

Health insurance words to know

- **Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare** – A law passed in 2010 that made many changes in how Americans get health insurance. It created a website, the Health Insurance Marketplace, as a new way to buy health insurance.
- **Assister** – People (see “Certified Application Counselors” and “Navigators”) who provide free help to consumers enrolling in the Health Insurance Marketplace. Find an assister in your area at: www.covermissouri.org.
- **Benefits** – The health care services or items, such as medicines or medical equipment, your health insurance plan covers.
- **Catastrophic coverage** – An insurance plan in the Health Insurance Marketplace that offers limited coverage for health care services. This plan is only available to adults under age 30 or adults who get a hardship waiver for a life situation that kept you from getting health insurance – for example, recent death of a close family member.
- **Certified Application Counselors (CACs)** – People who provide free help to consumers enrolling in the Health Insurance Marketplace. CACs work at local community organizations, hospitals or health centers.
- **COBRA coverage** – If you lose your job, you can temporarily keep your employee health insurance – but you must pay all of the monthly premiums yourself, including the share the employer used to pay.
- **Co-insurance** – Your share of the cost for health care services after you have paid your deductible each year (see “Deductible”). Once you reach your deductible, the insurance plan will start sharing the cost of health care with you. For example, if you go for a doctor visit that costs \$100, your share may be \$20 and your insurance plan’s share may be the remaining \$80.
- **Copayment** – A fixed amount you may pay at the time you receive a health care service – for example, you may pay \$15 when you go for a doctor visit.
- **Cost sharing reductions** – Money the government pays to help cover out-of-pocket health care costs for people who qualify. People qualify based on their yearly income and by enrolling in a Marketplace Silver Plan.
- **Deductible** – The amount you must pay out of your own pocket for your covered health care services each year – for example, \$1,000. Once you reach your deductible, your insurance plan will begin sharing the cost with you (see “Co-insurance”).
- **Employer-sponsored insurance plan** – Insurance you get through your job. Employers that offer an insurance plan pay a share of their employees’ monthly premiums.
- **Essential health benefits** – The 10 kinds of health care services most insurance plans must now cover, including care to help prevent disease, care for children, emergency care, prescription drugs and more.
- **Excluded services** – Health care services that are not covered and not paid for by your insurance plan.
- **Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** – A written explanation your insurance company sends you after you get a health care service. The EOB shows how much money the insurance company paid and how much money you must pay (if any) for the covered health care service or item. The EOB is not a bill. If you owe any money, you will get a bill from your health care provider.
- **Federal Poverty Level (FPL)** – A measurement of how much a person or family needs to earn so that they can pay for food, clothing, housing and other necessary things. The government decides what the FPL is for each year.
- **Health Insurance Marketplace** – An online marketplace where you can buy a Qualified Health Plan (Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum) or Catastrophic coverage from private insurance companies.
- **Medicaid** – A government health insurance program for Americans who have a low income or disability. In Missouri, this program is called “MO HealthNet” for adults, and “MO HealthNet for Kids” for children up to age 19.



- **Medicare** – A government health insurance program for Americans who are age 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities and people who have end-stage renal disease (kidney failure).
- **Navigators** – People who are certified to provide free help to consumers enrolling in the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- **Network providers or in-network providers** – Health care providers, including doctors, hospitals and other suppliers, who contract with your insurance plan to give you health care services to you at a lower cost. Network providers are also called “preferred” providers.
- **Open Enrollment** – A period of time when you can enroll in or change an insurance plan in the Marketplace. Find dates for Open Enrollment at: www.healthcare.gov.
- **Out-of-network providers** – Health care providers, including doctors and hospitals, who have not contracted with your insurance plan. You’ll pay more for their services. Out-of-network providers are also called “non-preferred” providers.
- **Out-of-pocket costs, also known as cost sharing** – Money that you pay for health care services yourself, out of your own pocket. These costs include deductibles, copayments and co-insurance. They do not include monthly premiums and may not include costs for services you get outside your provider network.
- **Out-of-pocket maximum** – A limit on your out-of-pocket costs – for example, \$5,000. After you have reached your out-of-pocket maximum for the year, your insurance company will pay 100 percent of your covered essential health benefits. Out-of-pocket maximum costs differ from plan to plan.
- **Pre-existing condition** – A health problem you had before your health insurance started. Health insurance companies can’t refuse to cover you or charge you more just because you have a pre-existing condition.
- **Premium** – The cost you pay for your health insurance. Premiums may be paid by you, your employer or a combination of both. It is usually paid monthly.
- **Preventive care** – Routine health care that includes screenings, check-ups, and patient counseling to help prevent illnesses, disease or other health problems. Many preventive care services are covered at no cost.
- **Qualified Health Plan** – An insurance plan that provides the 10 essential health benefits and meets other standards put forth by the Affordable Care Act. The Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum plans sold in the Health Insurance Marketplace are qualified health plans.
- **Short-term, limited duration (STLD) health insurance plans** – Plans that provide coverage for a limited amount of time – the contract lasts less than one year and may be renewed for up to 3 years at most. They do not have to follow the rules of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), so these plans may not cover pre-existing conditions or all 10 essential health benefits, and may put limits on how much they’ll pay for covered health care.
- **Special Enrollment Period** – A period of time outside of Open Enrollment when some people can enroll in or change an insurance plan in the Marketplace. In general, you may get a Special Enrollment Period when you have a qualifying life event, such as moving to a new state or having a baby.
- **Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC)** – A written summary that shows its costs and benefits. When you’re shopping for health insurance, you can compare the costs and benefits of different plans by reading their SBCs. When you enroll in a health insurance plan, your insurance company will send you the SBC for your plan.
- **Tax credits, advance premium tax credits** – Money the government pays to help cover monthly premium payments for people who qualify. People qualify based on their yearly income.



Find free, in-person help

Find free in-person help from trained assisters near you. Visit covermissouri.org or call **1-800-466-3213** to set up an appointment to learn more or enroll.



Contact the marketplace

The Marketplace Call Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call **1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325)**. You can also have a live online chat at healthcare.gov.



Para El Español

Encuentre ayuda gratuita de personas capacitadas cerca de usted llamando **1-800-318-2596** o visitando cuidadodesalud.gov.



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