

Annual Notice of Changes for 2024

You are currently enrolled as a member of Blue Shield Rx Plus. Next year, there will be changes to the plan's costs and benefits. **Please see page 4 for a Summary of Important Costs, including Premium.**

This document tells about the changes to your plan. To get more information about costs, benefits, or rules please review the *Evidence of Coverage*, which is located on our website at **blueshieldca.com/PDPdocuments2024**. You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

- **You have from October 15 until December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.**

What to do now

1. **ASK:** Which changes apply to you

- Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
 - Review the changes to our drug coverage, including authorization requirements and costs
 - Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing
- Check the changes in the 2024 "Drug List" to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.
- Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. **COMPARE:** Learn about other plan choices

- Check coverage and costs of plans in your area. Use the Medicare Plan Finder at **www.medicare.gov/plan-compare** website or review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You 2024* handbook.
- Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan's website.

3. **CHOOSE:** Decide whether you want to change your plan

- If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2023, you will stay in Blue Shield Rx Plus.
- To change to a **different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1, 2024**. This will end your enrollment with Blue Shield Rx Plus.

Additional Resources

- This document is available for free in Spanish.
- Please contact our Customer Service number at **(888) 239-6469** for additional information. (**TTY users should call 711**.) Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. This call is free.
- If you would like to receive your plan materials online, log in to your account at **blueshieldca.com/login**, click *My profile* on the top right under your initials, go to Communication preferences and select "Electronic Delivery" as your delivery preference. If you do not have an

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account, go to blueshieldca.com/login and click *Create account* and you can select your delivery preference as you create your account.

- This information may be available in a different format, including large print. Please call Customer Service at the number listed above if you need plan information in another format.

About Blue Shield Rx Plus

- Blue Shield of California is a PDP plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Shield of California depends on contract renewal. Blue Shield of California's pharmacy network includes very limited lower-cost, preferred pharmacies in California. The lower costs advertised in our plan materials for these pharmacies may not be available at the pharmacy you use. For up-to-date information about our network pharmacies, including whether there are any lower-cost preferred pharmacies in your area, please call (888) 239-6469 [TTY: 711], 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week or consult the online pharmacy directory at blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2024.
- When this document says "we," "us," or "our," it means California Physicians' Service (dba Blue Shield of California). When it says "plan" or "our plan," it means Blue Shield Rx Plus.

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Summary of Important Costs for 2024

The table below compares the 2023 costs and 2024 costs for Blue Shield Rx Plus in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of costs.**

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Monthly plan premium*</p> <p>*Your premium may be higher or lower than this amount. See Section 1.1 for details.</p>	<p>\$96.50</p>	<p>\$168.90</p>
<p>Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 1.3 for details.)</p>	<p>Deductible: \$505; does not apply to Drug Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs, covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.</p> <p>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 1: \$1 or \$9* copay • Drug Tier 2: \$12 or \$19* copay • Drug Tier 3: \$43 or \$47* copay <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 4: 47% or 50%* coinsurance 	<p>Deductible: \$545; does not apply to Drug Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs, covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.</p> <p>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 1: \$1 or \$9* copay • Drug Tier 2: \$14 or \$20* copay • Drug Tier 3: \$45 or \$47* copay <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 4: 47% or 50%* coinsurance <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Part D prescription drug coverage (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 5: 25% coinsurance <p>* The first amount listed is what you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with preferred cost-sharing.</p> <p>The second amount listed is what you will pay if you use a network pharmacy with standard cost-sharing. See Section 1.3 below for more information.</p> <p>Catastrophic Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this payment stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your covered drugs. • For each prescription, you pay whichever of these is larger: a payment equal to 5% of the cost of the drug (this is called coinsurance), or a copayment (\$4.15 for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic, and \$10.35 for all other drugs.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 5: 25% coinsurance <p>Catastrophic Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing.

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Monthly premium	\$96.50	\$168.90
(You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium unless it is paid for you by Medi-Cal (Medicaid).)		

- Your monthly plan premium will be *more* if you are required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without other drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as creditable coverage) for 63 days or more.
- If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for your Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Your monthly premium will be *less* if you are receiving “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs. Please see Section 5 regarding “Extra Help” from Medicare.

Section 1.2 – Changes to the Pharmacy Network

Amounts you pay for your prescription drugs may depend on which pharmacy you use. Medicare drug plans have a network of pharmacies. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies. Our network includes pharmacies with preferred cost sharing, which may offer you lower cost sharing than the standard cost sharing offered by other network pharmacies for some drugs.

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. An updated *Pharmacy Directory* is located on our website at blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2024. You may also call Customer Service for updated provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Pharmacy Directory*. **Please review the 2024 Pharmacy Directory to see which pharmacies are in our network.**

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the pharmacies that are part of your plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our pharmacies affects you, please contact Customer Service so we may assist.

Section 1.3 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Changes to Our “Drug List”

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or “Drug List.” A copy of our “Drug List” is provided electronically.

We made changes to our “Drug List,” which could include removing or adding drugs, changing the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs or moving them to a different cost-sharing tier. **Review the “Drug List” to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions, or if your drug has been moved to a different cost-sharing tier.**

Most of the changes in the “Drug List” are new for the beginning of each year. However, during the year, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules. For instance, we can immediately

remove drugs considered unsafe by the FDA or withdrawn from the market by a product manufacturer. We update our online “Drug List” to provide the most up to date list of drugs.

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, please review Chapter 7 of your Evidence of Coverage and talk to your doctor to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception and/or working to find a new drug. You can also contact Customer Service for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

Note: If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs (“Extra Help”), **the information about costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (also called the Low-Income Subsidy Rider or the LIS Rider), which tells you about your drug costs. If you receive “Extra Help” and you haven’t received this insert by September 30, 2023, please call Customer Service and ask for the LIS Rider.

There are four **drug payment stages**. The information below shows the changes to the first two stages – the Yearly Deductible Stage and the Initial Coverage Stage. (Most members do not reach the other two stages – the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.)

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage</p> <p>During this stage, you pay the full cost of your Tier 2: Generic Drugs, Tier 3: Preferred Brand Drugs, Tier 4: Non-Preferred Drugs and Tier 5: Specialty Tier drugs until you have reached the yearly deductible. The deductible doesn’t apply to covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines, including shingles, tetanus and travel vaccines.</p>	<p>The deductible is \$505.</p> <p>During this stage, you pay \$9 (standard cost-sharing) or \$1 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs and the full cost of drugs on all other tiers until you have reached the yearly deductible.</p>	<p>The deductible is \$545.</p> <p>During this stage, you pay \$9 (standard cost-sharing) or \$1 (preferred cost-sharing) for drugs on Tier 1: Preferred Generic Drugs and the full cost of drugs on all other tiers until you have reached the yearly deductible.</p>

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage</p> <p>Once you pay the yearly deductible, you move to the Initial Coverage Stage. During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs and you pay your share of the cost</p> <p>The costs in this row are for a one-month (30-day) supply when you fill your prescription at a network pharmacy. For information about the costs for a long-term supply or for mail service prescriptions, look in Chapter 4, Section 5 of your <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.</p> <p>We changed the tier for some of the drugs on our “Drug List.” To see if your drugs will be in a different tier, look them up on the “Drug List.”</p> <p>Most adult Part D vaccines are covered at no cost to you.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</p> <p>Tier 1 Preferred Generic Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$9 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$1 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 2 Generic Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$19 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$12 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$47 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$43 per prescription.</p> <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p> <p>Tier 4 Non-Preferred Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay 50% of the total cost.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay 47% of the total cost.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</p> <p>Tier 1 Preferred Generic Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$9 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$1 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 2 Generic Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$20 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$14 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$47 per prescription.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay \$45 per prescription.</p> <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p> <p>Tier 4 Non-Preferred Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay 50% of the total cost.</p> <p><i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay 47% of the total cost.</p> <p>You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.</p>

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage (continued)	Tier 5 Specialty Tier Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost. <i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost. ----- Once your total drug costs have reached \$4,660, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).	Tier 5 Specialty Tier Drugs: <i>Standard cost-sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost. <i>Preferred cost-sharing:</i> You pay 25% of the total cost. ----- Once your total drug costs have reached \$5,030, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).

Changes to the Coverage Gap and Catastrophic Coverage Stages

The other two drug coverage stages – the Coverage Gap Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage – are for people with high drug costs. **Most members do not reach the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.**

Beginning in 2024, if you reach the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you pay nothing for covered Part D drugs.

For specific information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 4, Sections 6 and 7, in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 2 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 2.1 – If You Want to Stay in Blue Shield Rx Plus

To stay in our plan, you don't need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan by December 7, you will automatically be enrolled in our Blue Shield Rx Plus.

Section 2.2 – If You Want to Change Plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2024 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare prescription drug plan,
- -- *OR*-- You can change to a Medicare health plan. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage,
- -- *OR*-- You can keep your current Medicare health coverage and drop your Medicare prescription drug coverage.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder (www.medicare.gov/plan-compare), read the *Medicare & You 2024* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 4), or call Medicare (see Section 6.2).

As a reminder, California Physicians' Service (dba Blue Shield of California) offers other Medicare prescription drug plans. These other plans may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and cost-sharing amounts.

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield Rx Plus.
- To **change to a Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. Depending on which type of plan you choose, you may automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield Rx Plus.
 - You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue Shield Rx Plus if you enroll in any Medicare health plan that includes Part D prescription drug coverage. You will also automatically be disenrolled if you join a Medicare HMO or Medicare PPO, even if that plan does not include prescription drug coverage.
 - If you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that new plan and keep Blue Shield Rx Plus for your drug coverage. Enrolling in one of these plan types will not automatically disenroll you from Blue Shield Rx Plus. If you are enrolling in this plan type and want to leave our plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from Blue Shield Rx Plus. To ask to be disenrolled, you must send us a written request or contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048).

- To **change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan**, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do so.
 - Contact **Medicare**, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 3 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different prescription drug plan or to a Medicare health plan for next year, you can do it from **October 15 until December 7**. The change will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. Examples include people with Medicaid, those who get “Extra Help” paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area.

If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can change your Medicare coverage **at any time**. You can change to any other Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time.

SECTION 4 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In California, the SHIP is called Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP).

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. HICAP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call HICAP at (800) 434-0222. You can learn more about HICAP by visiting their website (<http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/hicap/>).

SECTION 5 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Below we list different kinds of help:

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. To see if you qualify, call:
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
 - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users should call, 1-800-325-0778; or
 - Your State Medicaid Office (applications).
- **Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS.** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of State residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the State, and uninsured/under-insured status. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the ADAP in California. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call the California ADAP Call Center at (844) 421-7050, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit their website at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_adap_eligibility.aspx.

SECTION 6 Questions?

Section 6.1 – Getting Help from Blue Shield Rx Plus

Questions? We’re here to help. Please call Customer Service at **(888) 239-6469**. (TTY only, call 711.) We are available for phone calls 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your *2024 Evidence of Coverage* (it has details about next year's benefits and costs)

This *Annual Notice of Changes* gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2024. For details, look in the *2024 Evidence of Coverage* for Blue Shield Rx Plus. The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the *Evidence of Coverage* is located on our website at blueshieldca.com/PDPdocuments2024. You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at blueshieldca.com/medicare. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our pharmacy network (*Pharmacy Directory*) and our *List of Covered Drugs* (*Formulary*/"Drug List").

Section 6.2 – Getting Help from Medicare

To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Visit the Medicare Website

Visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star Ratings to help you compare Medicare prescription drug plans in your area. To view the information about plans, go to www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Read *Medicare & You 2024*

Read the *Medicare & You 2024* handbook. Every fall, this document is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this document, you can get it at the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf>) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.