

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.

This notice describes your rights under the No Surprises Act. This notice is not intended to expand those rights. To the extent there is any discrepancy between the content of this notice and the No Surprises Act, the No Surprises Act will control.

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 have to 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 either directly with your health plan or via your health plan's preferred provider network. These out-of-network providers/facilities are also sometimes referred to as “non-network”, “non-participating”, or “non-preferred” providers and facilities. Out-of-network providers and facilities may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your health 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 health 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. **You are never required to give consent.**

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 health 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 an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, 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 health plan's network.

Air Ambulance

You also have protection from balance billing for air ambulance services, but only if you meet your health plan's requirements for coverage of air ambulance services, including the requirement that you obtain pre-certification (unless your health plan's utilization review manager ultimately determines that ground transportation would have endangered your life).

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 (pre-certification or 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 Customer Service at 888-276-4732 or the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 866-444-3272.

Visit <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/no-surprises-act> for more information about your rights under federal law.