

NO SURPRISES ACT

Starting January 1, 2022, the No Surprises Act will protect certain patients from surprise bills for emergency services at nonparticipating facilities and for services provided by nonparticipating providers at participating facilities. The No Surprises Act also enables uninsured or self-pay patients to receive a good faith estimate of the cost of scheduled care ahead of time.

YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing if you are enrolled in a group health plan, group or individual health insurance coverage, or a Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. In these cases, you should not be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

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, like a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible. You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that is not in your health plan's network.

"Out-of-network" means providers and facilities that have not signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays, 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 plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

"Surprise billing" is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you cannot 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. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

YOU'RE 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 they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You cannot be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you are in stable condition unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

- **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 can 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 cannot balance bill you and may not ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

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

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

WHEN BALANCE BILLING ISN'T ALLOWED, YOU ALSO HAVE THESE PROTECTIONS:

You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly.

Your health plan must:

- Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "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 in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN WRONGLY BILLED, YOU MAY:

- File a complaint with the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance at www.csimt.gov/insurance/complaints or by calling 1-800-332-6148.
- File a complaint with the federal government at www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers or by calling [1-800-985-3059](tel:1-800-985-3059).

Visit www.cms.gov/nosurprises for more information about your rights under federal law.

GOOD FAITH ESTIMATE DISCLOSURE:

You have the right to receive a "Good Faith Estimate" explaining how much your medical care will cost. Under the law, health care providers need to give patients who do not have insurance or who are not using insurance an estimate of the bill for medical items and services.

- You have the right to receive a Good Faith Estimate for the total expected cost of any non-emergency items or services. This includes related costs like medical tests, prescription drugs, equipment, and hospital fees.
- Make sure your health care provider gives you a Good Faith Estimate in writing at least one business day before your medical service or item. You can also ask your health care provider, and any other provider you choose, for a Good Faith Estimate before you schedule an item or service.
- If you receive a bill that is at least \$400 more than your Good Faith Estimate, you can dispute the bill.
- Make sure to save a copy or picture of your Good Faith Estimate.