

Subject: Definition of Physician Visit

References: Amended 1950 & 1974 Benefit Plans & Trusts,
Article III, Sections A (3) (h), A (3) (o) 2 and 4, A (6) (a) and (b), and A (8)

Question:

1. What is the definition of "physician visit"?
2. Is a "physician visit" subject to co-payment?
3. Is each visit to a physician's office subject to co-payment?

Answer:

1. A "physician visit" is defined as follows:

A face-to-face consultation for examination, diagnosis, treatment, or advice. It is a visit if the consultation described above is provided by a physician or by a nurse or other person acting under the physician's supervision. The term "Physician" includes osteopathic physicians as well as M.D.s, but it does not include chiropractors.

Examples of a physician visit include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Inhospital physician's visits
 - b. Home, clinic, and office visits
 - c. Emergency treatment
 - d. Visit for medical consultation
 - e. Visit to specialist
 - f. Visit to podiatrist
 - g. Visit for primary medical care
 - h. Pre- and post-natal visits, if the physician charges separately for such visits in addition to the charge for delivery
 - i. Visit for outpatient mental health, alcoholism, and/or drug addiction
2. Yes.
 3. No. It is not uncommon for a Beneficiary to visit a physician's office and not see the physician. If the services the Beneficiary is receiving are on-going and routine in nature

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and do not require the direct supervision of a physician, such services are not subject to copayment. Examples of these routine services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Administration of B-12 injections for pernicious anemia
- b. Administration of chemotherapy
- c. Administration of radiation therapy
- d. Administration of physical and speech therapy
- e. Administration of allergy desensitization therapy (including the cost of materials, e.g. allergens for desensitization)
- f. Blood pressure checks to monitor antihypertensive therapy