

# Health Insurance Explained: The YouToons Have it Covered

Voiceover Script: November 2014

1 Millions of us now have health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, or what some  
2 people call Obamacare.  
3 But like many things in life, your health insurance can often be confusing and complicated.  
4 Whether you've been insured for years or you're new to the game, understanding your policy  
5 is important to your health...and your wallet.  
6 First things first, you have to pay your premium every month or your insurance could get  
7 cancelled - kind of like your cable subscription.  
8 You can also think of it like a shared health care piggy bank -- we all chip in each month,  
9 even if we're healthy, so the money is there when we need it.  
10 If you get insurance at work, your employer probably pays most of your premium and the rest  
11 comes out of your paycheck automatically.  
12 If you have Medicaid, you most likely don't have to pay any premium at all -- the federal  
13 government and your state take care of that.  
14 If you're insured through a new health insurance marketplace, depending on your income,  
15 you may be eligible for a tax credit that pays a portion of your premium.  
16 Once you have that shiny new insurance card, you'll want to try really hard to keep it in your  
17 wallet!  
18 To better your odds at staying healthy, be sure to take advantage of the free preventive  
19 services that all new insurance plans provide.  
20 But of course...stuff happens. And that's when insurance really comes in handy.  
21 Now, having insurance helps a lot, but it doesn't mean all your health care is going to be free.  
22 There are lots of details about your insurance plan that affect how much 22 you pay when you  
23 get sick or injured.  
24 If you have Medicaid, a lot of these services could very well be free.  
25 Otherwise, you'll likely have to pay something when you go to the doctor or fill a prescription.  
26 This is called a copay when it's a specific dollar amount -- like \$25 per visit...  
27 or coinsurance if it's a percentage of the bill.  
28 There's also the deductible -- that's how much comes out of your own pocket before your  
29 insurance starts paying.  
30 Depending on your plan, you might have a deductible for all your care, or it might only apply  
31 to some types of care, like hospital stays and prescriptions.  
32 So read your plan material, because it can run into the thousands of dollars!  
33 Another important part of your plan is the out of pocket maximum. This is the most you'll  
34 ever have to pay in any one year. At least for the benefits your plan covers.  
35 Your insurer will pay 100% of anything beyond the maximum for the rest of the year.  
36 It can be just as confusing dealing with prescriptions! Your plan has a list of drugs it will pay  
37 for, called a formulary, but the prices vary.  
38 Check with your doctor or pharmacist, because a generic drug might fix you up the same as  
39 a brand name drug, but the price difference could be huge.  
40 So, those are the costs typically involved, but remember that they'll be affected by your  
41 insurance plan's provider network.  
42 This is a list of doctors and hospitals that are connected to your plan. Insurance companies  
43 negotiate discounts with these providers.

44 Stay in-network, and the discounts get passed to you.  
45 Go out of network, and you could end up paying full price.  
46 And remember that out-of-pocket limit? It won't work if you go out of network!  
47 In some plans -- like HMOs or EPOs -- your insurance would pay nothing if you go out-of-  
48 network.  
49 In other plans -- like PPOs -- your insurance will cover you no matter where you go, but you'll  
50 pay a lot more if you go out of network.  
51 Also, if you want to visit a specialist - like an orthopedist - some plans 51 require a referral from  
52 your primary care doctor.  
53 Sound easy enough? Well, sometimes staying in-network can be tricky!  
54 In a hospital, it's possible that your surgeon could be in-network, while your anesthesiologist  
55 is not.  
56 Don't be afraid to negotiate with your provider or file an appeal with your insurer.  
57 So as you can see, there's a lot to think about when you choose an insurance plan each  
58 year.  
59 Some plans may have low premiums, but fewer doctors or hospitals and high deductibles.  
60 There are tradeoffs, and understanding and choosing among plans isn't always easy.  
61 Remember, if you have questions call your health plan and ask, or check with your hospital  
62 or doctor.  
63 If you still have questions, your state insurance department or Consumer Assistance  
64 Program can help.  
65 With the Affordable Care Act, there's new support for consumers, so take advantage of it!  
66 Having health insurance protection is a good thing, especially when you know how it works.  
67 We hope you're now better prepared for the next time you have to pull that health insurance  
68 card out of your wallet. Stay safe, America!