

Your Healthcare Benefit Guide

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS—ACTIVES

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

The CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield PROMISE



A not-for-profit organization
driven by mission



Serving 3.3 million members
in the Mid-Atlantic region



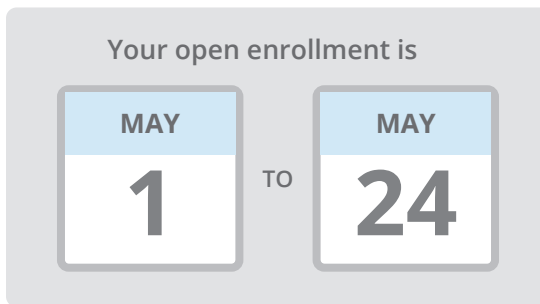
Recognized as one of the
World's Most Ethical Companies®

WELCOME

We're glad you're considering CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst). We know there's a lot of information to review when selecting your health plan. We hope this simplified guide provides information that makes choosing CareFirst an easy decision.

Inside, you'll find information that'll help you select the plan that's best suited to your needs. Whichever plan you choose, you'll have coverage that's recognized and accepted by more top doctors than any other network. Plus, you'll know that you have the support of a team that's working everyday to improve the healthcare experience of every member.

Frederick County Public Schools—Actives



**Ready to explore your benefits?
Let's get started.**

WHAT'S INSIDE?

3	WELCOME
4	WHAT'S INSIDE?
5	MEDICAL PLAN HIGHLIGHTS
6	VISION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS
7	PERKS INCLUDED WITH EVERY PLAN
8	VIRTUAL CARE OPTIONS
9	CAREFIRST WELLBEING
10	FIND A DOCTOR
10	MY ACCOUNT BENEFITS
10	TREATMENT COST ESTIMATOR
11	BLUECARD & BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD GLOBAL® CORE
12	UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS FOR CARE
12	MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT
13	NEXT STEPS
14	NOTES
17	RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It helps to understand some key terms

CareFirst member cost: The maximum amount providers can charge CareFirst members for a specific service.

Deductible: Depending on your plan, you'll need to pay for some services on your own until you reach your deductible. Then your plan starts helping with the cost of your care.

Out-of-pocket maximum: The most you'll pay for covered services in a plan year. After you spend this amount on care costs, your plan will pay 100% of the CareFirst member costs for the rest of the plan year.

The personas represented in this decision guide are not real. The personas and quotes are used for illustrative purposes only.

MEDICAL PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Let's look at some of your in-network costs for common services with this plan.

	BlueChoice Advantage
Costs to consider	
In-network Deductible You'll pay the full CareFirst member cost for some services until you reach your deductible	None
Out-of-pocket Maximum The most you'll pay for covered in-network services in a plan year	None
Plan Includes Out-of-network Coverage	Yes
Staying healthy	
Annual Physical Exam	\$0 per visit
Preventive Screenings and Immunizations	\$0 per visit
Feeling under the weather?	
Primary Care Doctor	\$20
Specialist (e.g. Dermatologist)	\$35 per visit
Mental Health Professional—Office	\$20 per visit
Urgent Care	\$20
Emergency Room	\$0 (\$75 per visit for non-emergency)
Following doctor's orders?	
Allergy Shots	\$0
Imaging (MRA/MRS, MRI, PET & CT Scans) (non-hospital facility)	\$0
Labs (non-hospital facility)	\$0
X-rays (non-hospital facility)	\$0
Physical, Speech and/or Occupational Therapy	Physical Therapy—\$0; Speech and Occupational Therapy—\$20 per visit
Chiropractic	\$35 per visit
Acupuncture	\$35 per visit
Outpatient Surgery (surgical center)	\$0
Inpatient Surgery (including maternity)	\$100 per admission
Artificial and Intrauterine Insemination	\$0
In Vitro Fertilization Procedures	\$0
Durable Medical Equipment	\$0

Costs shown are for care received in-network and, except for emergency room, at non-hospital locations. See your Summary of Benefits for limitations and plan details.

VISION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Let's review some of your in-network costs for common vision services.

(12-month benefit period)	BlueVision Plus
Routine checkup	
Annual Eye Exam	\$0
Corrective measures	
Davis Vision Frame Collection	\$0
Other Frames	Plan pays \$150 toward frame purchase; additional discounts available at select retailers ¹
Spectacle Lenses (single-vision, lined bifocal, trifocal)	\$0
Medically Necessary Contact Lenses	\$0
Elective Contact Lenses	\$0

¹ Additional discounts not applicable at Walmart or Sam's Club locations or where limited by law or manufacturer restrictions.

PERKS INCLUDED WITH EVERY PLAN



Achieve your well-being goals with the help of programs for weight management, tobacco cessation and more



Enjoy exclusive discounts through our Blue365 program on things like fitness gear, gym memberships, meal delivery services, hotels and travel



Get inspired to be your healthiest by completing fun activities through your well-being program



Pay nothing for annual in-network preventive care and 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line

"I take advantage of the hotel discounts through Blue365."



"I lost 30 lbs. with the help of my coach and the weight loss program."



"I like knowing I can call the 24-hour nurse line at any time."



VIRTUAL CARE OPTIONS

It's important to be able to get the care you need, when you need it. Our virtual care offerings make it easy to do just that.

24-Hour Nurse Advice Line

Talk to a registered nurse about your symptoms, and the appropriate steps to take, at any time by calling **800-535-9700**.

CloseKnit

CloseKnit, our leading virtual care practice, gives you 24/7 access to the support you deserve—from primary and urgent care to therapy and more* through your desktop or the convenient CloseKnit mobile app.

CloseKnit offers:



Primary Care

Full-service primary care from a dedicated care team.
For adults age 18+.



Urgent Care

The care you need to treat minor injuries and illnesses fast. Average wait time is 30 minutes or less. For adults and children (age 2+).



Behavioral Health Services

Expert help, including therapy for depression, anxiety or other behavioral health diagnoses. Psychiatric services coming soon.



Lactation Support

Assistance for nursing mothers with breastfeeding challenges.



Diet & Nutrition

Guidance and support for healthy eating, weight loss and more.

Learn more and register at closeknithealth.com.

** Providers will use their professional judgment to determine if a telemedicine visit is appropriate or if an in-person visit is required.*

CloseKnit is a registered Trademark owned by, and is the trade name of, Atlas Health, LLC. Atlas Health, LLC d/b/a CloseKnit does not provide Blue Cross Blue Shield products or services and is providing telehealth services to CareFirst members.

CAREFIRST WELLBEINGSM

We're pleased to introduce CareFirst WellBeing—your personalized digital connection to your healthiest life. CareFirst WellBeing offers motivating digital resources accessible anytime, plus specialized programs for extra support.

- **RealAge®:** Find out if your healthy habits are truly making an impact by taking the RealAge® health assessment.
- **Health coaching:** Trained clinical professionals provide one-on-one support to help you reach your wellness goals.
- **Weight management programs:** Better understand your relationship with food, reach a healthier weight and reduce your risk for pre-diabetes and associated chronic diseases.
- **Tobacco cessation:** Our program's expert guidance, support and online tools make quitting easier than you might think.
- **Financial well-being:** Whether you want to stop living paycheck to paycheck, get out of debt, or send a child to college, this program can help.



FIND A DOCTOR

CareFirst has one of the world's largest networks of participating providers—over one million in all. Whether you're looking for a primary care physician, a specialist or a care facility, we can help you find one that's right for you. Our simple Find-a-Doctor tool helps you select the right healthcare at the right place.



Try it for yourself. Visit carefirst.com/doctor. You'll be able to search by name, location, specialty and a host of other options. You can even find participating doctors and facilities outside of the U.S.

MY ACCOUNT BENEFITS

Your member portal is personalized to you and your CareFirst benefits. Stay on top of your health with easy access to everything you need to understand your coverage, find care at the best price, and track your claims and deductibles at your fingertips. With My Account, you can:

- Find in-network doctors, urgent care centers and other care—nationwide
- View, order or email member ID cards
- Check claims and deductible status
- Update communication preferences and password
- Quickly access a variety of CareFirst member programs
- Send a secure message for members

TREATMENT COST ESTIMATOR

Our Treatment Cost Estimator shows you what you'll pay for procedures, doctor's office visits, lab tests and surgery beforehand, so you can plan ahead and avoid surprises.



- Receive personalized estimates based on your plan
- Compare costs from different doctors and facilities

BLUECARD & BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD GLOBAL® CORE

With your Blue Cross and Blue Shield member ID card, you have access to doctors and hospitals almost anywhere. BlueCard gives you the peace of mind that you'll always have the care you need when you're away from home. And with Blue Cross Blue Shield Global® Core (BCBS Global® Core), you have access to care in more than 190 countries.

BlueCard

- You'll have access to local Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan doctors and hospitals when you're outside the CareFirst service area.
- You'll be considered a member of the local BCBS plan when you receive care. Your cost may be different than when you're in the CareFirst service area.
- For care received in-network, you don't have to complete claim forms, so there's no paperwork.

BCBS Global® Core

- In most cases, you shouldn't have to pay up front for inpatient care at hospitals in the BCBS Global Core Network.
- At hospitals outside the BCBS Global Core Network, you pay the doctor or hospital for inpatient care, outpatient hospital care and other medical services. You then complete an international claim form for reimbursement.



"I'm constantly traveling for work and for fun. It's good to know I'm covered—wherever I go."

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS FOR CARE

It's helpful to know where you can go for care before you need it. Becoming familiar with the information below can help you save time and money.



Seeking advice: 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line

- General questions about health issues or where to go for care
- Registered nurses are available 24/7 by phone



Need care soon: Primary Care Provider

- Diagnosis & treatment of illness, chronic conditions, check-ups
- Night/weekend hours & some may have 24-hour phone lines



Want care quickly: Virtual Urgent Care

- Treatment for minor illnesses and injuries as well as therapy, and more through CloseKnit
- Highly-credentialed providers available 24/7 by computer or easy-to-use mobile app



Need care now: Urgent Care Center

- Non-life-threatening illness or injury requiring immediate care
- Open 7 days a week



Emergency: 911 or nearest ER

- Life-threatening illness or injury
- Open 24/7

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT

You have 24/7 access to specialized services and programs for depression, anxiety, drug or alcohol dependencies and other mental health conditions. Our support team of professionals is ready to:

- Help you find the right mental health provider(s) and schedule appointments
- Connect you with a care coordinator who will work with your doctor to create a tailored action plan
- Find support groups and resources to help you stay on track

Our Behavioral Health Digital Resource is an online platform that gives you access to trained volunteer listeners, community support and referrals to credentialed physicians in the CareFirst provider network. Learn more about all the free mental and behavioral support available at [carefirst.com/mentalhealth](https://www.carefirst.com/mentalhealth).



You're never alone. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 or contact the CareFirst support line at 800-245-7013.

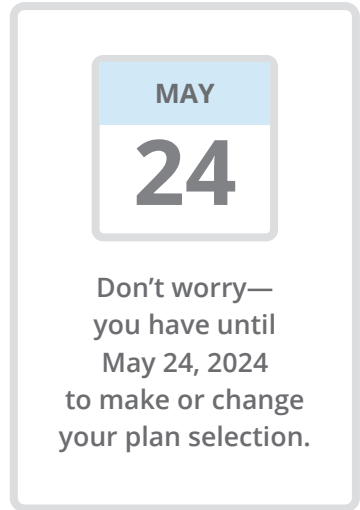
NEXT STEPS

Ready to enroll?

- Visit www.fcps.org/benefits
- Complete the enrollment process
- Look for your member ID cards in the mail
- Be sure to download the CareFirst mobile app to access your plan on-the-go

Not ready to choose your plan just yet?

- If you need more detailed plan information, visit www.fcps.org/benefits
- Set a reminder on your phone so you don't miss the deadline!



We're here to help! If you have additional questions, please call 866-386-2043, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET or for more information, visit carefirst.com/frederick.

"We're excited to have you join us in the CareFirst Family. We hope our stories helped you make a decision."



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Notice of privacy practices

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (collectively, CareFirst) are committed to keeping the confidential information of members private. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), we are required to send our Notice of Privacy Practices to members of fully insured groups only. The notice outlines the uses and disclosures of protected health information, the individual's rights and CareFirst's responsibility for protecting the member's health information.

To obtain a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, go to www.carefirst.com and click on *Privacy Statement* at the bottom of the page, click on *Health Information* then click on *Notice of Privacy Practices*. Or call the Member Services telephone number on your member ID card. Members of self-insured groups should contact their Human Resources department for a copy of their Notice of Privacy Practices. If you don't know whether your employer is self-insured, please contact your Human Resources department.

Member satisfaction

CareFirst wants to hear your concerns and/or complaints so that they may be resolved. We have procedures that address medical and non-medical issues. If a situation should occur for which there is any question or difficulty, here's what you can do:

- If your comment or concern is regarding the quality of service received from a CareFirst representative or related to administrative problems (e.g., enrollment, claims, bills, etc.) you should contact Member Services. If you send your comments to us in writing, please include your member ID number and provide us with as much detail as possible regarding any events. Please include your daytime telephone number so that we may contact you directly if we need additional information.
- If your concern or complaint is about the quality of care or quality of service received from a specific provider, contact Member Services. A representative will record your concerns and may request a written summary of the issues. To write to us directly with a quality of care or service concern, you can:
 - Send an email to: quality.care.complaints@carefirst.com
 - Fax a written complaint to: 301-470-5866
 - Write to:
**CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Quality of Care Department
P.O. Box 17636
Baltimore, MD 21297**

If you send your comments to us in writing, please include your identification number and provide us with as much detail as possible regarding the event or incident. Please include your daytime telephone number so that we may contact you directly if we need additional information. Our Quality of Care Department will investigate your concerns, share those issues with the provider involved and request a response. We will then provide you with a summary of our findings. CareFirst member complaints are retained in our provider files and are reviewed when providers are considered for continuing participation with CareFirst.

These procedures are also outlined in your Evidence of Coverage.

For assistance in resolving a Billing or Payment Dispute with the Health Plan or a Health Care Provider, contact the Health Education and Advocacy Unit of the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General at:

Hearing impaired

To contact a Member Services representative, please choose the appropriate hearing impaired assistance number below, based on the region in which your coverage originates.

Maryland Relay Program: 800-735-2258
National Capital Area TTY: 202-479-3546
Please have your Member Services number ready.

Language assistance

Interpreter services are available through Member Services. When calling Member Services, inform the representative that you need language assistance.

Please Note: CareFirst appreciates the opportunity to improve the level of quality of care and services available for you. As a member, you will not be subject to disenrollment or otherwise penalized as a result of filing a complaint or appeal.

Confidentiality of subscriber/ member information

All health plans and providers must provide information to members and patients regarding how their information is protected. You will receive a Notice of Privacy Practices from CareFirst or your health plan, and from your providers as well, when you visit their office.

CareFirst has policies and procedures in place to protect the confidentiality of member information. Your confidential information includes Protected Health Information (PHI), whether oral, written or electronic, and other nonpublic financial information. Because we are responsible for your insurance coverage, making sure your claims are paid, and that you can obtain any important services related to your health care, we are permitted to use and disclose (give out) your information for these purposes. Sometimes we are even required by law to disclose your information in certain situations. You also have certain rights to your own protected health information on your behalf.

Our responsibilities

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI, and to have appropriate procedures in place to do so. In accordance with the federal and state Privacy laws, we have the right to use and disclose your PHI for treatment, payment activities and health care operations as explained in the Notice of Privacy Practices. We may disclose your protected health information to the plan sponsor/employer to perform plan administration function. The Notice is sent to all policy holders upon enrollment.

Your rights

You have the following rights regarding your own Protected Health Information. You have the right to:

- Request that we restrict the PHI we use or disclose about you for payment or health care operations.
- Request that we communicate with you regarding your information in an alternative manner or at an alternative location if you believe that a disclosure of all or part of your PHI may endanger you.
- Inspect and copy your PHI that is contained in a designated record set including your medical record.
- Request that we amend your information if you believe that your PHI is incorrect or incomplete.
- An accounting of certain disclosures of your PHI that are for some reasons other than treatment, payment, or health care operations.

- Give us written authorization to use your protected health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose not listed in this notice.

Inquiries and complaints

If you have a privacy-related inquiry, please contact the CareFirst Privacy Office at 800-853-9236 or send an email to privacy.office@carefirst.com.

Members' rights and responsibilities statement

Members have the right to:

- Be treated with respect and recognition of their dignity and right to privacy.
- Receive information about the health plan, its services, its practitioners and providers, and members' rights and responsibilities.
- Participate with practitioners in decision-making regarding their health care.
- Participate in a candid discussion of appropriate or medically necessary treatment options for their conditions, regardless of cost or benefit coverage.
- Make recommendations regarding the organization's members' rights and responsibilities.
- Voice complaints or appeals about the health plan or the care provided.

Members have a responsibility to:

- Provide, to the extent possible, information that the health plan and its practitioners and providers need in order to care for them.
- Understand their health problems and participate in developing mutually agreed upon treatment goals to the degree possible.
- Follow the plans and instructions for care that they have agreed on with their practitioners.
- Pay copayments or coinsurance at the time of service.
- Be on time for appointments and to notify practitioners/providers when an appointment must be canceled.

Eligible individuals' rights statement wellness and health promotion services

Eligible individuals have a right to:

- Receive information about the organization, including wellness and health promotion services provided on behalf of the employer or plan sponsors; organization staff and staff qualifications; and any contractual relationships.
- Decline participation or disenroll from wellness and health promotion services offered by the organization.
- Be treated courteously and respectfully by the organization's staff.
- Communicate complaints to the organization and receive instructions on how to use the complaint process that includes the organization's standards of timeliness for responding to and resolving complaints and quality issues.

Habilitative services

CareFirst provides coverage for habilitative services to members younger than the age of 19. This includes habilitative services to treat congenital or genetic birth defects, including a defect existing at or from birth, a hereditary defect, autism or an autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.

Habilitative services include speech, physical and occupational therapies. CareFirst must pre-approve all habilitative services. Any deductibles, copayments and coinsurance required under your contract apply. Policy maximums and benefit limits apply. Habilitative services are not counted toward any visit maximum for therapy services.

Please note that any therapies provided through the school system are not covered by this benefit. This coverage applies only to contracts sold to businesses based in Maryland. Check your contract coverage to determine if you are eligible to receive these benefits. If you have questions regarding any of these services, contact Member Services at the telephone number on your member ID card.

Mastectomy-related services

CareFirst provides coverage for home visits to members who undergo a mastectomy (the surgical removal of all or part of the breast as a result of breast cancer) or the surgical removal of a testicle. Coverage includes one home visit that occurs within 24 hours after discharge from the hospital or outpatient facility and an additional home visit if prescribed by the member's doctor. To be eligible, the member must be in the hospital less than 48 hours or have the procedure performed on an outpatient basis. This coverage applies only to contracts sold to businesses based in Maryland. Please check your contract coverage to determine if you are eligible for these surgical procedure benefits.

CareFirst offers other benefits for mastectomy-related services, including:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast that underwent the mastectomy.
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
- Prosthesis (artificial breast) and treatment of the physical complications that occur at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedema (swelling).

You and your physician will determine the appropriate plan to treat your condition. These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits covered under your health plan. Please refer to your Benefit Guide or Evidence of Coverage for more details or call Member Services at the telephone number on your member ID card.

Care for mothers, newborns

Under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act, CareFirst offers coverage for inpatient hospitalization services for a mother and newborn child for a minimum of:

- 48 hours of inpatient hospitalization care after an uncomplicated vaginal delivery.
- 96 hours of inpatient hospitalization care after an uncomplicated cesarean section.

If the mother and newborn remain in the hospital for at least the length of time provided, coverage includes:

- A home visit if prescribed by the attending physician.
- The mother may request a shorter length of stay if, after talking with her physician, she decides that less time is needed for her recovery.

If the mother and newborn have a shorter hospital stay than listed above, coverage includes one home visit scheduled to occur within 24 hours after hospital discharge and an additional home visit if prescribed by the attending physician.



CONNECT WITH US:



The examples provided in this booklet are meant to help you evaluate the benefits we offer. They are not meant to convey the exact terms of any one particular plan and do not create rights not given through the benefit plan. The details of your plan may vary.

The policies may have exclusions, limitations or terms under which the policy may be continued in force or discontinued. For costs and complete details of the coverage, call CareFirst.

Notice of Nondiscrimination and Availability of Language Assistance Services

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. and all of their corporate affiliates comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 855-258-6518.
注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 855-258-6518。

This wellness program is administered by Sharecare, Inc., an independent company that provides health improvement management services to CareFirst members. Sharecare, Inc. does not provide CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield products or services and is solely responsible for the health improvement management services it provides.

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is the shared business name of CareFirst of Maryland, Inc. and Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc. CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Medicare Advantage is the shared business name of CareFirst Advantage, Inc., CareFirst Advantage PPO, Inc. and CareFirst Advantage DSNP, Inc. CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan Maryland is the business name of CareFirst Community Partners, Inc. In the District of Columbia and Maryland, CareFirst MedPlus is the business name of First Care, Inc. In Virginia, CareFirst MedPlus is the business name of First Care, Inc. of Maryland (used in VA by: First Care, Inc.). CareFirst of Maryland, Inc., Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., CareFirst Advantage, Inc., CareFirst Advantage PPO, Inc., CareFirst Advantage DSNP, Inc., CareFirst Community Partners, Inc., CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan District of Columbia, CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc., First Care, Inc., and The Dental Network, Inc. are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. BLUE CROSS®, BLUE SHIELD® and the Cross and Shield Symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.