

Welcome to the Advantage Health Plans Trust (AHPT) Reference Based Pricing Guide for members enrolled in Choice plan designs.

This member education packet provides you with resources to navigate your benefits with the Advantage Health Plans Trust Choice benefits.

Here's what's included in your education packet:

- ✓ A Step-by-Step Guide to How Your Benefits Work
- ✓ FAQs
- ✓ How to Talk to Your Physician About Your Benefits
- ✓ Electronic Provider Request Form

The Choice Plans are **Reference Based Pricing (RBP)** plan designs that base payments to facilities and professional providers on the Medicare fee schedule, plus an incentive bonus over and above current Medicare allowed amounts.

AHPT has partnered with Payer Compass, as another tier of Patient Advocacy. These Patient Advocates can assist you in several ways:

- Offer guidance and assistance with referrals to facilities and professional providers that will accept your Plan's reimbursement rate as payment-in-full.
- Educate you and your providers about AHPT's payment methodology.
- Advocate on your behalf as a liaison between you and your providers about your benefits.
- Reach out to your providers to help gain acceptance of the Plan's reimbursement as payment-in-full.
- Provide assistance and support should you receive a balance bill from your provider.

TAKE NOTE - Assignment of Benefits (AOB) means that you give your right to receive payment of eligible Plan benefits to your provider, less your personal responsibility for any deductibles, copays, or coinsurance.

If your provider accepts the AOB from you, their rights to receive benefits from the Plan are the same as yours. The Plan Document, your ID card, and other correspondence advises your providers that they can only accept AOB from you if they agree to treat the AOB as payment-in-full. Despite accepting AOB as payment-in-full, some providers may attempt to further collect funds from you, above and beyond the maximum amount payable by the Plan or any copay, coinsurance, or deductible you may owe. This is called **balance billing**.

Remember - you are responsible for any amount applied to your deductible, copay, or co-insurance.

Patient Advocates are available to answer your questions at the toll-free number (800) 324-9396.

GUIDING YOU TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADVANTAGE HEALTH PLANS TRUST CHOICE PLAN



HOW YOUR AHP CHOICE PLAN WORKS

Confidence and Care for Plan Members



Choose **ANY** doctor, hospital or medical provider. There is no PPO network. Some exclusions may apply.

Your Plan pays providers based on the Medicare Fee Schedule, plus an incentive bonus.



Call AHPT for questions about your benefits and assistance with your providers. AHPT will connect you with a Payer Compass Patient Advocate, if needed.

It's suggested you reach out to AHPT at least 10 days prior to your scheduled appointment.



The Payer Compass Patient Advocates educate your provider on your benefits to help achieve their acceptance of AHPT's reimbursement rate as payment-in-full.

Providers are to contact Patient Advocacy for questions about your benefits.



Most providers accept the Plan allowed amount as payment-in-full.

Should you receive a balance bill from your provider, *the difference between the Plan's allowed amount and provider's charge*, there is a process in place to assist you.



If you do receive a balance bill, contact Advantage Health Plans Trust immediately at (800) 324-9396.



AHPT will work with Payer Compass to connect you with a Patient Advocate. Your Patient Advocate will contact you with next steps.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REFERENCE BASED PRICING PLANS

Q: Why is my employer offering the Choice Plan instead of a PPO Plan?

A: This program allows your employer to continue providing you with quality benefits while controlling costs for you, your family, and your employer.

Q: Is there a network or list of providers that I can choose from?

A: The Choice Plans do not use a PPO network. There is no network or provider list to keep track of.

Q: Can I still use my current physician?

A: Yes. You should contact AHPT at least 10 days prior to your visit so they can work with Payer Compass to proactively reach out to your provider and explain your benefits to help gain the provider's acceptance of the reimbursement rate as payment-in-full. Member materials also include how to discuss your benefits with your physician directly.

Q: What if my physician won't agree to accept the Medicare RBP reimbursement as payment-in-full?

A: Contact AHPT at the dedicated toll-free number on your ID card for assistance. AHPT will work with Payer Compass to reach out to your physician or assist you in finding another provider that will accept the RBP amount.

Q: Who is the Patient Advocate?

A: Payer Compass will assign a Patient Advocate to you for support and guidance with providers. Here are a few of the services the Payer Compass Patient Advocate can provide:

- Help you understand your Plan and how it works.
- Assist you in finding out whether your current physician will accept the reimbursement rate of your new Plan as payment-in-full.
- Refer you to an accepting provider in your area for the specialty you need.
- Support if you receive a balance bill from your provider.

Q: What is a balance bill?

A: When the provider bills you for any amount over the Reference Based Price limitation for the service rendered. Example: Doctor's charges are \$100 and the RBP allowance at a certain percentage above their Medicare rate is \$70.00. If the provider bills you the \$30 difference, they are balance billing. You will be able to see the amount that exceeds RBP maximum and the allowed amount on the explanation of benefits (EOB) received from Advantage Health Plans Trust.

Q: What should I do if I receive a balance bill?

A: Contact Advantage Health Plans Trust at (800) 324-9396. AHPT will have you send a copy of the bill from your provider and will review the bill to make sure it's an actual balance billing scenario, and not something owed, such as copays, deductibles, or coinsurance. If it's a true balance bill, AHPT will forward the information to a Payer Compass Patient Advocate. The Payer Compass Patient Advocate will contact the provider on your behalf. The Patient Advocate may send a letter to the provider addressing the balance bill, and you will receive a copy of that letter. Your Patient Advocate will keep you informed on the status of your balance bill.

Please feel free to contact AHPT with any questions you may have about your benefits at (800) 324-9396.



HELPFUL HINTS ON DISCUSSING YOUR BENEFITS WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN

If you prefer to contact your physician directly about whether they will accept the RBP allowed amount, the following information will assist you in the process and explain how your benefits work:

Contact your physician's office to let them know that your benefits are based upon a percentage above Medicare and that you would like to make sure they are aware of how they will be reimbursed.

The physician's staff may direct you to call your "insurance company" to find out if they are accepted by the Plan or are "in-network." If this occurs, explain that your Plan doesn't use a PPO network.

When your physician's office asks you for the name of your insurance company, tell them your Plan is a self-funded Plan through Advantage Health Plans Trust.

You may be asked if you are a Medicare participant. The answer is, "No." The Plan does use the Medicare fee schedule, but simply as a benchmark to determine the allowed amount for my Plan. An additional percentage will be added to the Medicare fee schedule allowed amount."

It's possible the person you are speaking with doesn't know whether they will accept the Plan. In that case, ask to speak with the billing manager or office manager. They are typically the decision makers or can easily identify the appropriate person(s).

Once your physician's office agrees to accept your Plan, let them know that all the information about the Plan is on your ID card, which you will bring in at the time of your next appointment. Be sure to also let AHPT know that your physician is accepting the reimbursement so that they can potentially refer other AHPT members to this physician's practice for their medical needs.

If your physician's office is reluctant to accept the reimbursement or still has questions, notify AHPT. They will connect you with a Payer Compass Patient Advocate who will call the provider on your behalf, and they may need to assist you in finding another provider who will accept the Plan reimbursement as payment-in-full.



AHPT is available to assist you Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (CST) at (800) 324-9396.