

Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

September 12, 2024

MHBE Policy Department

SAC Members

Aika Aluc (MHBE Board Liaison)*

Mark Meiselbach (Co-Chair)

Diana-Lynne Hsu (Co-Chair)

Andrew Baum*

Mukta Bain

Marcquetta Carey

Matthew Celentano

Benjamin Fulgencio-Turner

Emily Hodson

Sophie Keen

Catherine Johannesen

Evelyn Johnson

Stephanie Klapper*

Carmen Larsen

Scott London

Allison Mangiaracino*

James Mullen*

Yvette Oquendo-Berruz*

Marie-Therese Oyalowo

Zach Peters*

Aryn Phillips

Mark Romaninsky*

Brooke Souders*

Douglas Spotts

Patricia Swanson*

JoAnn Volk*

Rick Weldon

Agenda

2:00 - 2:10 | Welcome and Approve July Minutes

Mark Meiselbach and Diana Hsu, SAC Co-Chairs

2:10 - 2:15 | Report on MHBE Board of Trustees Activities

Aika Aluc, MHBE Board SAC Liaison

2:15-2:30 | Executive Update

Michele Eberle, MHBE Executive Director

2:30 - 2:45 | 2026 Value Plan Preview

Becca Lane, MHBE Senior Health Policy Analyst

2:45 - 3:45 | Presentations and Discussion on Maternal Health and Coverage for Pregnancy and Postpartum Care

3:45 - 4:00 | Public Comment

4:00 | Adjournment

The background is a solid light green color. On the left side, there is a decorative graphic consisting of four large, overlapping, teardrop-shaped leaves arranged in a cross pattern. In the center of these leaves is a smaller, stylized floral or star-like shape. The text "Vote on Meeting Minutes" is centered horizontally and vertically over the graphic.

Vote on Meeting Minutes

Vote on Meeting Minutes

“I move to [approve/approve with amendments] the Standing Advisory Committee meeting minutes from July 18, 2024.”

MHBE Executive Update

2026 Value Plan Preview

Becca Lane, Senior Health Policy Analyst

2026 Anticipated Plan Certification Standards

- Updates to Value Plan designs
 - Possible adjustments in January as needed to remain within federal actuarial value ranges (pending release of the 2026 federal AV calculator)
- No other Plan Certification Standards for 2026 besides Value Plan updates

Value Plan Workgroup

- 18 members from broad range of stakeholders: producers, navigators, insurers, nonprofits/consumer advocacy groups, providers, state agencies
- 6 meetings, June - September
- Annually recurring workgroup
- Building on 2019 and 2022 Affordability Workgroups to discuss cost-sharing and coverage in the Value Plans

Value Plan Background

- 2019 – Affordability Workgroup: Implement Value Plans (affordability, consumer friendliness)
 - Pre-deductible coverage; **capped** deductibles; **capped** cost-sharing **some** services; diabetes requirements
- 2020 – Value Plans first offered on MHC; slight annual design adjustments thereafter
- 2022 – Affordability Workgroup: Standardize Value Plans (**all** cost-sharing **specified**)
- 2024 – First year of **standardized** Value Plans (\$0 for a suite of diabetes care management services - equity)
 - Finalized 2025 designs - adjustments to comply with 2025 Actuarial Value Calculator
- Present – draft/propose Value Plan designs for PY2026

2026 Draft Value Plans

- Reduce lab copays – affordability for chronic conditions/comorbidities/high disparity conditions
 - Bronze lab copay - \$55 (from \$80)
 - Silver 73 and Base Silver lab copays - \$45 (from \$80)
- Align pediatric dental coinsurance across the two Major Services classes to align Maryland with other states

	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	Gold	*Proposed* Gold	CSR 94%	*Proposed* CSR 94%	CSR 87%	*Proposed* CSR 87%	2025 CSR 73%	*Proposed* CSR 73%	2025 Base Silver	*Proposed* Base Silver	2025 Bronze - Expanded	*Proposed* Bronze - Expanded
Class I Preventive & Diagnostic Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class II Basic Services	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Class III Major Services	20%	50%	20%	20%	20%	30%	20%	40%	20%	50%	20%	50%
Class IV Major Services – Restorative	50%	50%	50%	20%	50%	30%	50%	40%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Class V Orthodontic Services	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

• All other elements remain unchanged from 2025

These modifications are based on 2025 Value Plan designs

Timeline

- September 12, 2024 – Present draft proposed 2026 standards to Standing Advisory Committee
- September 16, 2024 – Present draft proposed 2026 standards to the Board
- Fall/Winter, TBD – AV Calculator to be released; staff adjust designs and Workgroup convenes as necessary
- January 21, 2025 – Board vote on final proposed 2026 Value Plan standards
- Jan 21 – Feb 18 – Public comment period
- February 18, 2025 – Board vote on final 2026 standards

Maternal Health and Coverage for Pregnancy and Postpartum Care

Background

- Maryland engages in statewide efforts to curb the growth of healthcare costs, improve population health, and advance health equity through reducing disparities in health outcomes
- One of the State's priority areas for improving population health includes **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) outcomes and disparities**
 - Reducing the maternal morbidity rate is one of the population health targets under the [Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy \(SIHIS\)](#)
 - More information on MHC as a population health priority area under SIHIS in this [Maryland Department of Health 2023 report](#)
- Why is this important? Appropriate prenatal care can reduce the risk of complications for mothers and their infants during and after pregnancy that may result in lengthy and costly hospital stays and/or increased risk of maternal morbidity

MHBE Background

- **State Reinsurance Program (SRP) and Carrier Accountability Reports**
 - MHBE requires all carriers to submit annual reports that describe carrier activities to manage costs and utilization of enrollees whose claims were reimbursed by the SRP. Seek to collect information on conditions in alignment with state population health goals and conditions with preventable costs, including **Pregnancy/Childbirth**
 - Pregnancy is among the top Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCCs) reported for the reinsurance population

Top 5 Most Frequent Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCCs) among SRP Claims

2020	2021	2022
Diabetes with and without Complications	Diabetes with and without Complications	Diabetes with and without Complications
HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS	Ongoing Pregnancy without Delivery with No or Minor Complications
Cancers	Cancers	Major Depressive Disorder, Severe, and Bipolar Disorders
Heart Failure	Ongoing Pregnancy without Delivery with No or Minor Complications	Varicella Encephalitis and Encephalomyelitis
Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Heart Failure	Cancers

- Ongoing Pregnancy without Delivery with No/Minor Complications were among the most frequent HCCs in 2 of the 3 years

Top 5 Highest Cost HCCs among SRP Claims by Total Allowed Claims

2020	2021	2022
Cancers	Cancers	Cancers
Septicemia, Sepsis, Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome/Shock	Septicemia, Sepsis, Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome/Shock	Septicemia, Sepsis, Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome/Shock
Respiratory Arrest, Failure and Shock	Hemophilia	Ongoing Pregnancy without Delivery with No or Minor Complications
Diabetes with and without Complications	End Stage Renal Disease	Hemophilia
Heart Failure	Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Heart Failure

- Ongoing Pregnancy without Delivery with No/Minor Complications was among the most high cost HCCs in 2022

Maternal Health Care Costs for Insured Marylanders

Aika Aluc, Diana Hsu

Traditional Coverage for Health Plans Post-ACA*

No Cost-Sharing

- Routine prenatal visits and screenings
 - Anemia
 - Gestational diabetes
 - Hepatitis B
 - Rh incompatibility
- Folic acid supplements
- Tobacco cessation counseling and interventions
- Breastfeeding services

Covered with Cost-Sharing

- Childbirth/delivery services
 - Vaginal
 - C-section
- Postpartum care
 - Mental health
 - Preventing violence

Case Study: C-Section for Preeclampsia

General Insurance Information

- **Coverage Type:** Private Insurer – Small Group Off-SHOP (Employer)
- **Deductible:** \$4,500 (Met)
- **Out-of-Pocket Maximum:** \$16,000

Delivery Costs

- **Delivery and postpartum recovery (5-days):** \$845.00
- **Neonate monitoring and care:** \$510.00
- **Total out-of-pocket costs:** \$1,355.00

MHC Consumer Costs for Pregnancy/Childbirth

Coverage examples for estimated out-of pocket costs of having a baby under MHC plans at each metal level:

- Bronze: **\$7470**
- Silver: **\$5370**
- Gold: **\$2970**

*Plan with median-priced premium was chosen at each metal level for these examples, and the estimated costs include 9 months of in-network prenatal care and hospital delivery.



Discussion

Discussion

Open discussion: Areas within MHBE's authority to address maternal/pregnancy and postpartum care regarding affordability, cost containment, and health equity

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Public Comment

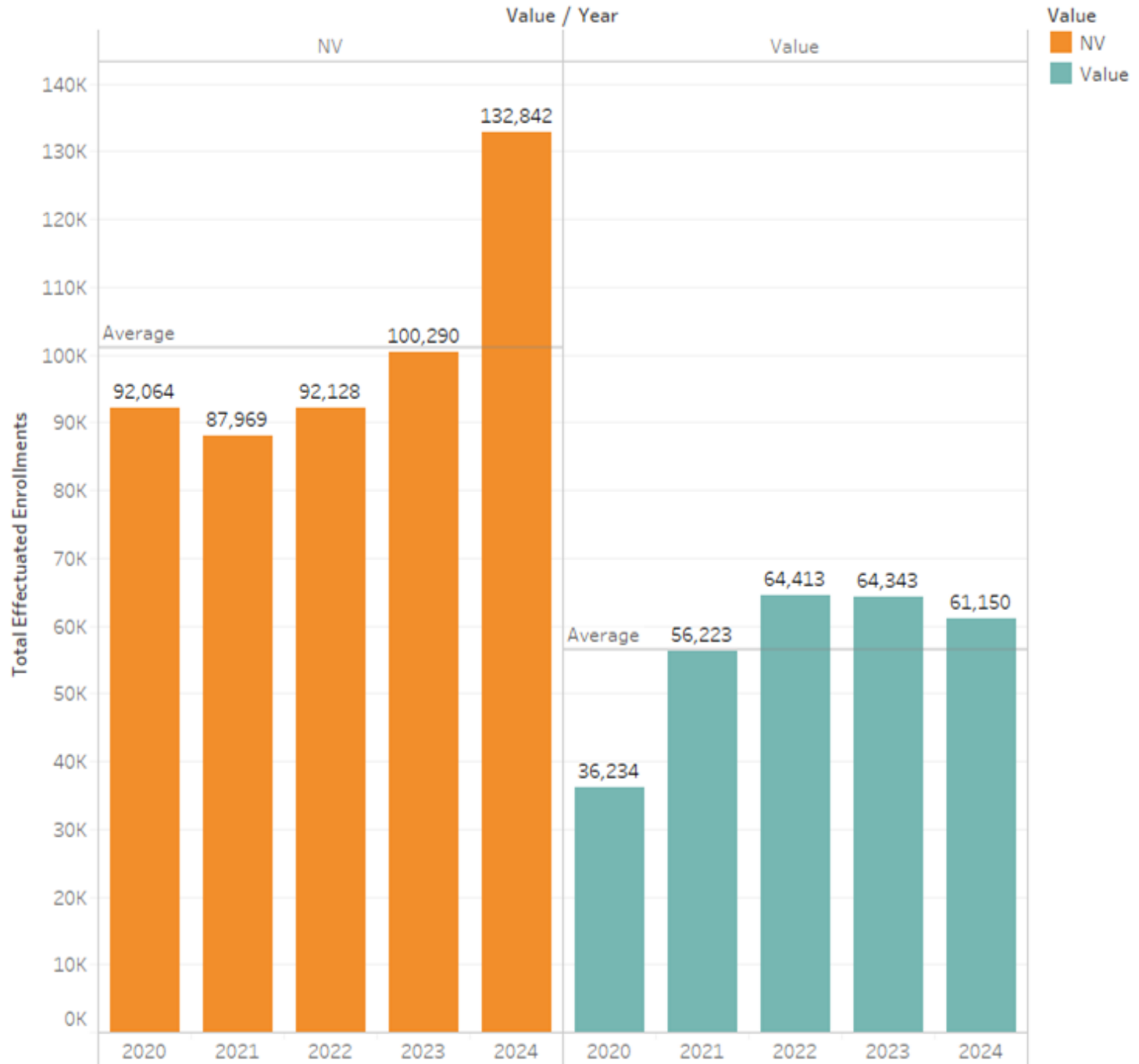
Appendix



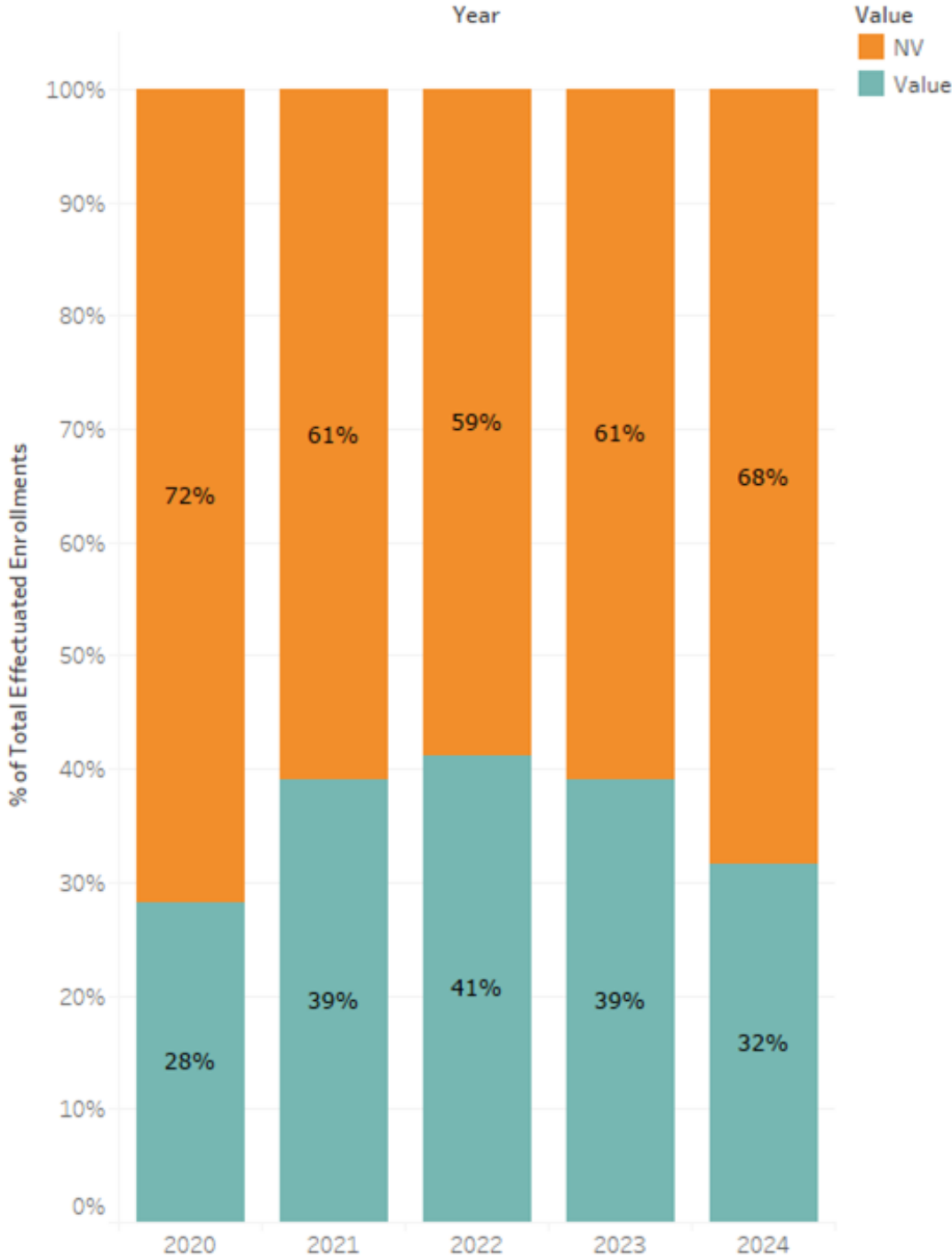
Plan Certification Standards Background

- MHBE sets plan certification standards for individual market plans sold through Maryland Health Connection, which encompass plan design, operational, and other requirements, such as:
 - Require NCQA Health Equity Accreditation (2024)
 - Dental carriers must have PayNow functionality for Stand-Alone Dental Plans (2023)
 - **Value Plan standards (annually 2020-present)**
- Value Plan design as a policy tool
 - Affordability/access; simplify plan choice; promote health equity

Enrollment in Value Plans vs. Non-Value Plans, 2020-2024



Value Plan Enrollment as a Share of Total Enrollment, 2020 - 2024



2026 Draft Value Plan Designs (1/2)

	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026
	Proposed Gold	*Proposed* CSR 94%	*Proposed* CSR 87%	*Proposed* CSR 73%	*Proposed* Base Silver	*Proposed* Bronze - Expanded
Actuarial Value	81.75%	94.90%	87.84%	73.87%	71.40%	64.78%
Medical Deductible	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$9,200
Drug Deductible	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$750	\$750	n/a
Medical MOOP	\$6,750	\$1,850	\$2,550	\$5,850	\$7,600	\$9,200
Rx MOOP	\$600	\$250	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500	n/a
Combined MOOP	\$7,350	\$2,100	\$3,050	\$7,350	\$9,100	\$9,200
Emergency Room Services	\$350	\$75	\$150	\$500	\$500	n/a
All Inpatient Hospital Services (inc. MH/SUD)	\$450	\$150	\$350	\$550	\$550	n/a
Primary Care Visit to Treat an Injury or Illness (exc. Preventive, and X-rays)	\$10	\$5	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Specialist Visit	\$35	\$20	\$35	\$100	\$100	\$100
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Office Visits	\$10	\$5	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services	\$10	\$5	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$0
Imaging (CT/PET Scans, MRIs)	\$400	\$125	\$350	\$600	\$600	n/a
Speech Therapy	\$10	\$5	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Occupational and Physical Therapy	\$10	\$5	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Preventive Care/Screening/Immunization	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Laboratory Outpatient and Professional Services	\$25	\$5	\$25	\$45	\$45	\$55
X-rays and Diagnostic Imaging	\$50	\$20	\$50	\$150	\$150	\$150
Skilled Nursing Facility	\$75	\$30	\$75	\$150	\$150	n/a
Outpatient Facility Fee (e.g., Ambulatory Surgery Center)	\$250	\$50	\$75	\$150	\$150	n/a
Outpatient Surgery Physician/Surgical Services	\$125	\$60	\$125	\$150	\$150	n/a
Generic Drugs	\$10	\$0	\$6	\$25	\$25	\$25
Preferred Brand Drugs	\$30	\$5	\$25	\$75	\$75	n/a
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	\$60	\$15	\$50	\$80	\$80	n/a
Specialty Drugs (i.e. high-cost)	\$75	\$25	\$60	\$100	\$100	n/a

2026 Draft Value Plan Designs (2/2)

Additional Standardized Service Categories							
Durable Medical Equipment	Yes - No	20%	10%	20%	30%	30%	n/a
Emergency Transportation/Ambulance	Yes - No	\$300	\$50	\$100	\$350	\$350	n/a
Habilitation Services	Yes - No	\$10	\$2	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Home Health Care Services	Yes - No	\$30	\$10	\$25	\$45	\$45	n/a
Hospice Services	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inpatient Physician and Surgical Services	Yes - No	\$30	\$10	\$25	\$40	\$45	n/a
Outpatient Rehabilitation Services	Yes - No	\$10	\$2	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Substance Abuse Disorder Outpatient Services	Yes - No	\$10	\$2	\$10	\$35	\$35	\$35
Urgent Care Centers or Facilities	Yes - No	\$40	\$15	\$30	\$75	\$75	\$75
Pediatric Vision							
Routine Eye Exam for Children (optometrist)	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Eye exam by an Ophthalmologist	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Basic Lenses	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Frames	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contacts – elective (i.e. in lieu of lenses and frames)	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contacts – medically necessary	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Low vision testing	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Low vision aid	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pediatric Dental							
Class I Preventive & Diagnostic Services	Yes - No	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class II Basic Services	Yes - No	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Class III Major Services	Yes - No	50%	20%	30%	40%	50%	50%
Class IV Major Services – Restorative	Yes - No	50%	20%	30%	40%	50%	50%
Class V Orthodontic Services	Yes - No	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

Silver 73

Blue text = pre-deductible coverage

	2025 CSR 73%	*Draft 2026 CSR 73*
Actuarial Value	73.80%	73.87%
Medical Deductible*	\$4,500	\$4,500
Drug Deductible*	\$750	\$750
Medical Max Out-of-Pocket (MOOP)*	\$5,850	\$5,850
Rx MOOP*	\$1,500	\$1,500
Combined MOOP*	\$7,350	\$7,350
Emergency Room Services	\$500	\$500
All Inpatient Hospital Services (inc. MH/SUD)	\$550	\$550
Primary Care Visit to Treat an Injury or Illness (exc. Preventive, and X-rays)	\$35	\$35
Specialist Visit	\$100	\$100
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Office Visits	\$35	\$35
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder All Other Outpatient Services	\$35	\$35
Imaging (CT/PET Scans, MRIs)	\$600	\$600
Speech Therapy	\$35	\$35
Occupational and Physical Therapy	\$35	\$35
Preventive Care/Screening/Immunization	\$0	\$0
Laboratory Outpatient and Professional Services	\$80	\$45
X-rays and Diagnostic Imaging	\$150	\$150
Skilled Nursing Facility	\$150	\$150
Outpatient Facility Fee (e.g., Ambulatory Surgery Center)	\$150	\$150
Outpatient Surgery Physician/Surgical Services	\$150	\$150
Generic Drugs	\$25	\$25
Preferred Brand Drugs	\$75	\$75
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	\$80	\$80
Specialty Drugs (i.e. high-cost)	\$100	\$100

Base Silver

Blue text = pre-deductible coverage

	2025 Base Silver	*Draft 2026 Base Silver*
Actuarial Value	71.32%	71.40%
Medical Deductible*	\$4,500	\$4,500
Drug Deductible*	\$750	\$750
Medical Max Out-of-Pocket (MOOP)*	\$7,600	\$7,600
Rx MOOP*	\$1,500	\$1,500
Combined MOOP*	\$9,100	\$9,100
Emergency Room Services	\$500	\$500
All Inpatient Hospital Services (inc. MH/SUD)	\$550	\$550
Primary Care Visit to Treat an Injury or Illness (exc. Preventive, and X-rays)	\$35	\$35
Specialist Visit	\$100	\$100
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Office Visits	\$35	\$35
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder All Other Outpatient Services	\$35	\$35
Imaging (CT/PET Scans, MRIs)	\$600	\$600
Speech Therapy	\$35	\$35
Occupational and Physical Therapy	\$35	\$35
Preventive Care/Screening/Immunization	\$0	\$0
Laboratory Outpatient and Professional Services	\$80	\$45
X-rays and Diagnostic Imaging	\$150	\$150
Skilled Nursing Facility	\$150	\$150
Outpatient Facility Fee (e.g., Ambulatory Surgery Center)	\$150	\$150
Outpatient Surgery Physician/Surgical Services	\$150	\$150
Generic Drugs	\$25	\$25
Preferred Brand Drugs	\$75	\$75
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	\$80	\$80
Specialty Drugs (i.e. high-cost)	\$100	\$100

Bronze

Blue text = pre-deductible cover

	2025	2026
	2025 Bronze - Expanded	*Proposed* Bronze - Expanded
Actuarial Value	64.73%	64.78%
Medical Deductible	\$9,200	\$9,200
Drug Deductible	n/a	n/a
Medical MOOP	\$9,200	\$9,200
Rx MOOP	n/a	n/a
Combined MOOP	\$9,200	\$9,200
Emergency Room Services	n/a	n/a
All Inpatient Hospital Services (inc. MH/SUD)	n/a	n/a
Primary Care Visit to Treat an Injury or Illness (exc. Preventive, and X-rays)	\$35	\$35
Specialist Visit	\$100	\$100
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Office Visits	\$35	\$35
Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services	\$35	\$0
Imaging (CT/PET Scans, MRIs)	n/a	n/a
Speech Therapy	\$35	\$35
Occupational and Physical Therapy	\$35	\$35
Preventive Care/Screening/Immunization	\$0	\$0
Laboratory Outpatient and Professional Services	\$80	\$55
X-rays and Diagnostic Imaging	\$150	\$150
Skilled Nursing Facility	n/a	n/a
Outpatient Facility Fee (e.g., Ambulatory Surgery Center)	n/a	n/a
Outpatient Surgery Physician/Surgical Services	n/a	n/a
Generic Drugs	\$25	\$25
Preferred Brand Drugs	n/a	n/a
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	n/a	n/a
Specialty Drugs (i.e. high-cost)	n/a	n/a