



Video transcript: Health Plan 101
Approximate time: 3:20

Some things in life are simple.

Understanding your health benefits isn't always one of them.

We're here to help make it easier by explaining how many health plans work.

Your health plan provides coverage to help you pay for medical care and prescriptions.

A premium is the amount you pay out of your paycheck for coverage.

In return, your health plan provides coverage when you need care and helps you stay healthy.

The amount that's covered depends on whether your doctors is in your health plans network.

Network doctors have agreed to charge a certain amount for their services.

So you will likely pay less when you use them.

Health plan terms can get a little confusing, but there are a few more that you need to know.

You might have a copay – a set amount you'll pay each time you visit the doctor.

There's the deductible, the amount you spend each year before your health plan starts to pay.

There's coinsurance, the percentage you pay for services once you reach your deductible.

And there's the out of pocket limit.

The most you'll pay for network services during the year.

There are also a few important words you should know when visiting the pharmacy.

Generic drugs are just as safe and effective as their brand name counterparts, but usually cost a lot less.

Non-preferred brand name drugs will cost you the most and there's almost always a more affordable option.

And finally, preferred brand name drugs.

They cost more than generics, but less than non-preferred brand name drugs.

So keep these in mind to help get the most out of your pharmacy benefits.

There are two common types of health plans.

Traditional health plans typically come with a higher premium and lower deductible.

High deductible health plans may have a lower premium and higher deductible.

Some high deductible health plans also come with a special account.

A Health Reimbursement Account, or HRA, is funded by your employer and it's automatically used to help you pay for eligible medical expenses – like a doctor's visit or X-ray.

A Health Savings Account, or HSA, is a bank account that lets you put money aside, tax-free to save and pay for health care expenses now or in the future.

To help keep you healthy health plans offer 100% coverage for routine preventive care like a mammogram or annual wellness exam.

And if you get sick or injured, you have options.

You can visit your primary care physician who knows you and your health history best.

See a doctor anywhere, anytime with a virtual visit on your mobile device or computer.

Stop by a convenience care clinic located in many retail stores.

Visit a nearby urgent care center – they're often open late and on weekends with no appointment necessary.

And remember, if it's a true emergency, go to the nearest hospital or call 911.

All of these options provide quality care.

The costs will vary.

So be sure to consider which option provides the care you need at the best price.

We hope this video has helped you understand how health plans work.

So you'll now feel more confident using your own plan.