



Summary of Benefits

January 1, 2006 Alabama - PPO

Option 3



Introduction to the Summary of Benefits for Blue Advantage Option III January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006 North Alabama, Central Alabama, South Alabama

Thank you for your interest in Blue Advantage Option III. Our Plan is offered by BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ALABAMA (H0104), a Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). This Summary of Benefits tells you some features of our Plan. It doesn't list every service that we cover, every limitation, or every exclusion. To get a complete list of our benefits, please call Blue Advantage Option III and ask for the "Evidence of Coverage".

YOU HAVE CHOICES IN YOUR HEALTH CARE

As a Medicare beneficiary, you can choose from different Medicare options. One option is the Original (fee-for-services) Medicare Plan. Another option is a Medicare Health Plan, like Blue Advantage Option III. You may have other options too. You make the choice. No matter what you decide, you are still in the Medicare Program.

You may be able to join or leave a plan only at certain times. Please call Blue Advantage Option III at the number listed at the end of this introduction or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

HOW CAN I COMPARE MY OPTIONS?

You can compare Blue Advantage Option III and the Original Medicare Plan using this Summary of Benefits. The charts in this booklet list some important health benefits. For each benefit, you can see what our Plan covers and what the Original Medicare Plan covers.

Our members receive all the benefits that the Original Medicare Plan offers. We also offer more benefits, which may change from year to year.

WHERE IS BLUE ADVANTAGE OPTION III AVAILABLE?

The service area for this Plan includes: Autauga, Baldwin, Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chilton, Elmore, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Limestone, Lowndes, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Shelby, St. Clair, Walker Counties, AL. You must live in one of these places to join the Plan.

CAN I CHOOSE MY DOCTORS?

Blue Advantage Option III has formed a network of doctors, specialists, and hospitals. You can use any doctor who is part of our network. You may also go to doctors outside of our network. The health providers in our network can change at any time. You can ask for a current Provider Directory for an up-to-date list. Our number is listed at the end of this introduction.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO TO A DOCTOR WHO'S NOT IN YOUR NETWORK?

You can go to doctors, specialists, or hospitals in or out of network. You may have to pay more for the services you receive outside the network, and you may have to follow special rules prior to getting services in and/or out-of-network. For more information, call the telephone number at the end of this introduction.

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WHERE CAN I GET MY PRESCRIPTIONS IF I JOIN THIS PLAN?

Blue Advantage Option III has formed a network of pharmacies. You can use any pharmacy in our network. The pharmacies in our network can change at any time. You can ask for a current Pharmacy Network List. Our number is listed at the end of this introduction.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO TO A PHARMACY THAT'S NOT IN YOUR NETWORK?

If you go to a pharmacy that's not in our network, you might have to pay more for your prescriptions. You also might have to follow special rules before getting your prescription in order for the prescription to be covered under our Plan. For more information, call the telephone number at the end of this introduction

DOES MY PLAN COVER MEDICARE PART B OR PART D DRUGS?

Blue Advantage Option III **does** cover **Medicare Part B** prescription drugs. Blue Advantage Option III **does not** cover **Medicare Part D** prescription drugs.

WHAT TYPE OF DRUGS MAY BE COVERED UNDER MEDICARE PART B?

The following outpatient prescription drugs may be covered under Medicare Part B. This may include, but is not limited to, the following types of drugs. Contact Blue Advantage Option III for more details.

- Some antigens: If they are prepared by a doctor and administered by a properly instructed person (who could be the patient) under doctor supervision.
- Osteoporosis Drugs: Injectable drugs for osteoporosis for certain women with Medicare.
- Erythropoietin (Epoetin alpha or Epogen®): By injection if you have end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring either dialysis or transplantation) and need this drug to treat anemia.
- Hemophilia Clotting Factors: Self-administered clotting factors if you have hemophilia.
- Injectable Drugs: Most injectable drugs administered incident to a physician's service.
- Immunosuppressive Drugs: Immunosuppressive drug therapy for transplant patients if the transplant was paid for by Medicare, or paid by a private insurance that paid as a primary payer to your Medicare Part A coverage, in a Medicare-certified facility.
- Some Oral Cancer Drugs: If the same drug is available in injectable form.
- Oral Anti-Nausea Drugs: If you are part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen.
 Inhalation and infusion drugs provided through DME.

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Please call Blue Advantage for more information about this Plan.

Visit us at WWW. BCBSAL.ORG or, call us

Customer Service Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Central

Current Members should call (888)-234-8266. (TTY/TTD (800)-257-3384)
Prospective members should call (888)-578-6775. (TTY/TDD (800)-257-3384)
For more information about Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Or, visit www.medicare.gov on the web.

If you have special needs, this document may be available in other formats.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
IMPORTANT INFORMATION		
1 – Premium and Other Important Information	You pay the Medicare Part B premium of \$ 78.20 each month. (This is the 2005 amount and may	You pay \$ 43 each month for your Plan benefits.
	change January 1, 2006.)	You also continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium of \$78.20 each month. (This is a 2005 amount and may change January 1, 2006.)

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		You pay a \$1,000 yearly deductible for the following Medicare-covered plan services when received out-of-network only:
		 Inpatient Hospital Care Inpatient Mental Health Care Skilled Nursing Facility Home Health Care Doctor Office Visits Chiropractic Services Podiatry Services Podiatry Services Outpatient Mental Health Care Outpatient Substance Abuse Care Outpatient Services/ Surgery Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetic Devices Diabetes Self-Monitoring Training and Supplies Diagnostic Tests, X- Rays, and Lab Services Bone Mass Measurement Colorectal Screening Exam Immunizations Mammograms (Annual Screenings) Pap Smears and Pelvic Exams Prostate Cancer Screening Exams Outpatient Prescription Drugs

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Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		 Dental Services Hearing Services Vision Services Physical Exams Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) Partial Hospitalization Other Health Care Professional Cardiac Rehabilitation Services Renal Dialysis Blood
		You pay a \$1,000 yearly deductible for the following non-Medicare-covered plan services when received out-of-network only:
		 Inpatient Hospital Care Inpatient Mental Health Care Skilled Nursing Facility Home Health Care Doctor Office Visits Chiropractic Services Podiatry Services Outpatient Mental Health Care Outpatient Substance Abuse Care Outpatient Services/ Surgery Outpatient Rehabilitation Services
		 Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetic Devices Diabetes Self-Monitoring Training and Supplies

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		 Diagnostic Tests, X-Rays, and Lab Services Bone Mass Measurement Colorectal Screening Exam Immunizations Mammograms (Annual Screenings) Pap Smears and Pelvic Exams Prostate Cancer Screening Exams Outpatient Prescription Drugs Dental Services Hearing Services Vision Services Physical Exams Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) Partial Hospitalization Other Health Care Professional Cardiac Rehabilitation Services Renal Dialysis Blood
		There is a \$ 2,500 maximum out-of-pocket limit every year for the following Plan services when received in network only:
		 Doctor Office Visits Chiropractic Services Podiatry Services Outpatient Mental Health Care Outpatient Substance Abuse Care

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		 Outpatient Services/ Surgery Ambulance Services Emergency Care Urgently Needed Care Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetic Devices Diabetes Self-Monitoring Training and Supplies Diagnostic Tests, X- Rays, and Lab Services Bone Mass Measurement Colorectal Screening Exam Immunizations Mammograms (Annual Screenings) Pap Smears and Pelvic Exams Prostate Cancer Screening Exams Dental Services Hearing Services Vision Services Physical Exams Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) Partial Hospitalization Other Health Care Professional Cardiac Rehabilitation Services Renal Dialysis Blood If there is no note on an
		out-of-network service, then

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		the note describes the in-network service. Contact Plan for details on the covered out-of-network service.
2 - Doctor and Hospital Choice	You may go to any doctor, specialist or hospital that accepts Medicare.	You can go to doctors, specialists, and hospitals in or out-of-network.
(For more information, see		Higher costs apply for out-of-network services.
Emergency - #15 and Urgently Needed Care - #16.)		You do NOT need a referral to go to network doctors, specialists, and hospitals.
		A separate doctor office visit co-payment may apply for certain services.
SUMMARY OF BENEFITS		
INPATIENT CARE		
3 - Inpatient Hospital Care	You pay for each benefit period (3):	You pay:
(includes Substance Abuse	Days 1 - 60: an initial deductible of \$ 912	\$ 125 each day for day(s)1 - 6
and Rehabilitation Services)	Days 61 - 90: \$228 each day	 \$ 0 each day for day(s) 7 - 90
	Days 91 - 150: \$456 each lifetime reserve day (4)	for a Medicare-covered stay at a network hospital.
	[These are 2005 amounts and may change January 1, 2006.]	Cost sharing may vary for each Medicare-covered stay
	Please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for	according to the hospital at which services are received.
	information about lifetime reserve days. (4)	You pay 30% of the cost each stay at an out-of-network hospital.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		There is a \$ 750 maximum out of pocket limit every benefit period.
		You are covered for unlimited days each benefit period.
4 - Inpatient Mental Health	You pay the same deductible	You pay:
Care	and co-payments as inpatient hospital care (above) except Medicare beneficiaries may	\$ 125 each day for day(s)1 - 6
	only receive 190 days in a Psychiatric Hospital in a lifetime.	\$ 0 each day for day(s)7 - 90
		for a Medicare-covered stay at a network hospital.
		Cost sharing may vary for each Medicare-covered stay according to the hospital at which services are received.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each stay at an out-of-network hospital.
		There is a \$ 750 maximum out of pocket limit every benefit period.
		Contact Plan for details about benefits beyond 190 days.
5 - Skilled Nursing Facility	You pay for each benefit period (3), following at least a 3-day covered hospital stay:	You pay:
(in a Medicare-certified skilled nursing facility)	Days 1 - 20: \$ 0 for each day	\$ 50 each day for day(s)1 - 50
	Days 21 - 100: \$ 114 for each day [These are 2005 amounts and	\$ 0 each day for day(s)51 - 100

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
	may change January 1, 2006.]	for a stay at a Skilled Nursing Facility.
	There is a limit of 100 days for each benefit period. (3)	You pay 30% of the cost for services at an out-of-network Skilled Nursing Facility.
		There is a \$ 2,500 maximum out of pocket limit.
		No prior hospital stay is required.
		You are covered for 100 days each benefit period.
6 - Home Health Care	There is no co-payment for	There is no co-payment for
(includes medically necessary intermittent skilled nursing	all covered home health visits.	Medicare-covered home health visits.
care, home health aide services, and rehabilitation services, etc.)		You pay 30% for out-of-network home health visits.
7 - Hospice	You pay part of the cost for outpatient drugs and inpatient respite care.	You must receive care from a Medicare-certified hospice.
	You must receive care from a Medicare-certified hospice.	
OUTPATIENT CARE		
8 - Doctor Office Visits	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts (1)(2)	You pay \$ 10 for each primary care doctor office visit for Medicare-covered services.
		You pay 30% for each out-of-network primary care doctor office visit.
		You pay \$ 15 for each specialist visit for Medicare-covered services.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		You pay 30% for each out-of-network specialist visit.
		See 32 - Physical Exams for more information.
9 - Chiropractic Services	You are covered for manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation, provided by chiropractors or other qualified providers.	You pay:
	You pay 100% for routine care.	 \$ 15 for each Medicare- covered visit (manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation).
	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	 \$ 15 for each routine visit up to 12 visits every year.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network chiropractic services.
10 - Podiatry Services	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	You pay:
	You are covered for medically necessary foot care, including care for medical conditions affecting the lower limbs.	 \$ 15 for each Medicare- covered visit (medically necessary foot care).
	You pay 100% for routine care.	 \$ 15 for each routine visit up to 6 visits every year.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network podiatry services.
11 - Outpatient Mental Health Care	You pay 50% of Medicare- approved amounts with the exception of certain situations	For Medicare-covered Mental Health services, you pay \$ 40

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
	and services for which you pay 20% of approved	for each individual/group therapy visit.
	charges. (1)(2)	You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Mental Health Services.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Mental Health Services with psychiatrist.
12 - Outpatient Substance Abuse Care	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	For Medicare-covered services, you pay \$40 for each individual/group visit.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network outpatient substance abuse services.
13 - Outpatient Services/ Surgery	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts for the doctor. (1)(2)	You pay \$ 75 for each Medicare-covered visit to an ambulatory surgical center.
	You Pay 20% of outpatient facility charges. (1)(2)	You pay \$ 75 for each Medicare-covered visit to an outpatient hospital facility.
		An additional facility charge may be included in the cost for services.
		You pay 30% of the cost for services at an out-of-network ambulatory surgical center.
		You pay 30% of the cost for services at an out-of-network outpatient hospital facility.
14 - Ambulance Services (medically necessary	You pay 20% of Medicare- approved amounts or applicable fee schedule	You pay \$ 100 for Medicare-covered ambulance services.
ambulance services)	charge. (1)(2)	

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
15 - Emergency Care (You may go to any emergency room if you reasonably believe you need emergency care.)	You pay 20% of the facility charge or applicable co-payment for each emergency room visit; you do NOT pay this amount if you are admitted to the hospital for the same condition within 3 days of the emergency room visit. (1)(2)	You pay \$ 50 for each Medicare-covered emergency room visit; you do NOT pay this amount if you are admitted to the hospital within 24 hours for the same condition. NOT covered outside the U.S.
	You pay 20% of the doctor charges. (1)(2)	except under limited circumstances.
	NOT covered outside the U.S. except under limited circumstances.	
16 - Urgently Needed Care (This is NOT emergency care, and in most cases, is out of the service area.)	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts or applicable co-payment. (1)(2)	You pay \$ 50 for each Medicare-covered urgently needed care visit; you do NOT pay this amount if you are admitted to the hospital within 24 hours for the same condition.
	NOT covered outside the U.S. except under limited circumstances.	NOT covered outside the U.S. except under limited circumstances.
17 - Outpatient Rehabilitation Services	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	You pay \$ 15 for each Medicare-covered Occupational Therapy visit.
(Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy)		You pay \$ 15 for each Medicare-covered Physical Therapy and/or Speech/ Language Therapy visit.
		An additional facility charge may be included in the cost for services.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Occupational Therapy services.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Physical Therapy and/or Speech/Language Therapy services.
OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SE	RVICES AND SUPPLIES	
18 - Durable Medical Equipment	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	You pay 20% of the cost for each Medicare-covered item.
(including wheelchairs, oxygen, etc.)		You pay 30% of the cost for durable medical equipment purchased out-of-network.
19 - Prosthetic Devices	You pay 20% of Medicare-	You pay 20% of the cost for each Medicare-covered item.
(includes braces, artificial limbs and eyes, etc.)	approved amounts. (1)(2)	You pay 30% of the cost for prosthetic devices purchased out-of-network.
20 - Diabetes Self-Monitoring Training and Supplies	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	There is no co-payment for Diabetes self-monitoring training.
(includes coverage for glucose monitors, test strips, lancets, screening tests, and		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Diabetes self-monitoring training.
self-management training)		You pay 20% of the cost for each Medicare-covered Diabetes Supply item.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each Diabetes Supply item purchased out-of-network.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
21 - Diagnostic Tests, X-Rays, and Lab Services	You pay 20% of Medicare- approved amounts, except for approved lab services. (1)(2)	There is no co-payment for the following Medicare-covered services:
	There is no co-payment for Medicare-approved lab services.	 Clinical/diagnostic lab services
		 Radiation therapy
		X-ray visits
		 30% of the cost for each out-of-network clinical/ diagnostic lab service.
		 30% of the cost for each out-of-network radiation therapy service.
		- 30% of the cost for out-of-network x-ray service.
PREVENTIVE SERVICES		
22 - Bone Mass Measurement (for people with Medicare who are at risk)	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	There is no co-payment for each Medicare-covered Bone Mass Measurement.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network Bone Mass measurement.
	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (1)(2)	There is no co-payment for Medicare-covered Colorectal Screening Exams.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network Colorectal Screening exam.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
24 - Immunizations	There is no co-payment for the Pneumonia and Flu vaccines.	There is no co-payment for the Pneumonia and Flu vaccines.
(Flu vaccine, Hepatitis B vaccine - for people with	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts for the Hepatitis B vaccine. (1)(2)	No referral necessary for Medicare-covered influenza and pneumonia vaccines.
Medicare who are at risk, Pneumonia vaccine)	You may only need the Pneumonia vaccine once in your lifetime. Please contact your doctor for further details.	There is no co-payment for the Hepatitis B vaccine.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network immunization.
25 - Mammograms (Annual Screening)	You pay 20% of Medicareapproved amounts. (2)	There is no co-payment for Medicare-covered Screening Mammograms.
(for women with Medicare age 40 and older)	No referral necessary for Medicare-covered screenings.	You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network Screening Mammogram.
		No referral necessary for Medicare-covered screenings.
Exams (for women with Medicare)	There is no co-payment for a Pap Smear once every 2 years, annually for	There is no co-payment for Medicare-covered Pap Smears and Pelvic Exams.
	beneficiaries at high risk. (2) You pay 20% of Medicare- approved amounts for Pelvic Exams (2)	You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network Pap Smear and Pelvic Exam.
27 - Prostate Cancer Screening Exams	There is no co-payment for approved lab services and a co-payment of 20% of Medicare-approved amounts for other related services. (1) (2)	There is no co-payment for Medicare-covered Prostate Cancer Screening exams.
(for men with Medicare age 50 and older)		You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network Prostate Screening Exams.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
28 - Outpatient Prescription Drugs	You pay 100% for most prescription drugs, unless you enroll in the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program.	You pay 100% for most prescription drugs.
		This Plan <u>does not</u> cover Medicare Part D prescription drugs.
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS (W	VHAT ORIGINAL MEDICARE DO	OES NOT COVER)
29 - Dental Services	In general, you pay 100% for dental services.	In general, you pay 100% for dental services.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network Comprehensive dental services.
30 - Hearing Services	You pay 100% for routine hearing exams and hearing aids.	There is no co-payment for hearing aids up to 1 aid every two years.
	You pay 20% of Medicare- approved amounts for diagnostic hearing exams. (1) (2)	You pay:
		 \$ 10 for each Medicare- covered hearing exam (diagnostic hearing exams)
		 \$ 10 for each routine hearing test up to 1 test every year.
		 \$ 10 for each fitting- evaluation for a hearing aid up to 1 fitting-evaluation every year.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network hearing exams.
		You are covered up to \$ 400 for hearing aids every two years.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
31 - Vision Services	You are covered for one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each cataract	There is no co-payment for the following items:
	surgery. (1)(2)	 Medicare-covered eye wear (one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses after each
	For people with Medicare who are at risk, you are covered for annual glaucoma screenings. (1)(2)	cataract surgery). – Glasses
	You pay 20% of Medicare- approved amounts for diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye. (1)(2)	- Contacts
	You pay 100% for routine eye exams and glasses.	You pay:
		 \$ 10 for each Medicare- covered eye exam (diagnosis and treatment for diseases and conditions of the eye)
		 \$ 10 for each routine eye exam, limited to 1 exam every year.
		You pay 30% of the cost for out-of-network eye exams.
		You are covered up to \$ 150 for eye wear every year.
32 - Physical Exams	If your coverage to Medicare Part B begins on or after January 1, 2005, you may receive a one time physical exam within the first six months of your new Part B coverage.	If your coverage to Medicare Part B begins on or after January 1, 2005, you may receive a one time physical exam within the first six months of your new Part B coverage. This will not include laboratory tests.

Benefit Category	Original Medicare	Blue Advantage Option III
	This will not include laboratory tests. Please contact your Plan for details You pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount. (1)(2)	Please contact your Plan for further details.
		You pay \$ 10 for Medicare-covered services.
		You pay 30% of the cost for each out-of-network routine physical exam.
		You pay \$ 10 for each exam
		You are covered up to 1 exa every year.

- (1) Each year, you pay a total of one \$ 110 deductible.
- (2) If a doctor or supplier chooses not to accept assignment, their costs are often higher, which means you may pay more.
- (3) A benefit period begins the day you go to a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The benefit period ends when you have not received hospital or skilled nursing care for 60 days in a row. If you go into the hospital after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. You must pay the inpatient hospital deductible for each benefit period. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods you can have.
- (4) Lifetime reserve days can only be used once.



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association