



Department of Health and Human Services  
MaineCare Services  
Third Party Liability  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
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TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

# Premium Health Insurance Payment Frequently Asked Questions

## What is PHIP?

PHIP is the Private Health Insurance Premium benefit program. If you qualify, PHIP pays what it costs you to get insurance. It may also pay any additional costs, such as deductibles.

## How does PHIP benefit me and my family?

PHIP has a number of features that may benefit you:

- Other health plans may cover services that MaineCare Services does not.
- The plan that PHIP pays for may cover some family members who don't qualify for MaineCare.

For example:

Ms. X has three children. She is not on MaineCare, but the children are enrolled in MaineCare. Ms. X has health insurance available through her employer, but can not afford to pay for it.

MaineCare Services determines that it is less expensive to pay for a family insurance plan, and Ms. X enrolls. This plan covers Ms. X, even though she is not on MaineCare.

## How does the program benefit the State of Maine?

PHIP shares health care costs with private insurance companies. Since the private insurance pays first, MaineCare only pays for your out of pocket costs. This keeps state costs lower, and provides better service.

## Do I lose my MaineCare coverage if I enroll in PHIP?

No. You will continue to have MaineCare, and private insurance coverage. This offers you the best of both.

## How do I qualify?

To Qualify for PHIP you or someone in your household must:

1. Be enrolled in MaineCare.
2. Have access to insurance that MaineCare considers cost effective.

### **What does “cost effective” Mean?**

“Cost effective” means that the state will save money if you and your household sign up for PHIP.

### **If I don’t get PHIP, will I lose MaineCare?**

No. You will still have MaineCare, even if you can’t get PHIP benefits.

### **What if my private health insurance doesn’t cover everything that MaineCare does?**

Members of your household enrolled in MaineCare continue to have MaineCare coverage. If your insurance doesn’t cover a service that is normally covered under MaineCare, MaineCare may still pay. (You will need to follow the rules of your plan, to maximize how much they pay.)

### **My private health insurance has high deductibles, aren’t I better off staying on MaineCare?**

If you follow MaineCare and your insurance rules, MaineCare will pay for your out of pocket expenses, such as deductibles and co-pays.

### **Will I have to pay any out of pocket costs?**

You may have to pay out of pocket costs if:

- The person who received the service is on the private insurance, but not on MaineCare
- Your MaineCare benefit includes a co-pay
- The service is covered by the insurance, but not covered by MaineCare
- You did not follow your insurance rules in receiving the service

For MaineCare members, the doctor will have to tell you that you will have to pay a part of the bill, before you receive the service.

### **What do you mean “follow insurance rules”?**

Insurance plans have many different rules. You may have to see certain doctors for them to pay your bills. You need to follow these rules for MaineCare to pay for out of pocket costs. You also have to follow MaineCare rules.

### **Aren’t insurance rules confusing?**

Yes, they certainly can be. Your insurance company will give you a phone number to call if you have questions about your plan. If you have questions about MaineCare, or about how MaineCare works with your insurance, please call us at the number below, and we’ll be happy to help you.

### **How is payment made?**

Most of the time, your employer will take your insurance costs right from your pay. In that case, we will send you a check each month. Other times, we may pay right to the insurance company.

**Do I have to get the insurance through an employer?**

No. You can apply for PHIP with any health insurance.

**I have more questions, who can I call?**

You can call us at

Toll Free: 1-800-572-3839  
TTY users dial 711 (Maine Relay)

When you call, please ask for the PHIP (pronounced “fip”) unit.

Or you can write us at:

Third Party Liability Unit, PHIP Benefit  
MaineCare Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0011