

October 1, 2018

Value Based Purchasing Benefit Change—Blue Shield PPO

- **New for 2018!** In order to keep the cost of health benefits affordable and enhance the value of care, effective October 1, 2018 SISC will be introducing reference pricing for five common procedures that can be performed safely at an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) at costs significantly lower than at a hospital.
- *Blue Shield PPO Members only*

	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 Surgery Center (ASC)	There is no benefit change at an ASC. The limits at an outpatient hospital facility do not apply at an ASC.				

- Here's how it works:
  - ✓ In-network ASC – pay regular deductible and co-insurance – ***no benefit change!***
  - ✓ In-network Hospital outpatient facility - pay regular deductible and co-insurance **PLUS amounts that exceed the reference price**
- Benefits of an ASC:
  - ASCs use the same equipment, medications and supplies as hospital surgical suites
  - The average facility fees at ASCs are substantially lower than at hospitals
  - ASCs tend to be more specialized and with less exposure to a wide range of infections
  - ASCs tend to be high-volume facilities. High-volume facilities are typically associated with having good outcomes
  - ASCs have established track records of providing quality outcomes that are at least as good as or better than hospitals

**Provisions for exceptions:**

- If the physician provides clinical justification for using a hospital
- If member lives more than 30 miles from an ASC
- If a procedure cannot be scheduled in a medically appropriate timely manner due to available ASCs not having capacity
- Emergencies

Communications regarding this benefit have been sent directly to members; Members with questions should contact the customer service number on their ID card

**A list of ASC's in your area can be found at :** [https://www.blueshieldca.com/fad/index.html?](https://www.blueshieldca.com/fad/index.html?deeplinkID=pponetwork)

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- Select Find a Doctor
- Scroll down to PPO Plan and select "Find providers within California"
- Select Facilities
- Enter your Location
- Select Ambulatory Surgery Center from the drop down
- Click Search
  - default is 5 mile radius, but can be expanded for additional results