

# Member Guide

Frequently Asked Questions



MEDICAL MUTUAL®

# Get the Most Out of Your Health Insurance Benefits

Remember these tips to understand your care options, maximize your benefits and save money:

- **Manage Your Plan 24/7:** My Health Plan, our members-only website, makes it easy and convenient to manage your plan. Search for in-network doctors, access your member ID card, view benefits, and more. Members may register or log in at [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member).
- **Stay in Network:** Avoid higher costs associated with out-of-network providers by using doctors and hospitals in your network. Use our MedMutual Find a Provider tool on My Health Plan to find in-network providers. Or download our MedMutual mobile app from the Apple App Store® or Google Play.™
- **Know What's Covered:** Review your benefits online or talk with a Customer Care specialist before you receive care to make sure a service is covered or find out if prior approval is needed.
- **Avoid Unnecessary Trips to the Emergency Room:** For minor injuries or illnesses, use an in-network convenience clinic or urgent care facility, or talk to your doctor.
- **Make Health and Wellness a Priority:** Taking care of your body and mind can help you prevent illness, reduce risk of chronic conditions, and live a happier and healthier life. Visit our Wellness Portal under the Healthy Living tab on My Health Plan. Complete a quick lifestyle health assessment, take an online course, or participate in one of 40+ wellness challenges—all designed to help you build your best self.
- **Use Your Preventive Care Benefits:** Take advantage of preventive services and programs covered at little or no cost to you. Review your benefits online or call Customer Care for more information.

**If you do not have access to the internet or prefer to have information explained or provided in a written format, contact our Customer Care specialists at the number on your ID card.**

Our products are underwritten by Medical Mutual of Ohio or Medical Health Insuring Corporation of Ohio.

The material provided, including websites and links, is informational only. It does not take the place of professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. You should make decisions about care with your healthcare providers. Recommended treatment or services may not be covered. Eligibility and coverage depend on your specific benefit plan.

# Welcome

## to the Family

**Medical Mutual® has a long-standing commitment to help our members get the care they need by giving them access to high-quality healthcare, a large network of doctors and hospitals, and a wide range of health programs.**

As part of this commitment, we want to make sure our members are satisfied with the care and service they receive, and understand how to get the most out of the benefits we offer. Use this Member FAQ Guide as an easy-to-use, quick-reference tool to learn more about our services.

If you are a current member and have more questions, log in to our secure member website, My Health Plan, at [MedMutual.com/Member](http://MedMutual.com/Member), or call our dedicated Customer Care specialists at the number on your member ID card. For information about your specific benefits, please refer to your Certificate or Benefit Book.

If you are not a current member, additional resources and information are available online at [MedMutual.com](http://MedMutual.com), or talk to your employer or broker about the benefits available to you.

We look forward to serving your healthcare needs.

| Contents |                                     |       |                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 2–3      | Your Medical Care Costs             | 9     | Filing a Complaint                    |
| 3        | Benefit Coverage                    | 9     | Filing a Member Appeal                |
| 3–4      | Choosing a Provider                 | 11    | Transitioning Your Adult Child's Care |
| 4–5      | Primary Care and Specialty Services | 11–14 | Member Rights and Responsibilities    |
| 5        | Getting Medical Care                | 14    | Help for Hearing or Speech Impaired   |
| 5–6      | After-hours and Emergency Care      | 15    | Protecting Your Privacy               |
| 7        | Care Management Phone Numbers       | 16    | Common Medical Terminology            |
| 8        | Submitting a Claim                  |       |                                       |

## “What charges do I need to pay for when I receive services?”

Depending on your plan, you may be responsible for:

- A copay at each visit
- An annual individual and/or family deductible
- Coinsurance up to your maximum out-of-pocket amount
- Charges for non-covered services
- Charges in excess of the allowed amount if you go to a doctor or facility not in our network
- Charges in excess of a coverage maximum, if applicable to your plan

For specific details about the charges you will need to pay, refer to your Certificate or Benefit Book, Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) or other documentation provided by your employer or broker.

## “How do I know if my plan covers a certain procedure, surgery or service?”

To check your covered benefits, review the Schedule of Benefits section in your Certificate or Benefit Book, or your Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). These documents may also be available when you log in to your plan’s website or My Health Plan. Call our Customer Care specialists if your specific service is not listed in the Schedule of Benefits or Exclusions.

Covered benefits usually include medically necessary hospital stays and surgeries, diagnostic tests, visits to the doctor and preventive care. Some plans include prescription drug coverage.

Medically necessary (or medical necessity) means the services, supplies or prescription drugs are needed to diagnose or treat a medical condition. Also, Medical Mutual must decide if this care is:

- Accepted as standard practice. It can’t be experimental or investigational.
- Not just for your convenience or the convenience of a provider.

- The appropriate type of service in the most appropriate type of facility that can be given to you.

When applied to your care as an inpatient, this means your medical symptoms or condition require that the services cannot be safely or adequately provided to you as an outpatient. When applied to prescription drugs, this means the prescription drug is cost-effective compared to other prescription drugs that will produce similar clinical results.

Excluded services typically are convenience or personal hygiene items, massage therapy, hypnosis, most over-the-counter drugs, vitamins or herbal remedies, experimental or investigational treatments, charges for missed appointments, or cosmetic procedures. Be sure to review your Certificate or Benefit Book, which may also be available when you log in to your plan’s website or My Health Plan, for a full list of coverage exclusions.

**Note:** The most accurate way to get specific benefit details for a particular procedure or service is to call Customer Care and provide the medical coding your doctor’s office will use on the claim. This includes codes for the specific service provided (the CPT codes) and the reason for the service (the diagnosis codes).

## “How does Medical Mutual determine if a new medical technology or procedure is covered?”

We perform an extensive evaluation of the use of new medical technologies, medications, behavioral health procedures and devices to ensure they are medically appropriate for our members. After multiple experts (both internal and external, depending on the complexity of the issue) conduct this evaluation, a decision is made whether to cover the new service for our members. Coverage for new services may be limited to specific medical conditions, age groups, gender, places of service, types of service or diagnoses. Experimental or investigational services may not be covered. A list of services requiring prior approval (also called prior authorization) can be found on My Health Plan by clicking on Prior Approval under Benefits & Coverage or by calling Customer Care.

## “Where can I find a list of doctors, hospitals or providers who are in my plan’s network?”

To find a list of network providers:

- Log in to My Health Plan and select Find a Provider.  
**Note:** View providers based on location and mile radius or download the provider directory for your county in PDF format.
- Download our mobile app, available through the Apple App Store or Google Play (search MedMutual).
- Call our Customer Care specialists at the number on your ID card.

If you are not a member, visit MedMutual.com and choose Find a Provider at the top of the page to see what networks and providers are available to you.

## “What happens if I don’t go to doctors or health providers in my plan’s network?”

Using doctors, specialists, hospitals and other facilities (e.g. labs, urgent care clinics, radiology) in your plan’s network can save you money. Using providers outside your network may cost you more. The name of your provider network and plan type (PPO, HMO, EPO) can be found on your member ID card.

- If you have a PPO plan and go outside the network, you will be responsible for paying a non-network deductible and coinsurance, and/or excess charges above the allowed amount we would normally pay for covered services. However, you may be afforded certain protections in emergency situations or if you are unable to choose an in-network provider. See information below about the No Surprises Act.

- If you are a member of an HMO or EPO plan, or a health plan with a narrow or local network, you do not have out-of-network coverage except for emergency services. You will be responsible for paying 100% of out-of-network charges. However, you may be afforded certain protections in emergency situations or if you are unable to choose an in-network provider. See information below about the No Surprises Act.

### No Surprises Act

For members with plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2022, the No Surprises Act allows members protection from balance billing (also known as surprise billing), only requiring them to pay the in-network billing amount under the following circumstances:

- Emergency care from in-network or out-of-network providers
- Non-emergency care from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities (e.g. anesthesiology, pathology, radiology)
- Air ambulance service(s) from out-of-network providers

The No Surprises Act does not apply when a member voluntarily chooses to use an out-of-network provider, receives notice, and signs a consent form to be billed for such services.

**For additional benefit questions, call Customer Care at the number on your ID card.**

## “How do I get primary care services?”

Primary care services, like immunizations and physical exams, are done by providers who specialize in general medicine, family practice, internal medicine, geriatrics and pediatrics. These services are often provided in your primary care provider’s office. While Medical Mutual does not require members to have a primary care provider (PCP), establishing a relationship with a PCP can offer you consistency and efficiency in your health care. A PCP’s goal is to deliver the care that’s right for you.

To request primary care services, contact a PCP in your plan’s network. To find a PCP in your plan’s network, log in to My Health Plan and choose Find a Provider.

## Not Our Member? Learn More.

If you are not yet our member and want more information about Medical Mutual’s covered and non-covered services, network options and benefit restrictions, please review a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC):

- If you are looking for an individual policy, review plans available in your area on MedMutual.com (sample Certificate Books are also available).
- If you are part of an employer group plan, review the SBC provided as part of your open enrollment materials.

Visit MedMutual.com and choose Find a Provider at the top of the page to see the networks and providers that may be available to you as our member.

## “How can I find information about network doctors, hospitals and other providers?”

Medical Mutual members can find information about providers in their health plan’s network by using the Find a Provider tool on My Health Plan, or in the MedMutual mobile app. Provider types include doctors, therapists and counselors, hospitals, urgent care centers, durable medical equipment suppliers, and more. Information includes:

- Name, address and phone number
- Professional qualifications
- Specialties
- Medical school attended
- Hospital and network affiliation
- Board certification
- Awards and recognition, such as whether a doctor is part of an NCOA accredited patient-centered medical center or diabetes recognition program
- Quality scores for hospitals and facilities

If you are not yet our member, similar information can be found at [MedMutual.com/FindAProvider](https://www.medmutual.com/FindAProvider).

## “How do I get behavioral health, specialty or hospital services?”

To request behavioral health services, contact a behavioral health provider, including counselors and addiction specialists, in your plan’s network. Information about network specialists can be found by using Find a Provider on My Health Plan or in the MedMutual mobile app. Your primary care provider (PCP) can tell you when and where to get behavioral health, specialty and hospital services. Check your Certificate or Benefit Book for coverage of mental health disorders and substance abuse.

## “How do I find a palliative or hospice care provider?”

Palliative care is treatment that enhances comfort and improves the quality of a person’s life during the last phase of life. We urge you to discuss this matter with your provider and family.

To find a network palliative or hospice care provider, log in to My Health Plan at [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member) or on our mobile app. Choose Find a Provider to search by Provider Type. If searching by physician, choose Hospice and Palliative Medicine as your specialty. If searching by facility, choose Hospice Center as your facility type.

## “What should I do if I have trouble scheduling an appointment?”

We want you to be satisfied with the care you receive. If you have trouble scheduling an appointment with a medical or behavioral healthcare professional, please contact Customer Care by phone or on My Health Plan. We will work with you to determine the cause of the issue, which will help us improve the quality of our networks.

## “How can I get care after normal office hours?”

When you are ill, injured or feel like you need immediate care, call your primary care provider (PCP) first. Your PCP can assess your symptoms and direct you to the right place for care. If your PCP’s office is closed and you need prompt but not emergency medical attention, go to a network urgent care facility or convenience clinic that can treat your condition. This may cost less than an emergency room visit. You can find a network urgent care facility by using our Find a Provider tool and choosing “Urgent Care Center” as the facility type.

Conditions that an urgent care or convenience clinic may treat include:

- Flu symptoms
- Minor sprains
- Sinus, ear or bladder infections

Your health plan may also offer a 24-hour Nurse Line service for help with non-emergency situations. You’ll find the phone number on your member ID card if the program is available to you.

## “What is an emergency?”

Recognizing emergency situations can be difficult for a person with no medical training. Seek emergency care if you believe not receiving immediate assistance would result in the following outcomes:

- Placing the health of the individual or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any body part or organ

**For your personal benefit information, visit My Health Plan through the MedMutual mobile app.**

# Everything You Need, Everywhere You Are

My Health Plan is the quick, easy and secure way to take care of all your health plan needs, 24/7. You can access the site online or through our mobile app.

## **Visit [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member) to:**

- See real-time account information, like deductible, coinsurance and maximum out-of-pocket accumulations.
- View and download plan documents, such as your Certificate or Benefit Book and Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC).
- Update your profile information, such as your primary care provider.
- Estimate costs for common healthcare services.
- Access money-saving discounts or enroll in programs and services, such as WW® (formerly Weight Watchers) and QuitLine, our tobacco cessation program.
- Manage your communication preferences, opt in for text messaging and go paperless for other options.

## **Download our mobile app through the Apple App Store or Google Play (search MedMutual) to:**

- Access your digital ID card, which you can share with your providers.
- Find a doctor, hospital or urgent care facility based on your location.
- View your claims, deductible and out-of-pocket spending information.

Medical Mutual members can register for My Health Plan at [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member).

WW® is a registered trademark of WW International, Inc.

## **“How do I get emergency care?”**

During a medical emergency, go to the nearest emergency room or, if necessary, call 911. Contact your network provider within 24 hours of the emergency to arrange follow-up care, if necessary. You should see your provider within seven days of an emergency room visit, within seven days for an inpatient stay for behavioral health services or within 30 days of an inpatient stay for other services. If you are admitted to a hospital, our Utilization Management department will work with your provider to review your care. You do not need to contact Medical Mutual for prior approval of emergency care.

## **“Do I need prior approval for certain procedures?”**

Yes. Certain services and drugs require prior approval before you have the procedure or service—especially if the service or drug is considered experimental or investigational and not eligible for coverage. Your in-network provider is responsible for getting any required prior approvals. Prior approval is not a guarantee of payment; payment is based on your benefits and contract provisions. Visit My Health Plan and click on Prior Approval under Benefits & Coverage to view the services and medications on the Prior Approval List.

If you are not yet a Medical Mutual member, you can review this information at [MedMutual.com/PASStandards](https://www.MedMutual.com/PASStandards).



## “How do I get prior approval?”

If your provider is in your plan's network, they will be responsible for contacting us for prior approval. If your provider is not in the network, you will be responsible for getting prior approval before treatment. Contact Customer Care if you need help requesting prior approval. If you are scheduled for a hospital stay, our nurses will work with your provider to gather information about your condition once you have been admitted to the hospital.

Medical Mutual sends an appropriate care statement to all employees, management staff and contracted providers who deal with these activities.

If you have questions related to inpatient admissions, denials and appeals, including those for behavioral health services, you may call the appropriate number below. Or call Customer Care at the number on your member ID card.

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Care Management                             | 1-800-338-4114                      |
| Behavioral Health Care Management           | 1-800-258-3186                      |
| Case Management                             | 1-800-258-3175                      |
| TTY/TDD for the Hearing and Speech Impaired | 1-800-750-0750<br>or speed dial 711 |

Decisions are based only on the appropriate use of care and services for you and your coverage. There isn't any direct or indirect reward or incentive for providers or any other participants in decision making for denying or limiting coverage or service. We don't provide financial incentives for decisions that result in less use of care or services.

## Manage and Improve Your Health

Visit our Wellness Portal on [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member) to learn about programs and tools to help you maintain or improve your health and well-being. Complete our short, online Health Assessment to identify your risks for certain chronic diseases. You will also get tips and information to help manage and improve your health. To track changes in your health status, we recommend you complete the Health Assessment once a year.

The Wellness Portal also features articles, healthy recipes, fitness challenges and online classes on a variety of health and wellness topics.

**You'll find the wellness portal under the Healthy Living tab on [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member).**

## “Can I get help if I have a chronic condition?”

Yes. Medical Mutual offers a variety of flexible programs to help members with chronic conditions, such as diabetes. These programs include digital or telephonic options. Joining a program can help you understand your condition, become more involved in your care, make healthy lifestyle changes and improve your quality of life.

We also offer coaching programs on topics such as weight management and stress reduction to help you improve your health and wellness. We have a 24-hour Nurse Line to help you understand the level of care needed to address any medical concerns.

To learn more about these programs, log in to My Health Plan and click the Healthy Living tab.

## “How can I or my caregiver get help if I have a complex medical condition or event?”

Registered nurse case managers in our Case Management program are available to help you or your caregiver find resources and services, communicate with your healthcare team and monitor your progress to make sure services are appropriate and effective. This voluntary program addresses the healthcare options and needs of members who have complex illnesses or life-limiting or incurable conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, transplants and many more.

Case Management nurses are also available to help coordinate care, offer information about local community services and provide education about your condition.

You can talk with a registered nurse case manager Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (ET). You'll find their number in the chart on page 7.

## “How do I get care and coverage when I am away from home?”

If you get sick or are in an accident while away from home, use our Find a Provider tool on My Health Plan or our mobile app, or call Customer Care, for help finding a network doctor or hospital. If your condition is a medical emergency, go to the nearest emergency room or, if necessary, call 911.

If you are a member of an HMO plan or EPO plan, you only have out-of-network coverage for emergency services. You will be responsible for paying all non-emergency out-of-network charges in full.

## “What is an advance directive (e.g., Living Will, Power of Attorney, Do Not Resuscitate)?”

An advance directive is a legal document used to tell doctors, hospital personnel, your family or your representative what kind of care you want to receive if you become unconscious or unable to communicate. There are three types of advance directives: Living Will, Healthcare Power of Attorney and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order. For more information about setting up an advance directive, contact the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) at 1-800-658-8898, or nhpco.org.

## “Where do I find a claim form and how do I submit a claim?”

To find claim forms:

- Visit [MedMutual.com](http://MedMutual.com) and choose Member Forms at the bottom of the page.
- Log in to My Health Plan. Next, choose Resources & Tools, then Forms.
- Call Customer Care at the number on your ID card.

In-network providers must submit a claim for you. If you go to a doctor, hospital or provider that is not in your plan's network, ask them to submit a claim for you on a standardized claim form. If the provider will not submit the claim for you, contact Customer Care or log in to My Health Plan for a claim form. You will need to complete the claim form and attach an itemized bill that includes the patient's first and last name, diagnosis, procedure, date of service, a breakdown of charges and the name and address of the provider or facility. Submit the completed form to the address on the form within the timeframe stated in your Certificate or Benefit Book.

If you go to a hospital or provider outside the United States, get a copy of all your medical records and an itemized bill. Submit your claim forms, bills, medical records and proof of payment to the address on your ID card. Please remember, benefit coverage and limitations still apply when you are traveling. Refer to your Certificate or Benefit Book for details.

## “ How can I ask a question or voice a complaint?”

We want to make sure our members are satisfied with the care and service they receive. If you have a problem or concern, you can:

- Call Customer Care.
- Email Customer Care through My Health Plan by clicking on Contact Us.
- Mail a letter to your benefit administrator or employer, or to Medical Mutual, MZ: 22-2S-4807, 2060 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

We will follow the complaint review procedure described in your Certificate or Benefit Book.

## “ Can I file a complaint anywhere else?”

If applicable to your health plan, you may contact your state’s department of insurance (DOI). You can find the contact information on your state’s website, under state agencies in your phone book or by calling our Customer Care Center. If your complaint is about a denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or service, and you continue to disagree with our decision, you have the right to file a complaint with the DOI after all appeal rights have been exhausted.

In general, members of self-funded groups (other than a public employee benefit plan) should not file a complaint with the DOI. To learn how to file a complaint, contact your group official or employer, check your Certificate or Benefit Book, or contact the U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration ([dol.gov/ebsa](http://dol.gov/ebsa)).

## “How can I file an appeal if my claims, requested services or eligibility have been denied?”

- If you are part of a self-funded group, refer to your Benefit Book for how to file an appeal.
- All other members may refer to the following appeal procedure.

As a member, you may exercise your right to appeal a denial to pay a claim or approve a service or procedure according to applicable state and federal law. There is no charge for filing an appeal.

You must file your appeal within 180 days from the date you received your original denial. Member appeal forms can be found under Forms in the Resources & Tools section of My Health Plan or by calling Customer Care. Instructions for completing the form and submitting your appeal are included on the form. To support your appeal, please send any records, doctor’s office notes, photos, dental X-rays and/or radiology reports you would like considered.

An appeal request must come from the patient unless they are a minor (in which case a parent or legal guardian of the patient may file the appeal), have appointed an individual as power of attorney representing the patient, or have authorized an individual to act as their representative.

To appeal a denial for services you need immediately, call Utilization Management or Behavioral Health (see page 7). Urgent care appeals will be decided within 72 hours, as will appeals for care you need while you are in the hospital (or sooner if required by applicable law). Our decision about all non-urgent appeals will be made within 30 days from the date we receive your appeal request (or sooner if required by applicable law). You will receive our decision in writing. If our original decision is not overturned, you will be notified of any additional appeal rights you may have.

## “Could the department of insurance (DOI) review my case if it is denied?”

Depending on the type of health plan you have and the reason that payment of a claim or approval of a service or procedure was denied, DOI review of the case might be available. You should first file your appeal with us. If your appeal has been reviewed and continues to be denied, you or an authorized representative (an individual authorized by you to file appeals on your behalf) will be informed of any additional appeal rights, including instructions for how and where to file your request for review by a DOI in your state, if such a review is available.

## “How can I get an independent external review of my denied claim or request for a service or procedure at no cost?”

Depending on your health plan, you may qualify for an external review by an Independent Review Organization (IRO) if the service you are appealing meets certain conditions set by applicable state or federal law. You must first exhaust the internal appeal process with Medical Mutual unless you are eligible to exercise our external review rights concurrently or immediately. You will be told in writing of your external review rights as part of our initial appeal decision. You will also be told of the timeframe you have from the date you receive our initial appeal decision to request an external review. IROs will decide urgent and non-urgent cases in the timeframes established by the applicable state or federal laws and regulations. You will be told in writing of the IRO's decision.

## “What are my appeal rights?”

For members of an Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) plan, the group administrator is required to administer the plan according to its written provisions. Members of an ERISA plan also have the right, under Section 502(a) of ERISA, to bring a civil action after a denial on appeal. Please contact your group administrator to learn if you are affected by ERISA or for more information. Any statute of limitations applicable to pursuing your claim in court will be suspended during the period of the additional voluntary appeal (if your plan includes a voluntary appeal). If you decide to proceed with a voluntary appeal (if your plan includes a voluntary appeal), you do not need to exhaust this option prior to pursuing a claim in court.

If you are an individual policyholder, your plan is not subject to ERISA, so your rights are different from those available to an ERISA plan member. Please refer to your Benefit Book for more information.

If you are a member of a health plan sponsored by a public entity (e.g., public schools, governments), your plan is also not subject to ERISA. Please refer to your Benefit Book for more information about your appeal rights.

## “How does Medical Mutual improve the quality of healthcare?”

We continually work to promote and improve the quality of healthcare for members through our Quality Improvement program, which supports our mission to provide clinical excellence at a reasonable cost and to improve patient outcomes. Our goals are to:

- Improve the quality of healthcare services for members and their access to those services.
- Communicate clinical information to members and providers.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality and safety of healthcare provided to members.
- Achieve and maintain health plan accreditation.

At times, Medical Mutual conducts member surveys—for example, about your satisfaction with your health plan. We appreciate receiving completed responses, which help us improve our services.

## “How should my child’s care change when they turn 18?”

At age 18, children are considered adults when it comes to healthcare. If your child has not already done so, encourage them to transition from pediatric care to a doctor or other healthcare provider who specializes in adult care. Completing this transition helps ensure the appropriate care is given in the appropriate setting based on your dependent’s changing needs. Age-appropriate services include new vaccines and boosters as well as important preventive screenings.

To help your child find an adult primary care provider (PCP) in your plan’s network, log in to My Health Plan and click Find a Provider. You may also call Customer Care.

**For your personal benefit information, log in to My Health Plan at [MedMutual.com/Member](https://www.MedMutual.com/Member).**

# Member Rights

## “What are my rights and responsibilities as a member?”

As a Medical Mutual member, you have certain rights and responsibilities. Being familiar with them will help you participate in your own healthcare, which will ultimately empower you to make the best healthcare decisions possible.

Please know we support member rights and member responsibilities, which we define as your role in working with us to achieve a high-quality, cost-effective health outcome. We encourage you to review these guidelines to be an informed healthcare consumer.

For a printed copy of the member rights and responsibilities, please call our Customer Care Center at the number on your ID card. This document is also available on our website, [MedMutual.com/MemberRights](https://www.MedMutual.com/MemberRights).

### Information Disclosure

- You have the right to receive accurate, easy-to-understand information about your health plan, providers, covered services, financial liability, health promotion, illness prevention, advance directives (e.g., Living Will, Healthcare Power of Attorney), and rights and responsibilities.
- You have the right to receive information about us. As applicable to your plan, you have the right to receive information about services provided on behalf of your employer or plan sponsor as well as our staff, and staff qualifications and any contractual relationships.
- You may choose to ask another person to help you or act on your behalf if you are unable to act alone at any step in the healthcare process.
- If English is not your primary language or if you have a disability or do not understand your health plan or healthcare, we can provide help so you can make informed healthcare decisions.

## Access to Emergency Services

- If you have severe pain, an injury or sudden illness that leads you to believe that your health is in serious jeopardy, you have the right to be screened and stabilized for an emergency medical condition in a facility that provides emergency care.
- When you are injured, or experiencing severe pain or sudden illness that leads you to believe your health is in serious jeopardy, you do not need our prior approval before seeking emergency care.
  - When using emergency room services for emergency care, you are not required to see a network provider, and you will not be charged an out-of-network penalty for receiving services for emergency care from an out-of-network provider.

## Choice of Providers

- You have the right to choose providers, hospitals, pharmacies and other facilities within our network.
- You have the right to choose a primary care provider in our network who is accepting new patients.
- You have the right to see a specialist in our network without a referral from your primary care provider.

## Coverage

- If you are a member of a group health plan or non-grandfathered individual policy, with plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, you have the right to receive covered services without the consideration of pre-existing conditions.
- You have the right to not have your policy rescinded after it was active except in situations of fraud or intentional misrepresentation, according to federal and state laws and the terms of your policy.
- You may have the right to receive certain essential health benefits covered by your health plan without annual dollar limits.
- You have the right to get covered services and prescriptions filled within a reasonable timeframe.

- You have the right to receive coverage for an ongoing course of treatment pending the outcome of an appeal of a coverage decision that reduces or terminates benefits for that course of treatment.
- For the services provided to you within the terms of your plan, your rights include prompt and accurate payment of your claims.
- You have the right to have your coverage decisions made by individuals who have expertise in the area of medicine in which your claim falls and by individuals who are impartial.

## Participation in Your Health Plan and in Treatment Decisions

- You have the right to talk in confidence with your healthcare provider and to participate in making decisions about your care.
- You have the right to a candid discussion of appropriate or medically necessary treatment options for your conditions, regardless of cost or benefit coverage.
- You have the right to decline medical treatment or participation in a program we offer and to disenroll from services we offer.
- You have the right to make recommendations about this Member Rights and Responsibilities policy statement.
- You have the right to restrict the information that your healthcare provider shares with your health plan if you self-pay for services in full and notify the provider of your restriction.

## Privacy and Confidentiality

- You have the right to exercise all federal and state privileges that protect your personal and medical information and records. You can also exercise your privacy rights under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) without fear of retaliation or condition of payment.
- You have the right to privacy and confidentiality in the usage of your personal and medical information and records.

## Respect and Nondiscrimination

- You have the right to fair, considerate, courteous, respectful and nondiscriminatory care from your healthcare providers, our employees and plan representatives. You have the right to be treated with respect and recognition of your dignity and your right to privacy.
- You have the right to ask for help if you think you are treated unfairly or your rights are not respected.
- You are not required to waive rights to get benefits from your health plan.

## Request to Place Restrictions on Use/ Disclosure of Protected Health Information

- You have the right to request that your information receive special treatment, meaning that you can request additional restrictions on your information when used for treatment, payment or other day-to-day operations. Please Note: Medical Mutual of Ohio is not required to agree to the restriction.
- You have the right to access or receive a copy of your protected health information (PHI) maintained by us in a designated record set. For access to your entire medical record, you must contact the doctor or facility that provided the service.
- You have the right to request an amendment to your personal and medical information. We cannot amend information we did not create. We will refer you to the service provider if you request an amendment to your diagnosis or treatment information.
- You have a right to an accounting of certain disclosures of your information made by us and our business associates over the last six years.
- You have the right to complain if you believe your rights have been violated, including the right to complain to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- You have the right to receive a Notice of Privacy Practices describing our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI.

- You have the right to request that we communicate with you in confidence about your information at a location different from the address associated with your policy.

## Complaints and Appeals

- You have the right to voice complaints or appeals about us, the care provided or any quality issue.
- You have a right to communicate complaints to us and receive instructions on how to use the complaint process that includes our standards of timeliness for responding to and resolving complaints and quality issues.
- You have the right to request and receive, at no charge, copies of the information and documentation we considered or relied on to make a coverage decision.
- You have the right to file an appeal of a denial or reduction of a benefit or a claim because you were told it was not medically necessary, was experimental or investigational, was not a benefit of your health plan or involved a pre-existing condition.
- You have the right to file an appeal if you were denied coverage because of ineligibility or your policy was rescinded after you became an active member.
- You have the right to get a fair, objective and timely review and resolution of an appeal; to be told how the appeal will be handled according to federal and state laws; and to be told any important time limits related to filing your appeal.
- If you are covered by a fully insured plan, you have the right to request a review of a denied service or benefit by your state's department of insurance (DOI). A review by your state's DOI may be available if we deny, reduce or discontinue coverage for a service you were told is not covered, not medically necessary or is experimental or investigational.

- Once you have exhausted your internal appeals, you may have the right to an external review by an Independent Review Organization (IRO). This right may exist if we deny, reduce or discontinue coverage for a service on the basis of medical necessity, appropriateness of care, healthcare setting, level of care, effectiveness of a covered benefit, or an experimental or investigational determination. This right depends on the type of health plan you have. Review your Certificate or Benefit Book, or contact us or your health plan administrator to find out if this right and the process for pursuing this right applies to your health plan.

- Know how to get information from your health plan's website, customer service and/or your health plan administrator.
- Meet your financial obligations to the providers who treat you.
- Report to us suspected wrongdoing and fraud.
- Be a responsible consumer of healthcare resources available to you.

### “Is support offered for language or speech assistance?”

Yes, we provide language assistance for those who speak a language other than English or have special needs related to impaired vision or hearing. If you have a special preference relating to the administration of your health insurance plan or getting medical care, please call Customer Care (or TTY/TDD 1-800-750-0750 or speed dial 711 for the hearing and speech impaired). If you need large-print materials, please call Customer Care.

Language assistance is available to answer your questions and help you register an appeal or complaint. We offer bilingual telephone translation services and can respond to your appeal or complaint in your primary language. To ask for language assistance, please call Customer Care and tell the Customer Care specialist that language assistance is needed.

Callers who do not speak English will be connected by Customer Care to a language line interpretation service.

## Member Responsibilities

- When speaking with us or your provider, supply all the information needed to provide care.
- When speaking with us or your provider, understand your health problems and participate in developing a mutually agreed-upon treatment plan and goals that work for you and your doctor or health provider, to the degree possible.
- When speaking with us or your provider, follow the agreed-upon plan and instructions for care.
- Choose a primary care provider who is accepting new patients and can coordinate medical services if required or advised by your plan.
- Take responsibility for improving or maintaining your healthy lifestyle habits including exercising, not smoking, controlling stress, eating a healthy diet, drinking alcohol only in moderation and following safety guidelines.
- Learn how to voice a complaint and file an appeal.
- Learn about your coverage options, limitations and exclusions by reviewing the resources available to you.
- Know the rules about use of network providers, coverage and prior approval according to your plan.



## “What does Medical Mutual do to protect my right to privacy?”

We have strict policies and procedures to protect your personal information, including your health information that is stored on our computer systems and in our files. You can view our Notice of Privacy Practices on our website for more information on the collection, use and disclosure of members’ protected health information (PHI), and how to access, amend or request a restriction to the use or disclosure of your PHI by Medical Mutual. Visit [MedMutual.com](http://MedMutual.com) and look for the HIPAA Privacy link in the footer, or call Customer Care.

## “How do I change my personal information?”

You can change your personal information (e.g., address, phone number, email, primary care provider) by logging in to My Health Plan at [MedMutual.com/Member](http://MedMutual.com/Member). Click on My Profile, then Profile Settings to review and make changes. You can also call Customer Care to make any necessary changes to your personal information.

If you have coverage through a group health plan, it may be necessary for you to contact your plan sponsor in order to make the needed updates.

## “How can I update family members on my plan?”

If you have coverage through your employer, work with your employer to add or remove dependents. If you have individual or family coverage through a broker, work with your broker to add or remove dependents. If you have individual coverage that you bought directly from Medical Mutual without a broker, or need assistance, please contact Customer Care.

# Common Medical Terminology

**Allowed Amount:** The highest amount we will cover (pay) for a service.

**Coinsurance:** A certain percent you must pay each benefit period after you have paid your deductible. This payment is for covered services only. You may still have to pay a copay.

**Copayment (Copay):** The amount you pay to a health provider at the time you receive services. You may have to pay a copay for each covered visit to your doctor, depending on your plan. Not all plans have a copay.

**Covered Charges:** Charges for covered services your health plan paid. There may be a limit on covered charges if you receive services from providers outside your plan's network of providers.

**Deductible:** The amount you pay for your healthcare services before your health insurer pays. Deductibles are based on your benefit period (typically a year at a time).

**HMO (Health Maintenance Organization):** Offers healthcare services only with specific HMO providers. Under an HMO plan, you might have to choose a primary care doctor. This doctor will be your main healthcare provider. The doctor will refer you to other HMO specialists when needed. Services from providers outside the HMO plan are not covered except for emergencies.

**Medical Necessity (medically necessary):** Services, supplies or prescription drugs that are needed to diagnose or treat a medical condition. Also, an insurer must decide if this care is:

- Accepted as standard practice (it can't be experimental or investigational)
- Not just for your convenience or the convenience of a provider
- The appropriate type of service in the most appropriate type of facility that can be given to you

**PPO (Preferred Provider Organization):** A type of insurance plan that offers coverage for the services of healthcare providers who are part of the plan's network, as well as some coverage for providers who are not part of the plan's network.

**Preventive Services vs. Medical Services:** Preventive services are those you get before you have any related condition or problem. They are important to maintain your health. Medical services are related to diagnosing, monitoring and treating health conditions.

[ THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK ]

[ THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK ]

# Multi-Language Interpreter Services & Nondiscrimination Notice



This document notifies individuals of how to seek assistance if they speak a language other than English.

## Spanish

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Chinese

注意:如果您使用繁體中文,您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711)。

## German

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Arabic

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1-800-382-5729 رقم هاتف الصم والبكم (711).

## Pennsylvania Dutch

Wann du Deitsch schwetzscht, kannscht du mitaus Koschte ebber gricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schprooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: Call 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Russian

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1-800-382-5729 (телетайп: 711).

## French

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1-800-382-5729 (ATS: 711).

## Vietnamese

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Navajo

Díí baa akó nínízin: Díí saad bee yánílti' go Diné Bizaad, saad bee áká'ánída'áwo'déé', t'áá jiiik'eh, éí ná hóló, kojí' hódíílnih 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

Order Number: Z8188-MCA R4/19  
Dept of Ins. Filing Number: Z8188-MCA R9/16

## Oromo

XIYYEEFFANNAA: Afaan dubbattu Oroomiffa, tajaajila gargaarsa afaanii, kanfaltiidhaan ala, ni argama. Bilbilaa 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Korean

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

## Italian

ATTENZIONE: In caso la lingua parlata sia l'italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Chiamare il numero 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Japanese

注意事項:日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711)まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

## Dutch

AANDACHT: Als u nederlands spreekt, kunt u gratis gebruikmaken van de taalkundige diensten. Bel 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Ukrainian

УВАГА! Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, ви можете звернутися до безкоштовної служби мовної підтримки. Телефонуйте за номером 1-800-382-5729 (телетайп: 711).

## Romanian

ATENȚIE: Dacă vorbiți limba română, vă stau la dispoziție servicii de asistență lingvistică, gratuit. Sunați la 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

## Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-800-382-5729 (TTY: 711).

Please Note: Products marketed by Medical Mutual may be underwritten by one of its subsidiaries, such as Medical Health Insuring Corporation of Ohio or MedMutual Life Insurance Company.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BENEFITS OR OTHER INQUIRIES ABOUT YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MEDICAL MUTUAL'S CUSTOMER CARE DEPARTMENT AT 1-800-382-5729.**

**Nondiscrimination Notice**

Medical Mutual of Ohio complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in its operation of health programs and activities. Medical Mutual does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in its operation of health programs and activities.

- Medical Mutual provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters, and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, etc.).
- Medical Mutual provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages.

**If you need these services or if you believe Medical Mutual failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, with respect to your health care benefits or services, you can submit a written complaint to the person listed below. Please include as much detail as possible in your written complaint to allow us to effectively research and respond.**

**Civil Rights Coordinator**

Medical Mutual of Ohio  
2060 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1355  
MZ: 01-10-1900

**Email:** [CivilRightsCoordinator@MedMutual.com](mailto:CivilRightsCoordinator@MedMutual.com)

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.

- Electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal available at:  
[ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf](http://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf)
- By mail at:  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F  
HHH Building  
Washington, DC 20201-0004
- By phone at:  
1-800-368-1019 (TDD: 1-800-537-7697)
- Complaint forms are available at:  
[hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html](http://hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html)

Products marketed by Medical Mutual may be underwritten by one of its subsidiaries, such as Medical Health Insuring Corporation of Ohio or MedMutual Life Insurance Company.



# MEDICAL MUTUAL®

2060 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1355

[MedMutual.com](http://MedMutual.com)