Core Plans

Getting the care you need
Why Choose Kaiser Permanente?

As a nonprofit, Kaiser Permanente has always put members first. And we’re committed to providing you the coverage and personalized care you need to stay healthy and tackle any health issues that come your way.

Core plans give you the best we have to offer:

**Integrated services.** Having medical, vision, and pharmacy benefits from Kaiser Permanente makes managing your care easier.

**Convenient care options.** Beyond access to 10,000* providers in the Core network, you can call the Consulting Nurse helpline for advice 24/7, use CareClinics at Bartell Drugs at select Seattle-area locations, or get diagnosis and treatment for routine issues with a Kaiser Permanente online visit.

**Dedication to prevention.** You’ll get reminders about screenings and lab tests you need to keep your health on track.

**Excellence at an affordable price.** Core HMO rated first in the state in health plan performance by the Washington Health Alliance 2016 Community Checkup Report.** It was also rated first in the nation in plan performance by The National Business Coalition on Health based on their 2016 eValue8 survey.***

For more information about our plans, please call Member Services at 1-888-901-4636. We look forward to assisting you along every step of your health journey.
THE NETWORK

Kaiser Permanente Physicians and Care Teams
Access to care from more than 1,000 Kaiser Permanente physicians,* including more than 350 primary care providers and nearly 600 specialists.

**Award-winning doctors.** With a Core plan, you can get your care from the highest-ranked medical group in Washington state—Washington Permanente Medical Group.** Our doctors take time to get to know you and your health care needs so they can provide advanced medicine on a personal level. And same day appointments are often available for immediate needs.

**Integrated care.** We coordinate your care so you don’t have to. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, care managers and therapists all work together to manage your health issues. Information is instantly updated electronically, so your health care team can provide services quickly and safely. Even our clinics are integrated. All have their own pharmacy and most have lab and X-ray for one-stop convenience.

**Secure online services.** Save time and take a more active role in your health with online features you get with Kaiser Permanente. You can email your care team, schedule appointments, check lab test results, view office visit summaries, and more. And, if you’re away from home, our mobile app allows you to access care on the go.

Other In-Network Community Providers
Access to more than 9,000 additional providers around Washington state, including over 1,000 primary care providers and 49 hospitals.*

**Wherever you live, whatever you need.** We contract with a large network of community providers to ensure you get the care you need in locations where we don’t have our own medical offices or for services or procedures that aren’t offered at Kaiser Permanente facilities. Plus we team up with other hospitals in all of the communities we serve.

**Doctor-approved.** Our medical group sets high standards for all Core providers in clinical quality and patient satisfaction, so you can feel confident whoever you choose to see. We also work closely to support our network providers in their efforts to improve care and implement electronic medical records. These doctors contribute to the superior quality that has led to the Core plan’s national recognition for health plan performance.***

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*OIC Provider Network Form A
** Formerly Group Health Cooperative; 2016 Community Checkup, Washington Health Alliance. Based on more than 50 clinical measures of quality.
***Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington’s commercial HMO (formerly Group Health Cooperative) rated the top health plan in the United States in the 2016 eValue8™ survey. Managed by the National Business Coalition on Health, eValue8™ is an evidence-based resource created by business coalitions and employers like Marriott and General Motors to measure and evaluate health plan cost, quality, and performance.
LOCATIONS

Here’s a list of cities and towns where you can find Kaiser Permanente physicians and a list of locations where you can find other network providers throughout Washington and North Idaho. When you receive primary or specialty care at Kaiser Permanente medical offices, you get access to our full breadth of services, including email access to your doctor, online medical records, and much more.
Wherever you go, you’re never far from expert care

When you’re away from home, you get access to any of Kaiser Permanente’s facilities at your level of coverage, including routine care. This includes facilities in California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, Oregon, and Washington.

What about emergency care?
You’re covered for emergency and medically necessary urgent care anywhere in the world. If you’re admitted to a non-Kaiser Permanente Washington facility, you or a family member must call the Notification Line within 24 hours, or as soon as reasonably possible. If you need urgent care, call the Consulting Nurse helpline for assistance. We may be able to arrange for you to go to a facility where your cost shares will be lower. If your plan has a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible for emergency or urgent care, you’ll be billed accordingly.

What if I need to be reimbursed?
If you receive care at a non-affiliated hospital or medical center, you may be required to pay in full at the time of service. But don’t worry. When you get home, just mail us your completed claims form and medical receipts so we can reimburse you for any covered charges.
SPECIALTY CARE

You can self-refer to some specialists in our network, but your personal primary care physician can advise you and help guide your total health care program. That’s why it’s a good idea to select the doctor who’s right for you right from the start. From arranging your lab tests, X-rays, and hospital care, to prescriptions, referring you to certain specialists, physical therapy, and more, your doctor is your partner in getting the care you need and improving your health.

Access to specialty care

Kaiser Permanente doctors and care teams
You can self-refer for specialty care from many Kaiser Permanente specialists in the Core network, regardless of who provides your primary care. Once you’ve found a specialist who you’d like to see, or one your primary care doctor has recommended to you, just call the specialist’s office and request an appointment. Or you can call Kaiser Permanente Member Services for assistance. But again, it’s always a good idea to talk first with your personal physician as there are some exceptions.

Access to alternative care

Many of our members want to stay well their own way. That’s why you can choose from a variety of treatment options, including alternative medicine. From naturopathy to chiropractic care, what really matters is making sure you have access to the full range of health care that you might want to use. See your Summary of Benefits and Coverage for details about your plan’s coverage.

How can I access alternative care providers?
You can self-refer to a licensed chiropractor, acupuncturist, or naturopath in the Core network. And if you need to see a massage therapist, your personal physician can write a prescription and care plan for you.

How much of my alternative care is covered?
Some plans include a specific number of covered visits for naturopathy, acupuncture, and chiropractic care. Once you exhaust those visit limits, you may be eligible for more covered visits for naturopathy and acupuncture. Coverage for additional visits is dependent upon a provider review of your medical history and current health status. If more visits are deemed medically necessary, they will be covered at your plan’s benefit level.

Are there coverage exceptions?
Yes. Chiropractic care, in most cases, cannot be extended past the covered visit limit. However, there are a few exceptions to this rule for chiropractic care. Also, some plans may not offer any coverage for alternative care and, again, limitations to visits apply. Be sure to check your benefits booklet for details about your coverage.

What if I want care beyond what my plan covers?
All members can get access to alternative care through a non-covered program called Complementary ChoicesSM. You can learn more in “Extras to help you stay healthy” on page 8.

To see a list of our alternative care providers, visit kp.org/wa/provider.

Other network specialists
This network includes nearly 4,500 network specialty care providers* and services across the state. To see those who do not practice at Kaiser Permanente medical offices, your personal physician will need to request preauthorization from Kaiser Permanente before referring you. One exception: covered women’s health care services do not require a referral.

*Source: OIC Provider Network Form A
Kaiser Permanente Specialty Care

As a plan member, regardless of where you get your primary care, you have access to award-winning Kaiser Permanente specialists. Simply call Member Services at 1-888-901-4636 for a location nearest you and you will be connected to the appropriate appointment line.

**Western Washington**
- Activity, Sports, and Exercise Medicine
- Allergy and Asthma
- Audiology
- Bariatric Surgery
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Hematology
- Hospice
- Midwifery Services
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Occupational Medicine
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Optometry
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Otolaryngology
- Physical Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Pulmonary/Sleep Medicine
- Speech, Language & Learning Services
- Urology

**Spokane Area**
- Activity, Sports, and Exercise Medicine
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Occupational Medicine
- Oncology
- Optometry
- Physical Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology

**Caring for you in area hospitals**
Nearly all of our specialists found at our six specialty centers are affiliated with hospitals and can admit you when needed. Many practice in hospitals as well—from consulting on treatment to performing surgeries to working as hospitalists to coordinate your care during your hospital stay. From Seattle Children's in Seattle and Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue to Providence St. Peter’s in Olympia and Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane—our doctors are valued members of the medical staff at nine major hospitals.

**Ambulatory surgery**
Kaiser Permanente specialists, assisted by surgical nurses and technologists, perform surgical procedures every month at our ambulatory surgery centers in Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma. Many surgeries that used to require a hospital stay can now be done on an outpatient basis. That means you’ll go home the same day, often within a few hours.

Individual specialists are listed online at kp.org/wa/provider.
The basics

Where can I fill my prescription?
KAISER PERMANENTE MEDICAL OFFICES
When you receive care from Kaiser Permanente doctors, you can get prescriptions filled at any Kaiser Permanente pharmacy located throughout Western Washington and Spokane.

OTHER NETWORK PHARMACIES
If you don’t have convenient access to a Kaiser Permanente medical facility and instead see one of our contracted network doctors, you can have your prescriptions filled at any network pharmacy in your community. Network pharmacies are listed at kp.org/wa/provider under Pharmacies.

BY PHONE OR ONLINE
For refills that have been filled at least once at a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy (or that have been transferred into our pharmacy system), you can phone in your prescription, use the Kaiser Permanente Washington mobile app (kp.org/wa/mobile), or make a request online (kp.org/wa/pharmacy) for pick-up at a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy or for home delivery by mail.

Do you have a home-delivery service?
Yes. Kaiser Permanente’s pharmacy system lets you order refills online or by phone, fax, or mail and have them delivered anywhere in the U.S. with no shipping charge for regular mail. On average, refills arrive within 3–5 days, but should be allowed up to 10 days.

How many days supply can I order?
Depending on the type of medication, a prescription will be filled for either a 90-day supply or a 30-day supply at one time at Kaiser Permanente pharmacies and at other network pharmacies. However, if the medication is not on the maintenance list, only a 30-day supply will be filled at a time.

Can I use the Kaiser Permanente mail-order service even if a non–Kaiser Permanente or non–network provider wrote my prescription?
Yes. Just have the doctor’s office fax, phone, or mail your new prescription to the Kaiser Permanente Mail-Order Pharmacy. A pharmacist will call if the drug is not on your plan’s formulary.

Safety requirements

What is a maintenance list?
Maintenance medications include drugs that are taken regularly for a chronic condition, and do not raise significant concerns related to potential misuse, safety, or toxicity problems, and do not require frequent monitoring or dosing changes.

What is preauthorization?
For certain medications, specific medical criteria need to be met before that medication is covered to ensure the highest level of patient safety. The physician needs to communicate to Kaiser Permanente that the patient has met this criteria. Obtaining authorization before a medication is covered is called preauthorization.

What is a formulary?
A formulary is a list of preferred medications that are covered as a pharmacy benefit. For many medical conditions, there are multiple medications with similar effectiveness and safety. Our formulary is used as a guideline for our providers and does not dictate what your physician can or cannot prescribe. The degree of coverage depends on your drug benefit plan.
Who decides what drugs go on the formulary?
A committee of physicians and pharmacists meets quarterly and reviews new drugs as they become available on the market. They look at all known research and data related to the new drug and decide which ones will be on the formulary based on safety and effectiveness. Cost is taken into consideration when an equally effective and safe drug is already available.

Why does the formulary sometimes list a generic drug and not a brand-name drug?
Generic-equivalent medications contain the same active ingredient as the brand-name medication but are more affordable. The generic medications become available as the patent for the more expensive brand runs out. The formulary will list the generic equivalent instead of the more expensive brand-name medication. Note: If you opt for a brand-name drug, and it’s not medically necessary, you will be required to pay the difference in cost between the generic and brand-name drug in addition to a higher cost share.

Why do doctors sometimes prescribe nonformulary drugs?
There are situations when the use of nonformulary drugs are warranted. Those situations can include patients who have developed intolerance to formulary medications or patients who have tried and not responded to formulary alternatives.

Why can some drugs be refilled and others always need a new prescription?
How often a prescription can be refilled is related to its potential misuse, safety, or potential toxicity. For example:
- Noncontrolled prescriptions can be filled and refilled for one year from the date they are written before a new prescription from a physician is needed.
- Schedule 3–5 controlled prescriptions can be filled for six months from the date they are written or after they have been refilled five times (filled a total of six times) before a new prescription from a physician is needed.
- Schedule 2 controlled prescriptions are not refillable and would require a new prescription from the physician.

About coverage

How do I determine if there are requirements regarding my drug’s coverage?
Look up your medications in our formulary. You’ll find out if you need prior authorization or whether your medication requires step therapy, in which case you would need to try a generic alternative. If you’re on a drug that requires prior authorization and you obtained this with another company’s plan, please understand that in switching to a new plan carrier—Kaiser Permanente—you will still need to complete the preauthorization process with us.

If you have any medicines that fall into these categories, have your doctor initiate the coverage review process by contacting the Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Drug Benefit Help Desk for Providers as soon as possible (1-800-729-1174). If approval isn’t obtained, your drug may not be covered.

If my drug isn’t on the formulary, what kind of coverage will I have?
Some plans provide limited coverage for nonformulary medications. Once you have a plan, contact your employer’s benefit office or Kaiser Permanente Member Services for information regarding your specific plan benefits for prescriptions.

Would my nonformulary drug be covered under the generic or brand-name copayment?
Neither. Some health plans provide limited coverage for nonformulary medications. These usually have a higher copayment than the copayment for a generic or brand-name drug. Once you have a plan, contact your employer’s benefit office or Kaiser Permanente Member Services for information regarding your specific plan benefits for prescriptions.

For pharmacy benefits and coverage questions, call Member Services at 206-630-4636 or toll-free 1-888-901-4636. Or visit the Pharmacy Services page at kp.org/wa/pharmacy for more detailed information, including a list of pharmacies in the Core network.
Extras to help you stay healthy. Your health plan comes with a lot more than just coverage. These member perks provide additional ways for you to get care, take an active role in your health, and be the best you can possibly be.

Classes, workshops, and support groups
From cooking smart to living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease, these classes and other resources help you learn to live healthier. Support groups allow you to share with and learn from members going through similar health experiences. Visit kp.org/wa/member-info and select “Classes & Events.”

Communication preferences
Do you prefer to get information sent to your inbox rather than your mailbox? Kaiser Permanente members can choose to receive some information electronically, including plan information, news about events and services, health tips, and clinic updates. It’s as simple as signing up on the Kaiser Permanente member website at kp.org/wa, and clicking the “Communication Preferences” link.

Complementary Choices®
In addition to traditional medicine, we offer Complementary Choices. Receive a 20 percent discount on acupuncture, naturopathy, chiropractic care, massage, yoga, tai chi, Pilates, and personal trainers from a variety of network providers and other practitioners that participate in this program. Visit kp.org/wa and search “Complementary Choices” to learn more.

Consulting Nurse Service
Whether you have an illness, injury, or just want advice on symptoms, the Consulting Nurse Service is just a phone call away, 24/7. Nurses can also view your online medical record when you receive care at a Kaiser Permanente medical office. Call toll-free 1-800-297-6877.

Eye Care Services
Take advantage of discounts throughout the year on everything from designer frames and sunglasses to contact lenses at 14 Eye Care locations, most within Kaiser Permanente medical offices. Special discounts for federal employees, military, and retirees. Visit kp.org/wa/eyecare.

Fitness center discounts
This special resource gives you access to numerous affordable options to get fit and have fun. You’ll get discounts on more than 10,000 fitness facilities nationwide, plus exercise videos and equipment for the perfect home workout. Weight management programs are also available at valuable savings. Visit globalfit.com/kpwa.

Healthwise® Knowledgebase
This online database might be the next best thing to having a doctor in the house. It’s a convenient, professional, reliable source for making better health care decisions. From what ails you to what confuses you, you’re sure to find advice and resources based on the latest scientific research and reviewed by medical experts. Visit kp.org/wa/kbase.
Health Profile assessment
Your Health Profile is an online health questionnaire about your lifestyle habits and any health conditions. Once completed, a personalized, color-coded report tells you how you’re doing, and offers recommendations for positive changes. Learn more at kp.org/wa.

Mobile app
Kaiser Permanente Washington’s mobile app gives you easy access to health care information, no matter where you are. The app is available for the iPhone® and Android™ smartphones, and includes many features available on our the Kaiser Permanente member website.

Kaiser Permanente member website (kp.org/wa/member)
Choose a doctor, complete your Health Profile, order prescription refills, access articles and information on health topics, and check your health coverage and benefit usage—all online. When you receive care at Kaiser Permanente medical offices, you can also email your health care team, view your lab results and online medical record, access the medical records of your children (aged 12 and younger), schedule appointments, and view your after-visit summaries.

Tobacco cessation support
If you’re a tobacco user, the Quit For Life® Program is designed to help you stop at no additional cost. Proven individual phone-based or online programs give you the tools and assistance to quit for good. More than 50,000 members have participated in the past nine years and 37 percent have quit using tobacco.** To register, call toll-free 1-800-462-5327 or visit quitnow.net/kpwa.

Walk & Talk program
Join other Kaiser Permanente members for the free Walk & Talk program organized by the Activity, Sports, and Exercise Medicine department and available at six locations. Get a health tip, followed by a walk with a member of the Kaiser Permanente medical staff. Visit kp.org/wa/walkandtalk for times and locations.

Do you have more questions about our plans—or just need help signing up? Call Member Services at 1-888-901-4636 and we’ll be happy to help you.

KAISER PERMANENTE NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. ("Kaiser Permanente") comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Kaiser Permanente does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Kaiser Permanente:

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

• Qualified sign language interpreters
• Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

• Qualified interpreters
• Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Kaiser Permanente Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Kaiser Permanente has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: Kaiser Permanente Civil Rights Coordinator, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Headquarters, 320 Westlake Ave. N., Suite 100, GHQ-E2N, Seattle, WA 98109, 206-448-5819, 206-877-0645 (Fax), complianceoffice@kp.org. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Kaiser Permanente Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD).

Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES

English: ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-888-901-4636 (TTY: 1-800-833-6388 or 711).


中文 (Chinese): 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 1-888-901-4636 (TTY: 1-800-833-6388 / 711)。


Українська (Ukrainian): УВАГА! Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, ви можете звернутися до безкоштовної служби мовної підтримки. Телефонуйте за номером 1-888-901-4636 (телетайп: 1-800-833-6388 / 711).


日本語(Japanese): 注意事項: 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。1-888-901-4636（TTY: 1-800-833-6388 / 711）まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

አማርኛ (Amharic): የሚኖሩት ቁንቋ ኣማርኛ ከሆነ የትርጉም እርዳታ ድርጅቶች፣ በነጻ ሊያግዝዎት ተዘጋጀ特派ል፡ ወደሚከተለው ቁጥር ይደውሉ1-888-901-4636 (መስማት ለተሳናቸው: 1-800-833-6388 / 711)。


فارسی (Farsi): توجه: اگر به زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می‌گردد. با تماس (TTY: 1-800-833-6388 / 711).


