

SISC PPO Plans – Value Based Care Benefit Change

At SISC, we continually evaluate ways to limit unnecessary spending in an effort to keep benefits affordable without impacting access to high quality and safe care. **Effective October 1, 2018**, SISC PPO plans will limit the maximum benefit amount at an in-network outpatient hospital facility for the following **five** procedures:

	Arthroscopy	Cataract Surgery	Colonoscopy	Upper GI Endoscopy with Biopsy	Upper GI Endoscopy without Biopsy
Maximum benefit at an in-network outpatient hospital facility	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000
There is no limit at an in-network Ambulatory Service Center (ASC)	There is no benefit change at an ASC. The limits at an outpatient hospital facility do not apply at an ASC.				

NOTE: The value-based site of care benefit applies to facility fees only. The fees paid to physicians and any other practitioners who assist in the procedure, such as anesthesiologists or radiologists, are not affected by this change.

HOW THE VALUE-BASED SITE OF CARE BENEFIT WORKS

If you use an in-network outpatient hospital facility, you will be responsible for the regular deductible and coinsurance **PLUS** any amount by which the hospital charge exceeds the maximum benefit. This provision can be waived if your doctor receives advance certification from Blue Shield that you need to be in an outpatient hospital setting. The benefit includes a simple process to exempt the member if the physician provides clinical justification for using a hospital.

It also allows exceptions when:

- a member lives more than 30 miles from an ASC and a hospital that offers the service for less than the maximum benefit; or
- if a procedure cannot be scheduled in a medically appropriate timely manner due to available ASCs not having capacity.

If you use an in-network ASC, then there is no benefit change! You will only be responsible for the regular deductible and coinsurance. ASCs deliver the same quality of care as in an outpatient hospital setting at a lower price point due to a more efficient operating structure. It's time to address the disparity in costs between hospitals and ASCs. Limiting spending at higher cost facilities is one of the things we can all do to make a difference.

IMPORTANT

Most physicians have privileges at both hospitals and ASCs. If you need one of the outpatient procedures on the list shown above, it will be up to you to either request treatment at the in-network ASC or have your doctor obtain an advance certification from Blue Shield.

If you have questions call member services.

