



VNS Health EasyCare (HMO) offered by VNS Health Medicare

Annual Notice of Changes for 2023

You are currently enrolled as a member of VNSNY CHOICE EasyCare. Next year, there will be changes to the plan's costs and benefits. *Please see page 5 for a Summary of Important Costs, including Premium.*

This document tells about the changes to your plan. To get more information about costs, benefits, or rules please review the *Evidence of Coverage*, which is located on our website at vnshealthplans.org/2023-ec. You may also call us to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

- **You have from October 15 until December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.**
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What to do now

1. **ASK:** Which changes apply to you

- Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
 - Review the changes to Medical care costs (doctor, hospital).
 - Review the changes to our drug coverage, including authorization requirements and costs.
 - Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing
- Check the changes in the 2023 Drug List to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.

Check to see if your primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals and other providers, including pharmacies will be in our network next year.

Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. COMPARE: Learn about other plan choices

Check coverage and costs of plans in your area. Use the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov/plan-compare website or review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You 2023* handbook.

Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan's website.

3. CHOOSE: Decide whether you want to change your plan

- If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2022, you will stay in VNS Health EasyCare.
- To change to a **different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1, 2023**. This will end your enrollment with VNSNY CHOICE EasyCare.
- If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can switch plans or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time.

Additional Resources

- This document is available for free in Spanish and Chinese.
Este documento está disponible sin cargo en inglés y chino.
本文件免費提供英文和西班牙文版本。
- Please contact your Care Team at 1-866-783-1444 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are 7 days a week, 8 am – 8 pm (Oct. – Mar.), and weekdays, 8 am – 8 pm (Apr. – Sept.).
- You can get this document for free in other formats, such as large print, braille, or audio. Call 1-866-783-1444 (TTY: 711) Hours are 7 days a week, 8 am – 8 pm (Oct. – Mar.), and weekdays, 8 am – 8 pm (Apr. – Sept.).
- **Coverage under this Plan qualifies as Qualifying Health Coverage (QHC)** and satisfies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual shared responsibility requirement. Please visit the Internal

Revenue Service (IRS) website at www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families for more information.

About VNS Health EasyCare

- VNS Health Medicare is a Medicare Advantage Organization with Medicare and Medicaid contracts, offering HMO D-SNP and HMO plans. Enrollment in VNS Health Medicare depends on contract renewal.
- When this document says “we,” “us,” or “our”, it means VNS Health Health Plans. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means VNS Health EasyCare.

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Summary of Important Costs for 2023

The table below compares the 2022 costs and 2023 costs for VNS Health EasyCare in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of costs.**

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium may be lower than this amount. See Section 2.1 for details.	\$25.00 plan premium	\$25.00 plan premium
Deductible	\$480	\$505
Maximum out-of-pocket amount This is the <u>most</u> you will pay out-of-pocket for your covered Part A and Part B services. (See Section 2.2 for details.)	\$7,550	\$8,300
Doctor office visits	Primary care visits: \$10 per visit. Specialist visits: \$40 per visit.	Primary care visits: \$10 per visit. Specialist visits: \$40 per visit.
Inpatient hospital stays	Days 1-5: \$400 Days 6-90: \$0	Days 1-5: \$400 Days 6-90: \$0

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 2.5 for details.)	Deductible: \$0 to \$480 depending on your level of LIS.	Deductible: \$0 to \$505 depending on your level of LIS.
	Copayment / Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:	Copayment / Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:
	Tier 1 (Preferred Generic) You pay \$15 per prescription.	Tier 1 (Preferred Generic) You pay \$15 per prescription.
	Tier 2 (Generic) You pay \$20 per prescription	Tier 2 (Generic) You pay \$20 per prescription
	Tier 3 (Preferred Brand) You pay \$47 per prescription.	Tier 3 (Preferred Brand) You pay \$47 per prescription.
	Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Brand) You pay \$100 per prescription.	Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Brand) You pay \$100 per prescription.
	Tier 5 (Specialty Tier) You pay 25% coinsurance.	Tier 5 (Specialty Tier) You pay 25% coinsurance.
	Tier 6 (Select Care Drugs) You pay \$0 after \$480 deductible is met.	Tier 6 (Select Care Drugs) You pay \$0 after \$505 deductible is met.

SECTION 1 We Are Changing the Plan's Name

On January 1, 2023, our plan name will change from VNSNY CHOICE EasyCare to VNS Health EasyCare.

In December, you will receive a new ID card in the mail with the VNS Health EasyCare plan name on it. You will also start seeing materials with the plan name VNS Health EasyCare.

SECTION 2 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 2.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Monthly premium (You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.)	No change. \$25.00 monthly premium	No change. \$25.00 monthly premium

- Your monthly plan premium will be *more* if you are required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without other drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as “creditable coverage”) for 63 days or more.
- If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for your Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Your monthly premium will be *less* if you are receiving “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs. Please see Section 7 regarding “Extra Help” from Medicare.

Section 2.2 – Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount

Medicare requires all health plans to limit how much you pay “out-of-pocket” for the year. This limit is called the “maximum out-of-pocket amount.” Once you reach this amount, you generally pay nothing for covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the year.

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Maximum out-of-pocket amount Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays and deductibles) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount. Your plan premium and your costs for prescription drugs do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.	\$7,550	\$8,300 Once you have paid \$8,300 out-of-pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you will pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the calendar year.

Section 2.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks

Updated directories are located on our website at vnshealthplans.org/providers. You may also call your Care Team for updated provider and/or pharmacy information or to ask us to mail you a *Provider and Pharmacy Directory*.

There are changes to our network of providers next year. **Please review the 2023 *Provider and Pharmacy Directory* to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network.**

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers), and pharmacies that are part of your plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our providers affects you, please contact your Care Team so we may assist.

Section 2.4 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services

We are making changes to costs and benefits for certain medical services next year. The information below describes these changes.

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Acupuncture	Acupuncture is <u>not</u> covered.	12 visits per year Prior authorization required.
Annual Wellness Visit	You pay a \$10 copay for an Annual Wellness Visit.	You pay a \$0 copay for an Annual Wellness Visit.
Dental	You pay a \$0 cost share/copay for preventive and comprehensive dental coverage. You are covered for up to \$1,500 per year. Prior Authorization required. See your Member Handbook (Evidence of Coverage) for more information on the full list of services covered by the plan.	You pay a \$0 cost share/copay for preventive and comprehensive dental coverage. You are covered for up to \$2,000 per year. Prior Authorization required. See your Member Handbook (Evidence of Coverage) for more information on the full list of services covered by the plan.

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Hospice	Hospice Care Support Allowance is not covered.	Hospice Care Support Allowance: If you are eligible for and elect hospice with an in-network hospice provider, you may be eligible for a \$500 Hospice Care Support Allowance.

Cost	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Hospice (continued)		<p>The allowance is a supplemental benefit that allows for the purchase of goods or services that are not covered by your health plan’s benefits. These goods or services should be related to providing comfort and improving your quality of life while receiving hospice care. Some examples include but are not limited to home and bathroom safety devices/ modifications; Support for caregivers of enrollees, etc. Prior health plan approval for requested goods or services is required.</p> <p>See your Member Handbook (<i>Evidence of Coverage</i>) for more information on the full list of services covered by the plan.</p>
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Card	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>You are covered for up to \$45 per quarter for over-the-counter items.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>You are covered for up to \$70 per quarter for over-the-counter items.</p>
Urgent Care	<p>You pay a \$65 copay per visit</p>	<p>You pay a \$60 copay per visit</p>

Section 2.5 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Changes to Our Drug List

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or “Drug List.” A copy of our Drug List is provided electronically. An updated formulary is located on our website at vnshealthplans.org/formulary. You may also call your Care Team at 1-866-783-1444 (TTY: 711) for updated drug information or to ask us to mail you a formulary.

We made changes to our Drug List, including changes to the drugs we cover and changes to the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs. **Review the Drug List to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions.**

Most of the changes in the Drug List are new for the beginning of each year. However, during the year, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules. For instance, we can immediately remove drugs considered unsafe by the FDA or withdrawn from the market by a product manufacturer. We update our online Drug List to provide the most up-to-date list of drugs.

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, please review Chapter 9 of your *Evidence of Coverage* and talk to your doctor to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception and/or working to find a new drug. You can also contact your Care Team for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

Important Message About What You Pay for Vaccines - Our plan covers most Part D vaccines at no cost to you even if you haven’t paid your deductible. Call your Care Team for more information.

Important Message About What You Pay for Insulin - You won’t pay more than \$35 for a one-month supply of each insulin product covered by our plan, no matter what cost-sharing tier it’s on, even if you haven’t paid your deductible.

Note: If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs (“Extra Help”), **the information about costs for Part D prescription drugs does not apply to you.** We have included a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (also called the “Low Income Subsidy Rider” or the “LIS Rider”), which tells you about your drug costs.

If you receive “Extra Help” and didn’t receive this insert with this packet, please call your Care Team and ask for the “LIS Rider.”

There are four “drug payment stages.”

The information below shows the changes to the first two stages – the Yearly Deductible Stage and the Initial Coverage Stage. (Most members do not reach the other two stages – the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.)

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
<p>Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage</p> <p>During this stage, you pay the full cost of your Part D drugs until you have reached the yearly deductible.</p>	<p>The deductible is \$480.</p>	<p>The deductible is \$505.</p>

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

Stage	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage</p> <p>Once you pay the yearly deductible, you move to the Initial Coverage Stage. During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share of the cost.</p> <p>The costs in this row are for a one-month (30-day) supply when you fill your prescription at a network pharmacy that provides standard cost sharing. For information about the costs for a long-term supply; at a network pharmacy that offers preferred cost sharing; or for mail-order prescriptions, look in Chapter 6, Section 5 of your <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy with standard cost sharing:</p> <p>Tier 1 (Preferred Generic) You pay \$15 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 2 (Generic) You pay \$20 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 3 (Preferred Brand) You pay \$47 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Brand) You pay \$100 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 5 (Specialty Tier) You pay 25% of the total cost.</p> <p>Tier 6 (Select Care Drugs) You pay \$0 per prescription.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy with standard cost sharing:</p> <p>Tier 1 (Preferred Generic) You pay \$15 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 2 (Generic) You pay \$20 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 3 (Preferred Brand) You pay \$47 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 4 (Non-Preferred Brand) You pay \$100 per prescription.</p> <p>Tier 5 (Specialty Tier) You pay 25% of the total cost.</p> <p>Tier 6 (Select Care Drugs) You pay \$0 per prescription.</p>

Stage	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage (continued)	Once your total drug costs have reached \$4,430, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).	Once your total drug costs have reached \$4,660, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).

SECTION 3 Administrative Changes

Description	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Reward Program Name Change	Healthy CHOICE, Healthy You	Member Rewards Program
Reward Program Activities and Rewards	Eligible health activities and reward amount information were mailed to your home.	Updated eligible health activities and reward amounts. More information will be mailed to your home.
Reward Program Card	The first time you complete a health activity, we'll send you a reloadable Mastercard® gift card as a reward.	When you complete a health activity, we'll send you a gift card as a reward.
Over-the-Counter (OTC) products vendor	OTC products are available through DrugSource.	OTC products are available through Convey. An updated catalog will be issued with information around how to place orders.

SECTION 4 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 4.1 – If you want to stay in VNS Health EasyCare

To stay in our plan, you don't need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan or change to Original Medicare by December 7, you will automatically be enrolled in VNS Health EasyCare.

Section 4.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2023 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare health plan,
- *OR--* You can change to Original Medicare. If you change to Original Medicare, you will need to decide whether to join a Medicare drug plan. If you do not enroll in a Medicare drug plan, please see Section 2.1 regarding a potential Part D late enrollment penalty.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder (www.medicare.gov/plan-compare), read the *Medicare & You 2023* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 6), or call Medicare (see Section 8.2).

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from VNS Health EasyCare.
- To **change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from VNS Health EasyCare.
- To **change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan**, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll or contact your Care Team if you need more information on how to do so.
 - – *or* – Contact **Medicare**, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 5 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different plan or to Original Medicare for next year, you can do it from **October 15 until December 7**. The change will take effect on January 1, 2023.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. Examples include people with Medicaid, those who get “Extra Help” paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area.

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2023, and don’t like your plan choice, you can switch to another Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) between January 1 and March 31, 2023.

If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can change your Medicare coverage **at any time**. You can change to any other Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time.

SECTION 6 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In New York, the SHIP is called Health Insurance, Information and Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP).

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. HIICAP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call HIICAP at 1-800-701-0501. You can learn more about HIICAP by visiting their website (<https://aging.ny.gov/health-insurance-information-counseling-and-assistance-program-hiicap>).

SECTION 7 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Below we list different kinds of help:

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. To see if you qualify, call:
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
 - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778; or
 - Your State Medicaid Office (applications).
- **Help from your state’s pharmaceutical assistance program.** New York has a program called Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) that helps people pay for prescription drugs based on their financial need, age, or medical condition. To learn more about the program, check with your State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
- **Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS.** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of State residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the State, and uninsured/under-insured status. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the New York State HIV Uninsured programs. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call 1-800-542-2437.

SECTION 8 Questions?

Section 8.1 – Getting Help from VNS Health EasyCare

Questions? We're here to help. Please call your Care Team at 1-866-783-1444. (TTY only, call 711). We are available for phone calls 7 days a week from 8 am – 8 pm (Oct. – Mar.), and weekdays, 8 am – 8 pm (Apr. – Sept). Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2023 Evidence of Coverage (it has details about next year's benefits and costs)

This *Annual Notice of Changes* gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2023. For details, look in the *2023 Evidence of Coverage* for VNS Health EasyCare. The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the *Evidence of Coverage* is located on our website at vnshealthplans.org/2023-ec. You may also call your Care Team to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at vnshealthplans.org. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our provider network (*Provider Directory*) and our list of covered drugs (Formulary/Drug List).

Section 8.2 – Getting Help from Medicare

To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Visit the Medicare Website

Visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star Ratings to help you compare Medicare health plans in your area. To view the information about plans, go to www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Read *Medicare & You 2023*

Read the *Medicare & You 2023* handbook. Every fall, this booklet is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this document, you can get it at the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf>) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.