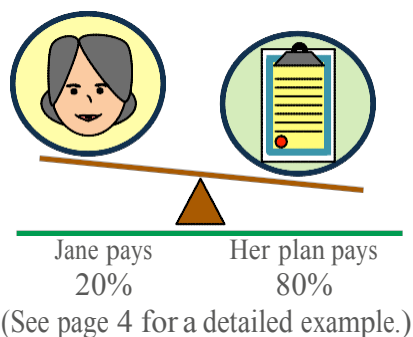
A request for your health **plan** to review a decision or a **grievance** again.

## Balance Billing

When a **provider** bills you for the difference between the provider's charge and the **allowed amount**. For example, if the provider's charge is \$100 and the allowed amount is \$70, the provider may bill you for the remaining \$30. A **preferred provider** may not balance bill you for covered services.

## Co-insurance

Your share of the costs of a covered health care service, calculated as a percent (for example, 20%) of the **allowed amount** for the service. You pay co-insurance plus any **deductibles** you owe. For example, if the **health plan's** allowed amount for an office visit is \$100 and you've met your deductible, your co-insurance payment of 20% would be \$20. The health plan pays the rest of the allowed amount.



## Complications of Pregnancy

Conditions due to pregnancy, labor and delivery that require medical care to prevent serious harm to the health of the mother or the fetus. Morning sickness and a non-emergency caesarean section aren't complications of pregnancy.

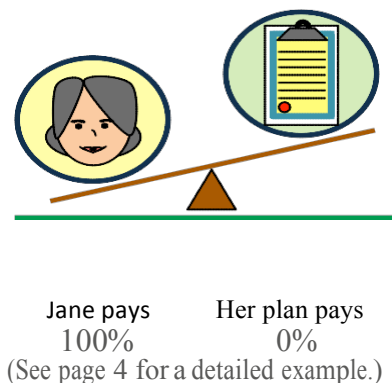
## Co-payment

A fixed amount (for example, \$15) you pay for a covered health care service, usually when you receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of covered health care service.

## Deductible

The amount you owe for health care services your **health plan** covers before your health in plan begins to pay.

For example, if your deductible is \$1000, your plan won't pay anything until you've met your \$1000 deductible for covered health care services subject to the deductible. The deductible may not apply to all services.



## Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Equipment and supplies ordered by a health care **provider** for everyday or extended use. Coverage for DME may include: oxygen equipment, wheelchairs, and crutches or blood testing strips for diabetics.

## Emergency Medical Condition

An illness, injury, symptom or condition so serious that a reasonable person would seek care right away to avoid severe harm.

## Emergency Medical Transportation

Ambulance services for an **emergency medical condition**.

## Emergency Room Care

**Emergency services** you get in an emergency room.

## Emergency Services

Evaluation of an **emergency medical condition** and treatment to keep the condition from getting worse.

## Excluded Services

Health care services that your **health plan** doesn't pay for or cover.

## Grievance

A complaint that you communicate to your health **plan**.

## Habilitation Services

Health care services that help a person keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Examples include therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

## Health Insurance (MHBF is not Insurance)

A contract that requires a health insurer to pay some or all of your health care costs in exchange for a premium.

## Home Health Care

Health care services a person receives at home.

## Hospice Services

Services to provide comfort and support for persons in the last stages of a terminal illness and their families.

## Hospitalization

Care in a hospital that requires admission as an inpatient and usually requires an overnight stay. An overnight stay for observation could be outpatient care.

## Hospital Outpatient Care

Care in a hospital that usually doesn't require an overnight stay.

## In-network Co-insurance

The percent (for example, 20%) you pay of the **allowed amount** for covered services to **providers** who contract with your **health plan**. In-network co-insurance usually costs you less than **out-of-network co-insurance**.

## In-network Co-payment

A fixed amount (for example, \$15) you pay for covered health care services to **providers** who contract with your **health plan**. In-network co-payments usually are less than **out-of-network co-payments**.

## Medically Necessary

Health care services or supplies needed to prevent, diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine.

## Network

The facilities, **providers** and suppliers your health insurer or **plan** has contracted with to provide health care services.

## Non-Preferred Provider

A **provider** who doesn't have a contract with your health plan to provide services to you. You'll pay more to see a non-preferred provider. Check your policy to see if you can go to all providers who have contracted with your health plan, or if your health plan has a "tiered" **network** and you must pay extra to see some providers.

## Out-of-network Co-insurance

The percent (for example, 40%) you pay of the **allowed amount** for covered health care services to providers who do not contract with your **health plan**. Out-of-network co-insurance usually costs you more than **in-network co-insurance**.

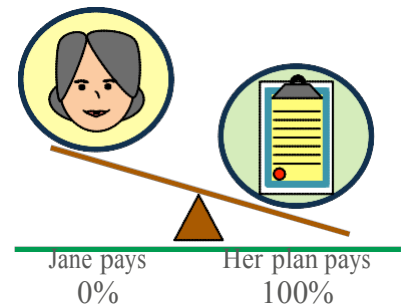
## Out-of-network Co-payment

A fixed amount (for example, \$30) you pay for covered health care services from providers who do not contract with your **health plan**. Out-of-network co-payments usually are more than **in-network co-payments**.

## Out-of-Pocket Limit

The most you pay during a policy period (usually a year) before your **health plan** begins to pay 100% of the **allowed amount**.

This limit never includes your **premium**, **balance-billed** charges or health care your health



(See page 4 for a detailed example.)

plan doesn't cover. Some health plans don't count all of your **co-payments**, **deductibles**, **co-insurance** payments, out-of-network payments or other expenses toward this limit.

## Physician Services

Health care services a licensed medical physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) provides or coordinates.

## Plan

A benefit your employer, union or other group sponsor provides to you to pay for your health care services.

## Preauthorization

A decision by your health plan that a health care service, treatment plan, **prescription drug** or **durable medical equipment** is **medically necessary**. Sometimes called prior authorization, prior approval or precertification. Your health plan may require preauthorization for certain services before you receive them, except in an emergency. Preauthorization isn't a promise your health plan will cover the cost.

## Preferred Provider

A **provider** who has a contract with your health **plan** to provide services to you at a discount. Check your policy to see if you can see all preferred providers. If your health plan has a "tiered" **network** and you must pay extra to see some providers. Your health plan may have preferred providers who are also "participating" providers. Participating providers also contract with your health plan, but the discount may not be as great, and you may have to pay more.

## Premium

The amount that must be paid for your **health plan**. You and/or your employer usually pay it monthly, quarterly or yearly.

## Prescription Drug Coverage

**Health plan** that helps pay for **prescription drugs** and medications.

## Prescription Drugs

Drugs and medications that by law require a prescription.

## Primary Care Physician

A physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) who directly provides or coordinates a range of health care services for a patient.

## Primary Care Provider

A physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine), nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist or physician assistant, as allowed under state law, who provides, coordinates or helps a patient access a range of health care services.

## Provider

A physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine), health care professional or health care facility licensed, certified or accredited as required by state law.

## Reconstructive Surgery

Surgery and follow-up treatment needed to correct or improve a part of the body because of birth defects, accidents, injuries or medical conditions.

## Rehabilitation Services

Health care services that help a person keep, get back or improve skills and functioning for daily living that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, hurt or disabled. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and psychiatric rehabilitation services in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

## Skilled Nursing Care

Services from licensed nurses in your own home or in a nursing home. Skilled care services are from technicians and therapists in your own home or in a nursing home.

## Specialist

A physician specialist focuses on a specific area of medicine or a group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions. A non-physician specialist is a **provider** who has more training in a specific area of health care.

## UCR (Usual, Customary and Reasonable)

The amount paid for a medical service in a geographic area based on what **providers** in the area usually charge for the same or similar medical service. The UCR amount sometimes is used to determine the **allowed amount**.

## Urgent Care

Care for an illness, injury or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require **emergency room care**.