



A health plan from the most widely recognized name in health care that delivers savings by encouraging your employees to consider the cost and quality of providers as they seek care.

Introducing HMO Blue Options.

Advantages

HMO Blue Options is a tiered network plan that rewards members with lower out-of-pocket costs when they choose Tier 1 providers for their care. The plan can also reduce your premium costs, while still delivering a high level of benefits for employees who choose Tier 1 providers.

Other benefits of the plan include:

- The same provider network as HMO Blue
- The best features and comprehensive coverage of HMO Blue
- Members have access to office visits, prescriptions, emergency room visits, and mental health care for a copayment, similar to other HMO Blue plans

This plan is available for effective dates starting April 1, 2007 for groups of more than 50. For groups of 50 or fewer, it is available starting July 1, 2007.

How PCPs and Hospitals in Massachusetts are Tiered

Primary care physicians (PCPs) and hospitals in Massachusetts are grouped into two tiers based on nationally recognized cost and quality measures. Components of our tiering process include:

- Quality based on measures, where available, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for hospitals and HEDIS measures for primary care physicians
- Cost analysis based on claims from more than one million Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts members

Though we do collect and report cost and quality data for individual physicians, for most providers, for the purposes of the Blue Options, the scores are aggregated or averaged, by the entire physician group with which a provider is associated. Alternatively, we calculated scores based on the geography and referral patterns with which a provider is associated.

Tiering based on five geographic regions within Massachusetts helps provide access to care for all of our members, regardless of where they live or work.

About Copayments

Members of our Blue Options plans pay different levels of copayments for care depending on which PCPs and hospitals they select for care in Massachusetts.

- **Tier 1** carries a lower copayment and includes Massachusetts providers whose cost and quality scores met or exceeded the benchmarks, and certain providers who have been included to ensure geographic access for members.
- **Tier 2** carries a higher copayment and includes Massachusetts providers whose cost and/or quality scores did not meet the benchmarks.

Specialists were not tiered and carry a copayment equal to Tier 2 providers.

Note: All acute care hospitals and pediatricians passed the quality benchmark. PCPs without sufficient quality data, and certain specialty hospitals, were measured on cost alone for their overall tier rating.

HMO Blue Options Typical Benefit Design

	HMO Blue Options
PCP Office Visits	Tier 1: \$15 Tier 2: \$45
Specialist Visits	\$45
Radiology (CT scan, PET scan, MRI)	Tier 1: \$100 Tier 2: \$250
Emergency Room Care	\$100
Outpatient Surgeries	Tier 1: \$150 Tier 2: \$500
Inpatient Admissions	Tier 1: \$250 Tier 2: \$1000
Prescription Drugs	Retail Pharmacy (30-day formulary supply) \$15/\$30/\$50 Mail Order (up to 90-day formulary supply) \$30/\$60/\$100

