

First Choice VIP Care (HMO-SNP) offered by AmeriHealth First.

Annual Notice of Changes for 2024

You are currently enrolled as a member of First Choice VIP Care. Next year, there will be changes to the plan's costs and benefits. *Please see page 4 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 www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

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 2024 “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 2024* handbook.
- Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan's website.

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

- If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2023, you will stay in First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to a different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1, 2024**. This will end your enrollment with First Choice VIP Care.
- Look in section 2.2, page 13 to learn more about your choices.
- 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

- Please contact our Member Services number at **1-888-996-0499 (TTY 711)** for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are October 1 – March 31: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week and from April 1 – September 30: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. This call is free.
- **Please contact Member Services if you require this document in an alternative format such as large font, Braille, or audio.**
- **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 First Choice VIP Care

- First Choice VIP Care is an HMO-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. Enrollment in First Choice VIP Care depends on contract renewal. The plan also has a written agreement with the South Carolina Medicaid program to coordinate your Medicaid benefits.
 - When this document says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means Select Health of South Carolina, Inc. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means First Choice VIP Care.
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**Annual Notice of Changes for 2024
Table of Contents**

Summary of Important Costs for 2024 4

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year 6

Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium 6

Section 1.2 – Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount..... 6

Section 1.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks..... 7

Section 1.4 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services 7

Section 1.5 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage 10

SECTION 2 Deciding Which Plan to Choose..... 13

Section 2.1 – If you want to stay in First Choice VIP Care..... 13

Section 2.2 – If you want to change plans 13

SECTION 3 Changing Plans 14

SECTION 4 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare and Medicaid 15

SECTION 5 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs 15

SECTION 6 Questions?..... 16

Section 6.1 – Getting Help from First Choice VIP Care 16

Section 6.2 – Getting Help from Medicare 17

Section 6.3 – Getting Help from Medicaid..... 17

Summary of Important Costs for 2024

The table below compares the 2023 costs and 2024 costs for First Choice VIP Care in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of costs.** If you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay \$0 for your deductible, doctor office visits, and inpatient hospital stays.

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium may be higher than this amount. See Section 1.1 for details.	\$0	\$0
Doctor office visits	Primary care visits: \$0 per visit Specialist visits: \$0 per visit	Primary care visits: \$0 per visit Specialist visits: \$0 per visit
Inpatient hospital stays	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 1.5 for details.)	Deductible: \$0 or \$505: except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines. Copayment during the Initial Coverage Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 1: You pay \$0, \$1.45, or \$4.15 per prescription. • Drug Tier 2: You pay \$0, \$4.30, or \$10.35 per prescription Catastrophic Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this payment stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your covered drugs. 	Deductible: \$0 Copayment during the Initial Coverage Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You Pay \$0 per prescription. Catastrophic Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing.

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each prescription, you pay whichever of these is larger: a payment equal to 5% of the cost of the drug (this is called coinsurance), or a copayment (\$4.15 for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic, and \$10.35 for all other drugs.). 	
<p>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 1.2 for details.)</p>	<p>\$8,300</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p>	<p>\$8,850</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p>

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Monthly premium</p> <p>There is no change for the upcoming benefit year.</p> <p>(You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium unless it is paid for you by Medicaid.)</p>	\$0	\$0

Section 1.2 – 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 services for the rest of the year.

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Maximum out-of-pocket amount</p> <p>Because our members also get assistance from Medicaid, very few members ever reach this out-of-pocket maximum.</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p> <p>Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.</p>	\$8,300	<p>\$8,850</p> <p>Once you have paid \$8,850 out-of-pocket for covered services, you will pay nothing for your covered services for the rest of the calendar year.</p>

Section 1.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks

Updated directories are located on our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services for updated provider and/or pharmacy information or to ask us to mail you a directory, which we will mail within three business days.

There are changes to our network of providers for next year. **Please review the 2024 *Provider Directory* to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network.**

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. **Please review the 2024 *Pharmacy Directory* to see which pharmacies are in our network.**

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

Section 1.4 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services

Please note that the *Annual Notice of Changes* tells you about changes to your Medicare benefits and costs.

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

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Transportation Services	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Unlimited trips every year to plan-approved locations.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required for trips that exceed 50 miles for a one-way ride. Other prior authorization and scheduling rules apply.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>80 one-way trips every year to plan-approved locations.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required for trips that exceed 50 miles for a one-way ride. Other prior authorization and scheduling rules apply.</p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Over-the-Counter Items (OTC)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Benefit includes up to \$280 allowance per quarter, which may be spent for over-the-counter items included in the OTC catalog, online ordering portal and/or qualified items at participating retail settings via a restricted spend debit card. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each quarter or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p> <p>Members may order up to 6 products per category per quarter. There is no limit on the number of total items in your order. OTC orders are limited to 3 orders per quarter. Additional limits may apply to some items.</p> <p>Members who qualify under the Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill Benefit (SSBCI) may also use up to \$100 of the \$280 quarterly allowance towards qualifying Food & Produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox mail-order, items limits may apply.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Benefit includes up to \$185 per month may be spent for over-the-counter (OTC) items included in the OTC catalog, online ordering portal and/or qualified items at participating retail settings via a restricted spend debit card. There is no limit on the total number of items or orders a member may purchase. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p> <p>Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$185 of the monthly allowance towards qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox mail-order, item limits may apply and/or qualifying rent and utility services. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay for SSBCI benefits.</p> <p>Members who qualify under the SSBCI chronic conditions outlined below may use up to \$100 of the \$280 quarterly allowance for over-the-counter (OTC) Benefits towards qualifying Food & Produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox Mail-order items via a restricted spend debit card. Limits may apply. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each quarter or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p> <p>Qualifying chronic conditions include:</p> <p>Chronic alcohol and other drug dependence; Autoimmune disorders; Cancer; Cardiovascular disorders; Chronic heart failure; Dementia; Diabetes; End-stage liver disease; End-stage renal disease (ESRD); Severe hematologic disorders; HIV/AIDS; Chronic lung disorders; Chronic and disabling mental health conditions; Neurologic disorders; Stroke; Obesity; Dermatological Disorders; Osteoporosis; Malnutrition and Endocrine disorders.</p>	<p>Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI) are <u>not</u> covered</p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Value-Based Insurance Design Model Benefit (VBID)	Value-Based Insurance Design Model Benefit (VBID) is <u>not</u> covered	You pay a \$0 copay for VBID benefits. Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$185 of the monthly allowance towards qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox mail-order, item limits may apply and/or qualifying rent and utility services. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan
Acupuncture	Routine acupuncture is not covered	You pay a \$0 copay per visit. 12 routine acupuncture visits covered every year.
Chiropractic Care	Routine chiropractic care is not covered	You pay a \$0 copay per visit. 12 routine chiropractic visits covered every year.

Section 1.5 – 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.

We made changes to our “Drug List,” which could include removing or adding drugs, changing the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs or moving them to a different cost-

sharing tier. **Review the “Drug List” to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions, or if your drug has been moved to a different cost-sharing tier.**

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 Member Services for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

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	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage	The deductible is \$0 or \$505. Your deductible amount is either \$0 or \$505, depending on the level of “Extra Help” you receive. (Look at the separate insert, the “LIS Rider,” for your deductible amount.)	Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: 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. Most adult Part D vaccines are covered at no cost to you.</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.</p> <p>For information about the costs for a long-term supply 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>Generic (Tier 1): You pay \$0, \$1.45, or \$4.15 per prescription.</p> <p>Generic and Brand (Tier 2): You pay \$0, \$4.30, or \$10.35 per prescription</p> <hr/> <p>Once you have paid \$7,400 out-of-pocket for Part D drugs, you will move to the next stage (the Catastrophic Coverage Stage).</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy with standard cost sharing:</p> <p>You pay \$0 per prescription.</p>

Changes to your VBID Part D Benefit

The Value Base Insurance Design (VBID) Model for First Choice VIP Care Part D program eliminates cost sharing and removes Part D Drug Tiers for plan year 2024.

You will pay \$0 copay per prescription for all VBID Part D benefits.

Changes to the Coverage Gap and Catastrophic Coverage Stages

The other two drug coverage stages – the Coverage Gap Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage – are for people with high drug costs. **Most members do not reach the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.**

For specific information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 6, Sections 6 and 7, in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 2 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 2.1 – If you want to stay in First Choice VIP Care

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 our First Choice VIP Care.

Section 2.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2024 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.

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 2024* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 4), or call Medicare (see Section 6.2).

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan**, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Member Services 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.

If you switch to Original Medicare and do **not** enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

SECTION 3 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, 2024.

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.

Because you have Healthy Connections Medicaid, you may be able to end your membership in our plan or switch to a different plan one time during each of the following **Special Enrollment Periods**:

- January to March
- April to June
- July to September

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2024, 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, 2024.

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 4 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare and Medicaid

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In South Carolina, the SHIP is called I-CARE.

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. I-CARE 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 I-CARE at 1-800-868-9095 (TTY 711). You can learn more about I-CARE by visiting their website (<https://www.aging.sc.gov>).

For questions about your Healthy Connections Medicaid benefits, contact The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at 1-888-549-0820 (TTY 1-888-842-3620) between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Ask how joining another plan or returning to Original Medicare affects how you get your Healthy Connections Medicaid coverage.

SECTION 5 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs.

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** Because you have Medicaid, you are already enrolled in “Extra Help,” also called the Low-Income Subsidy. “Extra Help” pays some of your prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Because you qualify, you do not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. If you have questions about “Extra Help”, 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).

SECTION 6 Questions?**Section 6.1 – Getting Help from First Choice VIP Care**

Questions? We're here to help. Please call Member Services at 1-888-996-0499. (TTY only, call 711.) We are available for phone calls from October 1 – March 31, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week and from April 1 – September 30, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2024 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 2024. For details, look in the *2024 Evidence of Coverage* for First Choice VIP Care. 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 www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. 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 6.2 – 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 2024*

Read the *Medicare & You 2024* handbook. Every fall, this document 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.

Section 6.3 – Getting Help from Medicaid

To get information from Healthy Connections Medicaid, you can call the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at 1-888-549-0820 (TTY users should call 1-888-842-3620) between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

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