

# UNDERSTANDING HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS



Dear Patient,

## Do you expect to change your health insurance this year?

If so, make sure you understand when you can make a change and how it may affect:



The medicines you take  
and how much they cost



The doctors  
you can see



The cost of your  
medical care

## When can I make changes to my health insurance?

You can make changes during your plan's **open enrollment**. This is a set time of year when people can enroll in or change their health insurance plan. It can happen at any time of the year, depending on your plan, but it usually occurs in the fall.

## Can I switch plans at other times?

Health insurance plans also allow changes of insurance outside of open enrollment in the event of life changes. These are sometimes called "**qualifying life events**" or "personal milestones."<sup>1</sup> They include events such as getting married, having a child or changing jobs.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK when reviewing your health insurance options



### Will I be able to stay on my current medicine(s)?

Find out if your medicine is on the health insurance plan's **formulary**. This is a list of prescription drugs covered by your health insurance plan. It's also called a **drug list**. The plan may also have some restrictions. This may include requiring approval or requiring you to try another medicine first.



### Can I keep my current doctors?

Find out if your doctors are **in-network**. A network is a group of doctors and hospitals your health insurance plan covers. If they are not in-network, find out if the health insurance plan covers out-of-network doctors and what the costs will be.



### How much will my medicine(s) cost?

Your medicine(s) will likely have a **co-pay** or **co-insurance**. These are similar in that they are an amount you have to pay for health care services or medicines.

- **Co-insurance** is usually a percentage, such as 20%
- **Co-pay** is usually a set amount, such as \$10

You pay your co-insurance or co-pay after you pay your deductible.

- **A deductible** is the amount you pay for health care services or medicines out of pocket before your health insurance plan begins to pay



### What do I do if I need more help?

You can learn more about your health insurance plan by:

- Contacting the insurance company or visiting their website
- Reaching out to the human resources department at your employer
- Visiting government health care websites, such as [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)
- Visiting [Genentech-Access.com/patients](https://www.genentech-access.com/patients) or calling Genentech Access Solutions at **(866) 422-2377**

For a full glossary of terms, visit [HealthCare.gov/Glossary](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary).

**Genentech offers more resources for learning about choosing a health insurance plan, including videos and a helpful worksheet.**

They are available at [Genentech-Access.com/patients](https://www.genentech-access.com/patients).

Sincerely,

Genentech Access Solutions

Reference: 1. Campbell K. When you can enroll in health insurance. Updated October 1, 2020. Accessed June 3, 2021. <https://www.insure.com/health-insurance/special-enrollment-period.html>