

## Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing.

### What is “balance billing” (sometimes called “surprise billing”)?

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, such as a copayment, coinsurance, and/or a deductible. You may have other costs or must pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

“Out-of-network” describes providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan. Out-of-network providers may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your plan agreed to pay, and the full amount charged for a service. This is called “**balance billing**.” This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your annual out-of-pocket limit.

“Surprise billing” is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider.

### You are protected from balance billing for:

#### **Emergency services**

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most the provider or facility may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments and coinsurance). You **can't** be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

### Ohio Bankers Benefits Trust and Anthem Plan Language

#### No Surprises Billing Act Requirements

#### *Emergency Services*

As required by the CAA, Emergency Services are covered under your Plan:

- Without the need for Precertification
- Whether the Provider is In-Network or Out-of-Network

If the Emergency Services you receive are provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, Covered Services will be processed at the In-Network benefit level.

Note that if you receive Emergency Services from an Out-of-Network Provider, your Out-of-Pocket costs will be limited to amounts that would apply if the Covered Services had been furnished by an In-Network Provider, However, Out-of-Network cost shares (i.e., Copayments, Deductibles and/or Coinsurance) will apply to your claim if the treating Out-of-Network Provider determines you are stable, meaning you have been provided necessary Emergency Care such that your condition will not

materially worsen and the Out-of-Network Provider determines: (i) that you are able to travel to an In-Network Facility by non-emergency transport; (ii) the Out-of-Network Provider complies with the notice and consent requirement; and (iii) you are in condition to receive the information and provide informed consent. If you continue to receive services from the Out-of-Network Provider after you are stabilized, you will be responsible for the Out-of-Network cost-shares, and the Out-of-Network Provider will also be able to charge you any difference between the Maximum Allowable Amount and the Out-of-Network Provider's billed charges. This notice and consent exception does not apply if the Covered Services furnished by an Out-of-Network Provider result from unforeseen and urgent medical needs arising at the time of service.

### **Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center**

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers **can't** balance bill you and may **not** ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

If you get other services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers **can't** balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

**You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get care out-of-network. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.**

### **Ohio Bankers Benefits Trust and Anthem Plan Language**

#### **No Surprises Billing Act Requirements**

##### *Out-of-Network Services Provided at an In-Network Facility*

When you receive Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Provider at an In-Network Facility, your claims will be paid at the Out-of-Network benefit level if the Out-of-Network Provider gives you proper notice of its charges, and you give written consent to such charges. This means you will be responsible for Out-of-Network cost-shares for those services and the Out-of-Network Provider can also charge you any difference between the Maximum Allowable Amount and the Out-of-Network Provider's billed charges. This requirement does not apply to Ancillary Services. Ancillary Services are one of the following services: (A) Emergency Services; (B) anesthesiology; (C) pathology; (D) radiology; (E) neonatology; (F) diagnostic services; (G) assistant surgeons; (I) Hospitalists; (J) Intensivists; and (K) any services set out by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In addition, Anthem will not apply this notice and consent process to you if Anthem does not have an In-Network Provider in your area who can perform the services you require.

### **When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have the following protections:**

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Your health plan generally must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (prior authorization).
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.

- Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
- Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

**If you believe you've been wrongly billed**, you may contact Ohio Bankers Benefits Trust; 4215 Worth Avenue; Suite 300; Columbus, Ohio 43219.

email: [OBBTcustomerservice@ohiobankersleague.com](mailto:OBBTcustomerservice@ohiobankersleague.com);

Phone (614)340-7615

For additional information:

Visit <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/no-surprises-understand-your-rights-against-surprise-medical-bills> for more information about your rights under federal law.

**If you already paid a surprise medical bill**

If you got a surprise bill for medical services provided on or after January 1, 2022, and already paid more than you're in-network cost share (copayment, coinsurance, or deductible), you can contact Ohio Bankers Benefits Trust for resolution.

You can also:

- Call the No Surprises Help Desk at 1-800-985-3059.
- Get help in a language other than English. Information about how to access these services is available through the No Surprises Help Desk.
- Call the No Surprises Help Desk to get this information in an accessible format, like large print, Braille, or audio, at no cost to you.
- You can also appeal to your health insurance company or plan or contact your health care provider to tell them you think you shouldn't have been billed for more than you're in-network charges. Your provider may be able to resolve the issue.

Visit <https://insurance.ohio.gov/strategic-initiatives/surprise-billing> for more information about your rights under Ohio State law.

- If you have surprise billing questions or concerns, you can contact Ohio Bankers Benefits Trust for resolution. You can also contact the department at 1-800-686-1526, [consumer.complaint@insurance.ohio.gov](mailto:consumer.complaint@insurance.ohio.gov) and through [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov)