

Wellness Guide

CarePartners of Connecticut
Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO plans
2026

Staying Healthy in 2026

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Use your Wellness Guide to stay healthy!

As your health plan, we want to help make it easier to get the care you need.

Your Wellness Guide includes great tips on using your CarePartners of Connecticut Medicare Advantage plan to stay healthy and save in 2026. Refer to it throughout the year for health tips, benefit information, and details on extra discounts.

Your satisfaction with your plan is important to us. If you have any questions or need additional information, visit our website or contact our Member Services team at the numbers provided below.

We're here to help you get the most out of your plan.



Get even more from your membership!

Get the most out of your plan with a secure online account on our website:

- **24/7 online access—**
Check your claims and referrals anytime
- **Go paperless—**
Get documents electronically instead of by mail

Creating a secure account only takes a few minutes. Sign up today!

mycarepartnersct.com

Get the answers you need.

Whether you're looking for information about medical benefits, drug coverage, choosing a doctor, or finding the right form or document, get the answers you need on our website.



carepartnersct.com/members

Email us:

CPCTmemberexperience@carepartnersct.com

Or call Member Services:

HMO members: **1-888-341-1507 (TTY: 711)**

PPO members: **1-866-632-0060 (TTY: 711)**



Share with a friend!

Help your friends stay healthy!

Share your copy of the Wellness Guide with a friend or loved one, or view online at carepartnersct.com/2026-wellness-guide.

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How to Keep Bones Healthy As You Age



Eat calcium-rich foods

Calcium makes up much of the structure of your bones and teeth, and a deficiency can reduce bone strength and lead to osteoporosis. Good sources of calcium include low-fat dairy, leafy green vegetables (like kale, broccoli, and Chinese cabbage), canned sardines and salmon with bones, and fortified juices, milk, grains, and tofu.

Get your vitamin D

Adequate levels of vitamin D help the body absorb calcium, but your ability to synthesize vitamin D declines with age. Food sources of vitamin D include fatty fish, fish liver oils, fortified dairy products, and fortified cereals. If you are at risk for a vitamin D deficiency, talk to your doctor about supplementing.

Eat enough protein

A healthy diet includes protein from seafood, lean meats and poultry, eggs, beans and peas, nuts, seeds, and soy products.

Stop smoking and cut down on alcohol

Smoking and heavy use of alcohol increases your risk of weakened bones.

Exercise

Weight-bearing exercise—strength training, walking, climbing stairs, tennis, etc.—can help build and strengthen your bones. Yoga and tai chi can help improve your balance and prevent falls.

Check your medicines

Certain medications can make bones weaker. Talk to your doctor about what you can do to help protect your bones.



Osteoporosis and fractures

Osteoporosis is a bone disease that occurs when the body loses too much bone, makes too little bone, or both. As a result, bones become brittle and are more prone to fracture.

The good news is osteoporosis is treatable. Besides calcium, vitamin D, and lifestyle changes, there are new medications that can reduce the chance of a fracture. It's important to see your doctor as soon as possible after having a fracture to assess the need for a bone mineral density scan or medication. If you have a fracture from osteoporosis, you are 20 times more likely to have another.

Osteoporosis generally doesn't have any symptoms until a fracture occurs. But some warning signs to discuss with your doctor include bones that break easily, height loss or stooping, and unexplained bone or joint pain.

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

\$0 copay for osteoporosis screening

If you are at risk of osteoporosis, you are covered for the following bone mass measurement tests every 24 months (or more frequently if necessary):

- Identifying bone mass
- Detecting bone loss
- Determining bone quality

(Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network.)

Use your OTC benefit

You have a \$50 per calendar quarter over-the-counter (OTC) benefit to use toward vitamins such as vitamin D and calcium chews. Visit carepartnersct.com/mybenefitscenter, Walgreens.com, or Walmart.com to place an order with your OTC card.¹ Or swipe your card at participating physical retailers including CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.

For complete benefit information, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

Your Care Management team can help!

You have access to a Care Management team that can help you manage osteoporosis. For more information about working with this team, see page 28 of this guide or call Member Services.



Where to get care



When you or a loved one is sick or injured, you may be unsure where to go for care.

Where to go for care depends on your condition.

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

You are covered anywhere in the world for emergency or urgent care

You can be outside our service area for up to six consecutive months and still be covered for emergency or urgent care. Our plan cannot cover a prescription drug purchased outside of the United States and its territories.

If you receive emergency or urgent care outside our service area, you may need to pay out of pocket. Simply save your receipts and call Member Services for reimbursement details.²



When to see **YOUR DOCTOR**

In non-emergency situations NOT requiring immediate care

Your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider can diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries, and answer any general questions you have.

Seeing your PCP or health care provider usually requires making an appointment in advance. Outside of regular business hours, you can call your PCP or health care provider and the on-call physician will help you.

If you are unable to see your PCP or health care provider, you are covered for urgent care provided by another doctor in or outside of our network (you do not need a referral for urgent care).

When to visit **URGENT CARE**

In non-emergency situations requiring immediate care

Urgent care centers provide medical care for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries that require immediate care (treatment within 24 hours). If you require urgent care, start by calling your PCP or health care provider.

If you are unable to see your PCP or health care provider, you are covered for urgent care provided by another doctor in or outside of our network (you do not need a referral for urgent care).

Typically, urgent care visits cost less than emergency room visits, and you can usually be seen more quickly.

Conditions that urgent care centers are equipped to treat include:

- Sprains and strains
- Fevers
- Sinus infections
- Ear infections
- Non-life threatening allergic reactions
- Minor cuts and burns

When to go to the **EMERGENCY ROOM**

In emergency situations

If you believe your health is in serious danger, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room. Emergency rooms treat serious illness and injuries. You do not need to get approval or a referral from your PCP or health care provider if you have a medical emergency. You are covered anywhere in the world for emergency or urgent care.

Emergency rooms treat serious illness and injuries, including:

- Heart attack/chest pain
- Trouble breathing
- Stroke or sudden paralysis
- Loss of consciousness
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Broken bones
- Large wounds

4 topics to discuss with your doctor

Seeing your doctor each year for a physical exam makes it easier to spot problems earlier, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and ensure your medications are up to date. In addition to any concerns you have, make sure to discuss these 4 topics that are especially relevant as you age.



1

Ask about physical activity

Ask your doctor if you need to increase your activity. If so, ask which types of activities are safe for you.

2

Discuss any bladder control problems

Bladder control issues are common for both men and women, but most are treatable.

3

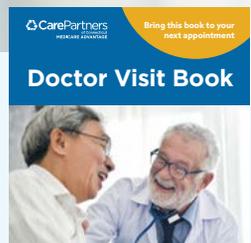
Tell your doctor about any falls

If you have fallen since your last appointment, make sure to tell your doctor. You may need to adjust your medication or do simple exercises to prevent future falls.

4

Review your medications

Bring your medications or a list of your medications to your appointment so your doctor can make sure your prescriptions are safe, current, and still necessary.



Use your Doctor Visit Book!

Bring your Doctor Visit Book to your next appointment to remember your questions and review your medications.

Your two \$0 annual checkups

CarePartners of Connecticut makes it easy to see your doctor each year by covering you for both a physical exam and an Annual Wellness Visit. These checkups cover different aspects of your health but are equally important. Having both each year is recommended, and they can be done at the same visit. Just ask to schedule them together when you make your appointment.

1.

Annual Wellness Visit

At an Annual Wellness Visit, your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider and staff will review your health status in depth and spend time learning about your lifestyle, daily activities, nutrition, and any stress you may have.



2.

Annual Physical

At an annual physical, your PCP or health care provider will do a thorough check of your physical health including checking your vital signs, examining your head, neck, and lungs, and reviewing all of your medications.



HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

\$0 annual physical

You pay \$0 for a physical exam with your primary care provider or health care provider once every calendar year.³ (Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network.)

\$0 Annual Wellness Visit

You pay \$0 for an Annual Wellness Visit with your primary care provider or health care provider once every calendar year.³ (Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network.)

Use your Doctor Visit Book

The enclosed Doctor Visit Book makes it easy to list all your questions for your doctor, list your medications, and write down any important information discussed at your visit. Make sure to take it with you to your next appointment!

For complete details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

The advantage of a primary care provider

A primary care provider (PCP) is a doctor, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant who provides, coordinates, and helps you access a range of health care services. Having your annual physical and Annual Wellness Visit with a PCP is good for your health! A PCP uses these checkups to assess your overall health, review preventive screenings, make recommendations, and help you stay healthy. Plus, a PCP can help you avoid unnecessary expenses such as duplicate tests and can develop a personalized plan to support your needs and goals.



HOW TO PREVENT FALLS AT HOME

Floors



- Make sure you have a clear path and don't have to walk around furniture when walking through a room
- Use heavy-duty, double-sided tape to prevent throw rugs from moving
- Keep objects like papers, books, pillows, and boxes off the floor
- Tape cords and wires next to the wall so you can't trip over them

Bedrooms

- Place a lamp close to the bed where it's easy to reach



Falls present a serious health risk to older adults. The good news is there are simple ways you can prevent most falls—especially in your home.

Your home is a common source of falls due to hazards that are often overlooked, but easy to fix. Use the list on this page to help reduce your risk for falls at home. Visit the National Institute on Aging (NIA) for further resources related to falls and falls prevention:

nia.nih.gov/health/falls-and-falls-prevention

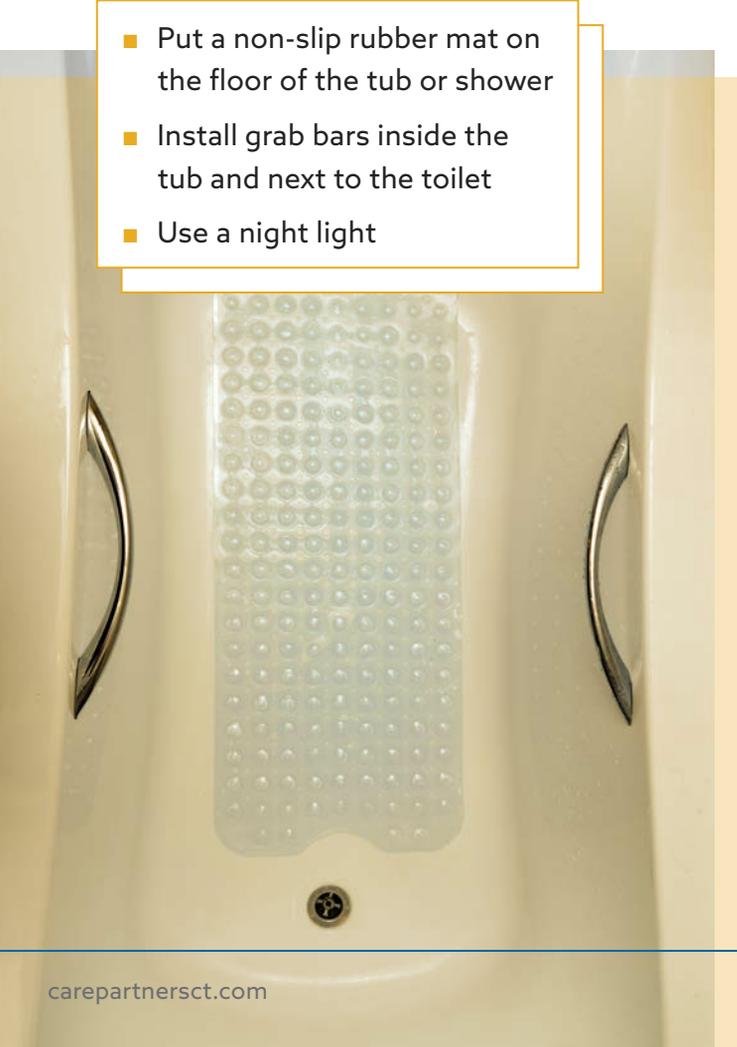
Kitchen

- Move items you use often to lower shelves
- Use a step stool that has a bar to hold on to



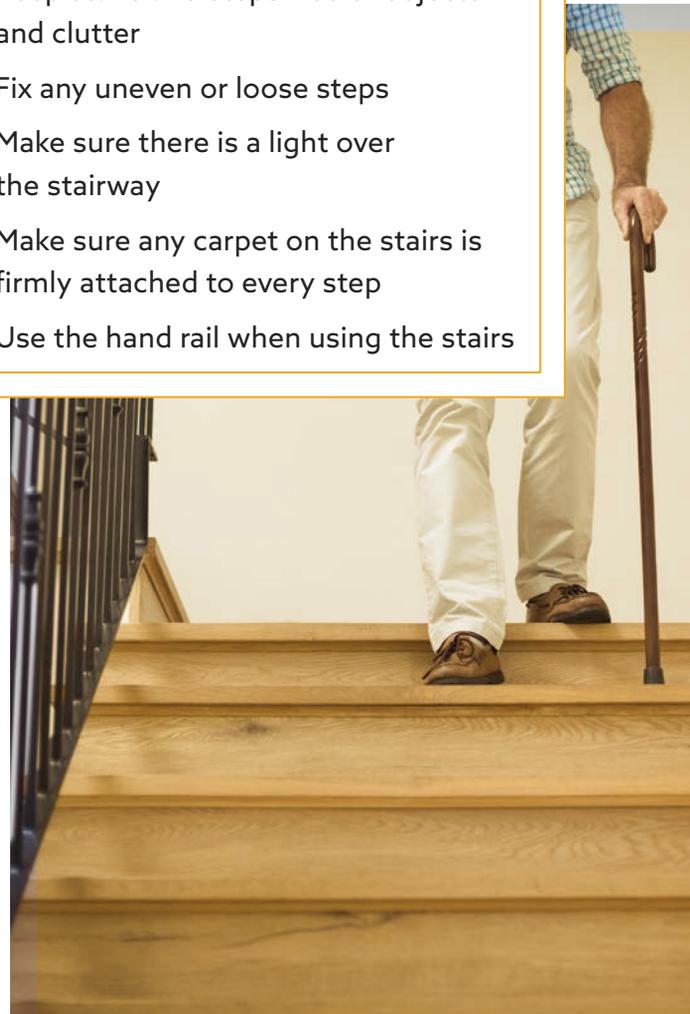
Bathrooms

- Put a non-slip rubber mat on the floor of the tub or shower
- Install grab bars inside the tub and next to the toilet
- Use a night light

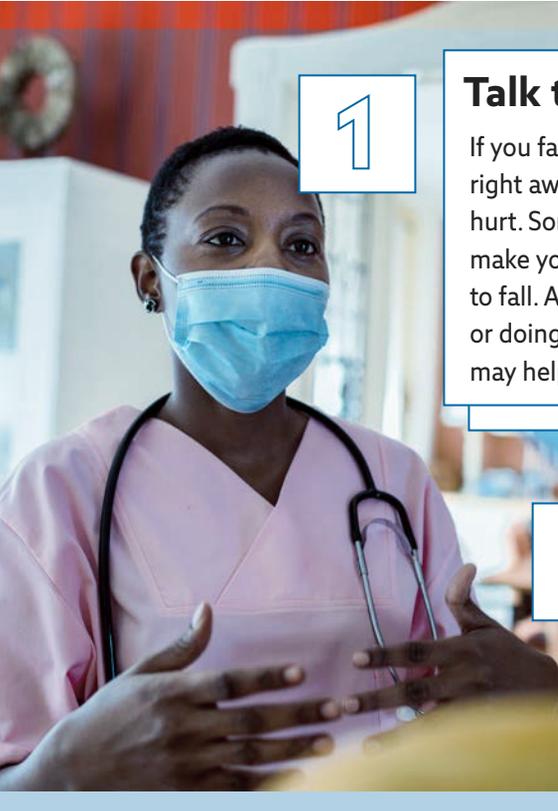


Stairs and Steps

- Keep stairs and steps free of objects and clutter
- Fix any uneven or loose steps
- Make sure there is a light over the stairway
- Make sure any carpet on the stairs is firmly attached to every step
- Use the hand rail when using the stairs



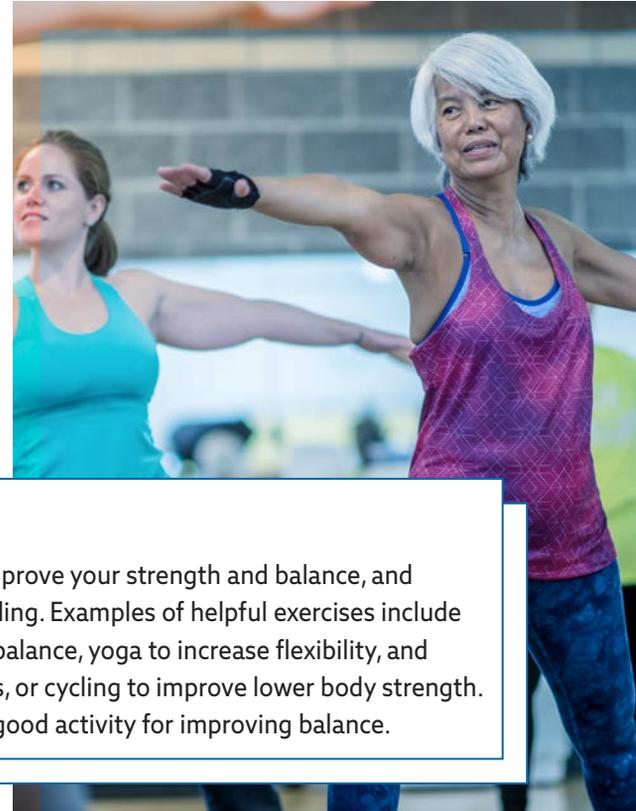
3 WAYS TO PREVENT FALLS



1

Talk to your doctor

If you fall, talk to your doctor right away, even if you aren't hurt. Some medications can make you dizzy and cause you to fall. Adjusting a medication or doing some basic exercises may help to prevent future falls.



2

Keep moving

Staying active helps improve your strength and balance, and reduces your risk of falling. Examples of helpful exercises include stretching to improve balance, yoga to increase flexibility, and walking, climbing stairs, or cycling to improve lower body strength. Tai chi is an especially good activity for improving balance.

Have your eyes checked

Poor vision or conditions like glaucoma and cataracts can increase your chances of falling. Have your eyes checked annually and update your eyeglasses if necessary.

3



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL?

Get immediate medical attention

Even if you do not have an obvious injury, if you have any loss of consciousness or any sign of confusion after falling, seek immediate medical attention.

Notify your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider

Even if you have no injury, make an appointment with your PCP or health care provider. Your fall could be related to a medical problem, and a falls evaluation will be needed to find the cause and help prevent another fall.

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

\$0 copay for an in-home safety assessment

If your doctor or Care Management team recommends it, you may be eligible for an in-home safety assessment to evaluate your risk of falling.⁴ (Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network after your deductible is met.)

Up to \$500 for fitness classes (HMO members only)

Activities such as tai chi are especially good at helping you improve your strength to reduce your risk of falling. With your Wellness Allowance benefit, you can get reimbursed up to \$500⁵ for fitness classes such as tai chi. You can also use your Wellness Allowance benefit for pool-based classes and pool facilities.

You're covered for routine eye exams

Poor vision can increase your chances of falling. Your plan covers you for a routine eye exam once every calendar year. You pay \$0 for one annual routine eye exam. (Access PPO members pay \$65 per visit out of network.)

You're covered for equipment that can help prevent falls

If you have fallen recently or are concerned about falling, your doctor may prescribe certain durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, or bathroom grab bars to help prevent falls. You pay 20% coinsurance for this equipment (Access PPO members pay 50% coinsurance out of network after your deductible is met.)

Get up to \$300 for eyewear

Good vision is an important part of preventing falls. HMO members get up to \$300 per year and PPO members get up to \$250 per year toward the full retail price (not sale price) for eyeglasses (lenses, frames, or a combination) and/or contact lenses.⁶ You can purchase from providers in the EyeMed Vision Care Network or from a provider not in the EyeMed network. If you use a non-EyeMed network provider, you would need to pay out of pocket and submit the reimbursement form found at carepartnersct.com/forms.

Use your OTC benefit

You have a \$50 per calendar quarter over-the-counter (OTC) benefit to use toward fall prevention items such as grab bars and safety benches. Visit carepartnersct.com/mybenefitscenter, Walgreens.com, or Walmart.com to place an order with your OTC card.¹ Or swipe your card at participating physical retailers including CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.

For complete benefit information, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

Screenings can save your life

Preventive health screenings check for illness or disease before you have signs or feel sick. It's important to continue to practice preventive care. Talk to your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider if you have questions or concerns about when to seek treatment. By getting the

screenings you need, your doctor is more likely to find diseases earlier when they are easier to treat. This chart lists what your plan covers. It is not a recommendation for how often to have a screening. Please talk to your doctor about what screenings are right for you.

Screening	Description	Coverage	Copay (HMO)	Copay (PPO In-Network)	Copay/Coinsurance (PPO Out-of-Network)
Physical exam	A checkup given by your doctor to help you stay healthy and identify any health issues before they become serious.	Once every calendar year.	\$0 ³	\$0 ³	40% coinsurance
Wellness Visit	A checkup given by your doctor to review your health status, lifestyle, daily activities, nutrition, and any stress you may have.	Once every calendar year.	\$0 ³	\$0 ³	40% coinsurance
Cancer Screenings					
Breast cancer	A breast exam and mammogram (type of X-ray) to check for signs of breast cancer.	One mammogram every 12 months—clinical breast exam once every 24 months.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Cervical cancer	Pap test and pelvic exam to check for cervical, vaginal, and ovarian cancers.	Once every 24 months, or every 12 months if at high risk.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Colorectal cancer	Tests to find colorectal cancer early and determine, based on risk, what treatment may work best.	Colonoscopy screening once every 24 months if at high risk, once every 10 years if not at high risk.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Prostate cancer	Prostate screening by digital rectal exam and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test.	Once every 12 months.	\$0	\$0	Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test: 40% Digital Rectal Exam and Others: 40%*

Screening	Description	Coverage	Copay (HMO)	Copay (PPO In-Network)	Copay/ Coinsurance (PPO Out-of-Network)
Immunizations					
Flu shot	A shot to help prevent the flu (you need a flu shot for the current virus each year).	Once per flu season (fall or winter).	\$0	\$0	\$0
Hepatitis B	A shot to prevent Hepatitis B.	As medically necessary.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pneumonia	A shot to prevent pneumonia.	As medically necessary.	\$0	\$0	\$0
COVID-19	A shot to prevent COVID-19.	As medically necessary per CDC guidelines.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sensory Screenings					
Glaucoma	Test to find glaucoma, a condition that causes gradual loss of sight without warning and often without symptoms.	Once every calendar year if you are at high risk for glaucoma.	\$0	\$0	\$65*
Routine hearing exam	Test to determine hearing ability.	Once every calendar year.	\$0	\$0	\$65
Routine vision exam	Test to determine sight.	Once every calendar year.	\$0	\$0	\$65
Other Screenings					
Abdominal aortic aneurysms	Ultrasound exam.	Once per lifetime if at risk.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Cardiovascular disease testing	Blood tests for the detection of cardiovascular disease.	Once every 5 years.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Depression	Test to determine risk of depression.	Once every calendar year.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Diabetes	Blood tests to see if you are at risk for diabetes.	Based on test results, up to 2 screenings every 12 months.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
HIV	Test to check for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).	Once every 12 months.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
Osteoporosis	Bone mass measurement tests (such as a DEXA scan) to see if you are at risk for broken bones.	If at risk, once every 24 months or more often if medically necessary.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance
STIs	Test to check for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).	Once every 12 months, or more often if medically necessary.	\$0	\$0	40% coinsurance

*After \$250 deductible. For complete benefit details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

STAYING ACTIVE

Staying physically active is one of the best ways to stay healthy—and it's never too late to start. In most cases, you have more to lose by not doing anything. Staying active can help you:

- Improve your strength so you can stay independent
- Increase your energy level
- Improve your balance to help prevent falls
- Prevent or delay some diseases like heart disease, diabetes, breast and colon cancer, and osteoporosis
- Perk up your mood and reduce depression



WHAT COUNTS AS EXERCISE?

Depending on your age and ability, "exercise" can mean many different activities: walking, cycling, working around the house, gardening, climbing stairs, getting in and out of a chair without assistance, lifting weights, stretching to help maintain flexibility, and more.

Walking works

Walking has many benefits:

- Strengthens muscles
- Helps prevent weight gain
- Lowers risks of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and osteoporosis
- Improves balance
- Lowers the likelihood of falling

Walk and talk

Ask a friend to join you or see if your local senior center offers walking programs.

Don't let a cane or walker stop you

It's okay to use your cane or walker if you already have one. These can improve your balance and help take the load off painful joints.

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

Get up to \$500 to join a gym or fitness class! (HMO members only)

Use your Wellness Allowance to get up to \$500⁵ for fees you pay for membership in a qualified health club, fitness class (such as yoga, Pilates, tai chi, or aerobics), pool-based classes and pool facilities, wellness programs, plus many more! For details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

Practice yoga in your home

With your Extras discount, you can access live, online yoga and meditation classes led by an instructor from the comfort and privacy of your own home. Sign up for Ompractice for \$14.99 per month or \$129.00 for an annual subscription (40% off the regular monthly subscription rate). For details, visit ompractice.com/carepartnersct.

Use your OTC benefit

You have a \$50 per calendar quarter over-the-counter (OTC) benefit to use toward resistance bands. Visit carepartnersct.com/mybenefitscenter, Walgreens.com, or Walmart.com to place an order with your OTC card.¹ Or swipe your card at participating physical retailers including CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.

For complete benefit information, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.



It's Important To Stay Connected

Social relationships are important to your overall health.

Friendships offer numerous mental health benefits, such as increased feelings of belonging, purpose, happiness, and confidence. Consider getting in touch with a friend or family member you haven't spoken to in a while or reach out to someone new.





Make the call

Sometimes a phone call is all it takes to make you or someone you care about feel more connected. Make an effort to call friends and family members regularly. Once you make the initial outreach, you may be pleasantly surprised when they return the favor and unexpectedly brighten your day.



Visit virtually

Try having a virtual dinner with someone, watching a TV show together virtually, or starting a book club or other social group that meets regularly over video to discuss common interests. Facial cues and body language are important when connecting with others.



Keep your spirits up

In addition to communicating regularly, there are steps you can take to help improve your mood such as developing a routine to help your days feel organized and productive, getting fresh air and sunlight each day (30 minutes of daily physical activity can make a big difference), maintaining sobriety (alcohol is a depressant), and getting 7–9 hours of sleep each night.



Signs to watch for

Periods of sadness or hopelessness that last for a long time may be signs of depression. Depression can lead to or worsen existing health or emotional difficulties. It can also cause people to withdraw from important sources of emotional support, like friends and family. As with many illnesses, getting an evaluation and treatment as early as possible is important. Talking to your doctor can help put you on the road to recovery. It's important to remember that depression isn't an inevitable part of getting older.



11 MENTAL HEALTH SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

1 Feeling irritable
or angry

2 Tiredness or
lack of energy

3 Loss of interest in
everyday activities

4 Avoiding social
activities

5 Rarely feeling
calm or peaceful

6 Feeling worse emotionally
than you did a year ago

7 Increased use of substances to
feel better or numb emotions



8 Sleep disturbance (problems falling asleep, getting out of bed, or waking up too early)

9 Problems concentrating

10 Poor appetite

11 Suicidal thoughts



HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

\$0 copay for a depression screening

You are covered for a depression screening once every calendar year. A screening generally consists of your doctor asking questions about your mood and lifestyle. If you have concerns about visiting your doctor's office, ask if the screening can be done by using telehealth. (Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network.)

Stay active with your Wellness Allowance benefit (HMO members only)

Staying active can boost your mood and energy level. Get up to \$500⁵ each year for fees you pay for membership in a qualified health club, fitness class (such as yoga, Pilates, tai chi, or aerobics), pool-based classes and pool facilities, wellness programs, plus many more! Many facilities now offer online classes and workout options. You can also use your Wellness Allowance toward the Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression & Empowering Activities for Seniors) program. Healthy IDEAS ensures older adults get the help they need to manage symptoms of depression and live full lives. For details, go to healthyideasprograms.org.

For complete coverage details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

Talk to a Behavioral Health Care Manager

If you have questions about changes in your mood or are caring for someone who may have symptoms of depression or other mental health concerns, you can speak directly with a CarePartners of Connecticut Behavioral Health Care Manager. The Behavioral Health Care Management program can help you:

- Develop an understanding of a depression diagnosis
- Learn strategies for symptom management
- Identify new ways to manage the stress of aging
- Learn how to navigate the health care system when you need behavioral health services

To speak to a Behavioral Health Care Manager, call Member Services.

Take advantage of AbleTo

AbleTo provides access to virtual mental health programs that can help you manage depression, stress, anxiety, and more. AbleTo also offers Self Care, a digital program to help improve everyday well-being. Self Care is offered at no additional charge and can be easily accessed using your member identification number. To get started, visit AbleTo.com/cpct or call **1-833-522-5386** (representatives are available 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Monday to Friday).

Note: AbleTo is covered through your outpatient mental health benefits, and outpatient mental health copays will apply to each weekly therapy session.

Alzheimer's disease affects the parts of the brain involved in memory, problem-solving, judgment, language, and behavior. Over time, people with Alzheimer's lose the ability to carry out simple tasks of daily living such as eating, dressing, or bathing.



Prevention

Currently there is no cure for Alzheimer's, but treatment and medication closely monitored by a physician can slow the progression and help manage symptoms in some people. Maintaining a regular routine, eating healthy, getting physical and mental exercise, and participating in social activities have also been found to help.

Talking to your doctor

While it's common to experience some changes in memory as you age, if you or a loved one are experiencing changes in memory, thinking, or behavior that seem concerning or disrupt daily life, speak with your doctor as soon as possible. Treatments may be more effective if Alzheimer's is diagnosed at an early stage.

When talking with your doctor about changes in memory, list any symptoms and how often they occur, plus all medications you are taking, including those sold over the counter. It may be helpful to have a family member or friend with you who can help provide any needed information.

For more information

For more information about diagnosis, treatment, caring for someone with dementia, and any other questions related to memory loss, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at **1-800-272-3900**, or visit alz.org/ct. You can also access a CarePartners of Connecticut Dementia Care Consultant for questions or concerns.

As you age, it is normal to experience some memory loss. Occasionally forgetting a name or where you put your car keys is part of getting older, but some changes may signal something more serious.

Normal signs of aging	Signs to talk to your doctor about
Sometimes forgetting names but remembering them later	Memory loss that disrupts daily life
Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook	Challenges in planning, solving problems, keeping track of bills, or trouble with numbers
Occasionally needing help to perform everyday tasks	Difficulty completing familiar tasks such as bathing, shaving, or cooking dinner
Getting confused about the day of the week but figuring it out later	Confusion with time or place
Vision changes related to cataracts	Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships leading to difficulty with driving
Sometimes having trouble finding the right word	New language problems such as forgetting basic words, asking the same questions, and repeating stories
Occasionally misplacing things like a pair of glasses	Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
Making a bad decision once in a while	Decreased or poor judgment, such as giving away large amounts of money or paying less attention to bathing and dressing
Sometimes feeling wary of social obligations	Withdrawal from social activities
Becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted	Changes in mood or personality, such as sudden mood swings or outbursts of anger or crying

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

Talk to a Dementia Care Consultant

If you have questions about your own memory or are caring for someone with memory loss, speak directly with a CarePartners of Connecticut Dementia Care Consultant. This program can help you:

- Navigate the health care system when you have a concern about your own or a loved one's memory
- Develop an understanding of a dementia diagnosis
- Learn strategies for symptom management and communication
- Plan for future needs
- Identify new ways to manage the stress of caregiving
- Maximize the safety and independence of a loved one, including concerns about driving and wandering
- Make decisions about introducing or changing care
- Discuss safety issues
- Connect you with support in your community
- Help with issues related to guardianship and health care proxy

For more information or to speak to a Dementia Care Consultant, call **1-857-304-8187 (TTY: 711)**.

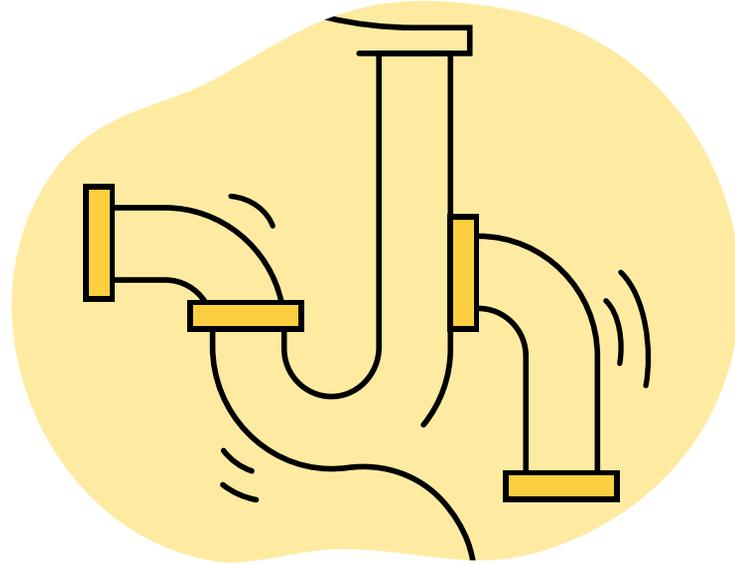
What to know about bladder control

Experiencing bladder control issues or “urinary incontinence” is common with age but can often be cured or controlled.

If you are having difficulty controlling your bladder, the first step is to talk to your doctor. Urinary incontinence can negatively impact your life if it causes you to limit activities or social interactions. It can also increase the risk of falls if you need to rush to the toilet regularly.

In addition to talking to your doctor, these steps can help:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Practice pelvic floor exercises (squeezing then relaxing your pelvic muscles)
- Avoid bladder irritants, such as caffeine, alcohol, and acidic foods
- Eat more fiber, which can prevent constipation, a cause of urinary incontinence
- Don't smoke, or seek help to quit if you're a smoker



HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

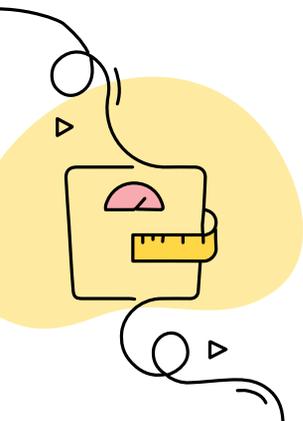
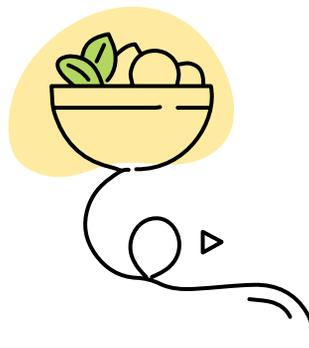
\$0 annual physical

Your annual physical is the perfect time to discuss any concerns you have about bladder control with your doctor. You pay \$0 for a physical exam with your primary care physician once every calendar year. If you receive services that address a medical condition during the same office visit, you pay a primary care physician office visit copay. (Access PPO members pay 40% coinsurance out of network.)

Use your OTC benefit

You have a \$50 per calendar quarter over-the-counter (OTC) benefit to use toward incontinence supplies. Visit carepartnersct.com/mybenefitscenter, Walgreens.com, or Walmart.com to place an order with your OTC card¹. Or swipe your card at participating physical retailers including CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.

For complete benefit information, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.



Protecting against high blood pressure

High blood pressure, also called hypertension, is higher-than-normal blood pressure, which can damage your heart and put you at risk for stroke, kidney disease, vision loss, and heart disease.

Causes of high blood pressure

High blood pressure typically develops over time, often as a result of unhealthy lifestyle choices, such as not exercising regularly. Certain health conditions, including diabetes, can increase your risk for developing high blood pressure.

Prevention

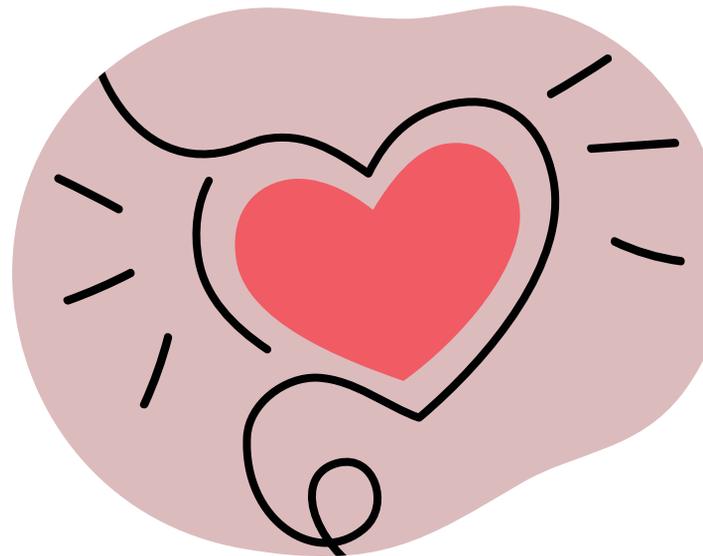
Talk to your doctor about making lifestyle changes to address your risk factors. Eating a low-salt diet, exercising regularly (30 minutes a day, 5 days a week), managing stress, not smoking, and limiting alcohol can make a difference. Also, 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night is recommended. Regularly sleeping 6 hours or less may contribute to increased blood pressure.

Checking your blood pressure

Blood pressure is measured by two numbers. The top number (systolic) measures the pressure in your arteries during the contraction of your heart. The bottom number (diastolic) measures your blood pressure between heart beats. Have your blood pressure checked at least once a year.

Treatment

Many of the same lifestyle changes for prevention can also be used to treat high blood pressure, including exercising, not smoking, eating a healthy diet, and maintaining a healthy weight. Your treatment plan from your doctor may also include taking medication to reduce your blood pressure.



Normal	systolic: less than 120 mm Hg diastolic: less than 80 mm Hg
At risk (prehypertension)	systolic: 120–129 mm Hg diastolic: less than 80 mm Hg
High blood pressure (hypertension)	systolic: 130 mm Hg or higher diastolic: 80 mm Hg or higher

Source: American Heart Association

HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

Leading a healthy lifestyle can help you control high blood pressure.

Get \$150 for joining a weight management program (HMO members only)

Now you can stay fit for less! Use your Weight Management benefit to get \$150 for programs such as Weight Watchers® and/or hospital-based weight loss programs.⁷

For details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.



How to Save on Your Prescription Drug Costs

You don't want to pay more for your prescription drugs than you need to. Explore these ways to manage your drug costs in 2026.

Use preferred pharmacies

Save on your prescriptions by having them filled at one of the 600+ preferred pharmacies in our network—including Costco, CVS Pharmacy®, Stop & Shop, Wegmans, and Walmart. To find a preferred pharmacy near you, visit carepartnersct.com/pharmacy-search.

For even more ways to save, visit carepartnersct.com/using-your-plan/9-ways-lower-your-prescription-drug-costs

Save up to \$128 with Home Delivery

You can have the prescriptions you take regularly delivered to your door with OptumRx Home Delivery. You may be able to save up to \$32 for a 90-day supply of prescription medications (depending on the plan you are in and the tier your drug is on). That's a potential savings of up to \$128 a year!⁸

Sign up by visiting OptumRx.com, or call OptumRx at **1-800-496-7490** (HMO)/ **1-800-506-3703** (PPO).

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

If you have high Part D cost sharing early in the plan year, or monthly drug costs of \$350 or more, you may benefit from using the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.

Although this payment plan does not lower the cost of your prescription drugs, it can help you manage them by allowing you to spread your out-of-pocket drug costs across the calendar year (January–December). Pay for prescriptions in monthly installments, rather than all at once at the pharmacy.

To learn more, including whether this may be a good option for you, visit carepartnersct.com/mppp.

Medication Tips for Better Health

It's important to follow your doctor's instructions for taking your medications correctly.

1 Ask questions. Make sure you know what a new medication is for, how to take it (time of day, with or without food), and how to store it properly.



2 Make a list. List all your medications—including over-the-counter medications—and give a copy to your doctor to review for potential harmful drug interactions. For an easy way to list your medications, use the Doctor Visit Book on page 8.

3 Use a calendar. Create a calendar (or reminder on your smartphone) to help remember when to take your medications and when they need to be refilled. Mark the calendar if you miss a dose and bring the calendar with you to your doctor appointment.



4 Stay organized. Weekly pill organizers help you keep track of your medications—especially if you have multiple prescriptions. Your pharmacy may be able to provide dosage packaging (for example, morning medications in 1 packet, evening medications in another for each day) to make it easier to take medications as prescribed.

5 Make fewer trips to the pharmacy. Many pharmacies offer medication synchronization services that put your prescriptions on the same refill schedule. If possible, fill your prescription medications for a 90-day supply to limit the amount of visits to the pharmacy. A prescription for a 90-day supply would mean visiting the pharmacy only 4 times a year. Ask your pharmacist about synchronizing your prescriptions and transitioning to a 90-day supply of medication.



HOW YOUR PLAN HELPS

Use your OTC benefit

You have a \$50 per calendar quarter over-the-counter (OTC) benefit to use toward pill organizers. Visit carepartnersct.com/mybenefitscenter, [Walgreens.com](https://www.walgreens.com), or [Walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) to place an order with your OTC card.¹ Or swipe your card at participating physical retailers including CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and more.

For complete benefit information, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) booklet at carepartnersct.com/documents.

Have prescriptions sent to your home and save up to \$128 per year

You can avoid going to the pharmacy and have prescriptions you take regularly delivered to your door. You may be able to save up to \$32 for a 90-day supply of prescription medications (depending on the tier your drug is on). That's a potential savings of up to \$128 a year!⁸ With home delivery, your medications are conveniently mailed to your home. To sign up, register for an account at optumrx.com or call OptumRx at **1-800-496-7490** (HMO) or **1-800-506-3703** (PPO).



How can our **CARE MANAGEMENT TEAM** help you?

CarePartners of Connecticut has a Care Management team, composed of health experts, who can assist you in coordinating care or managing any health or social concerns you may have. We can help you if you get sick, have an injury, have a social need like access to food or transportation, or are looking for ways to stay healthy. Your team includes nurse Care Managers,

social workers, and other health professionals who work closely with your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider to help guide you or your caregiver through the health care system, improve your health and well-being, and more. As a member, there is no cost for you to work with your Care Management team.



In your corner

Health care can be overwhelming. As your Care Management team, we will make sure you or your caregiver understand your options, and help you get the services and care that you need. We'll be by your side whether you're at home, in your provider's office, at the hospital, or anywhere else in your community.



Stay healthy

We don't just help if you are sick or injured. If you're looking to start an exercise program, improve your diet, or set new health goals, we can help.



Recover at home

If you are hospitalized, we can help make your transition home easier. We will make sure you receive the right services to help prevent return trips to the hospital, including getting care at home if you need it and making follow-up appointments with your PCP or health care provider. We can even help you get your home assessed for any safety issues.



Manage your chronic condition

If you have a condition such as diabetes, heart failure, or depression, we can help you learn more about how to manage your illness, and help ensure you receive the right services and resources.



Complex assistance

If you have multiple chronic conditions or need more support to manage your health, we will work closely with you and your PCP or health care provider to make sure you have the resources you need. We can also help you or your caregiver coordinate your health care services, simplifying the process for everyone involved.



Dementia care

We can help with questions about dementia care or memory loss. If you or a loved one have concerns about dementia, we can help assess care needs, provide care planning, and assist with referrals to community resources, support groups, and education programs.



How to work with your Care Management team

For more information about working with your Care Management team, call Member Services. We may also try to reach you by phone or mail to offer support, so please connect with us!

HMO: **1-888-341-1507 (TTY: 711)**

PPO: **1-866-632-0060 (TTY: 711)**



Social needs

We can provide assistance if you have any concerns about food, housing, or transportation to medical appointments or the pharmacy.

Avoid a Return Trip to the Hospital

After a hospital stay, having a plan for how to recover at home can help prevent an unnecessary trip back.

Before leaving the hospital, make sure you know these five important details about managing at home:

- 1 Symptoms to watch for
- 2 A number to call if you have any problems
- 3 Medication details such as purpose, amount, and when to take it
- 4 Written instructions for follow-up appointments, treatments, or tests
- 5 The contact information for any home care services you need

See your PCP or health care provider within 5–7 days

It's important to see your primary care provider (PCP) or health care provider for a follow-up appointment or telehealth appointment 5–7 days after leaving the hospital to make sure your recovery is going well. Ask your PCP or health care provider to review any new medications or changes made to your existing medications. If you need help making this appointment, call Member Services.



Watch Your Mailbox



for an Important Medicare Survey!

Every spring, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) mails a survey called CAHPS® (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) to randomly selected Medicare beneficiaries. CMS makes survey results available on the Medicare Plan Finder website ([medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)) to assist beneficiaries in selecting a health plan. CarePartners of Connecticut uses the information to improve our services for you.

The survey asks questions about the services you receive from your plan and your providers. Surveys are mailed beginning in March. Not every member will receive a survey. If you do receive a survey, please respond as soon as possible. Your responses are anonymous, and will help us understand how we are doing and what is important to you.

CAHPS® is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Stay Connected to Your Plan With MyWire

You may already be receiving text messages from us, but if not, sign up for MyWire—a free service from CarePartners of Connecticut that provides plan information right at your fingertips.⁹ MyWire connects you to plan information and health tips through text messages. Be the first to hear about plan updates, get details on plan savings, and more.



To sign up for MyWire, just call **1-833-593-1789 (TTY: 711)** or visit carepartnersct.com/mywire.




Thank you
for being a member!

1. Quarterly OTC credit is for the purchase of Medicare-approved OTC items from participating retailers and plan-approved online stores. Unused balance at the end of a calendar quarter does not roll over. Under certain circumstances, items may be covered under your Medicare Part B or Part D benefit.
2. Reimbursement applies to emergency and urgent care situations only. You may be responsible for any copays that apply.
3. A copay may apply if you receive services that address a medical condition during an annual physical or Annual Wellness Visit.
4. This assessment evaluates your risk of falling. It is not a safety inspection of your home.
5. \$500 is the total reimbursement amount each year (Jan. 1–Dec. 31) for covered programs and activities including acupuncture visits not covered by Medicare, health education programs, nutritional counseling, fitness benefits (including one fitness tracker or heart rate monitor), physical fitness programs, alternative therapies, and massage therapy. Please see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for more details.
6. You can get up to \$300 (HMO) or \$250 (PPO) toward the full retail price (not sale price) for eyeglasses, prescription lenses, frames, and/or contact lenses including upgrades. Only one purchase is allowed per calendar year up to the benefit amount; any unused amount after the single purchase will expire and cannot be applied toward another purchase during the calendar year. You can purchase from providers in the EyeMed Vision Care Network or from a provider not in the EyeMed network. If you use a non-EyeMed provider, you would need to pay out of pocket and submit for reimbursement. Discounts can't be combined. Please refer to your Evidence of Coverage for more details.
7. \$150 is the total reimbursement amount each year (Jan. 1–Dec. 31). This benefit does not cover costs for pre-packaged meals/foods, books, scales, or other items or supplies.
8. Savings may be different depending on the plan you are in and the tier the drug is on.
9. MyWire is a secure communication program that is password protected and compliant with HIPAA, the federal law that protects your personal health information. If you decide at any time that you would like to stop receiving text messages via MyWire, reply "STOP" to the most recent message or call Member Services.
10. Hearing aids and hearing aid evaluation must be with a TruHearing, Inc. provider. PPO members may receive hearing aid evaluation from providers other than TruHearing, Inc.; out-of-network cost share applies.

Representatives are available 8 a.m.–8 p.m., 7 days a week (Mon.–Fri. from Apr. 1–Sept. 30). Benefit information described in this issue is for CarePartners of Connecticut Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO plan members and is not a complete description of benefits. For complete benefit details, see your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) available carepartnersct.com/documents. Discounts and services included in the Extra Discounts program are not plan benefits and are not subject to the Medicare appeals process. CarePartners of Connecticut complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity). ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-341-1507 (HMO)/1-866-632-0060 (PPO) (TTY: 711).



1 Wellness Way
Canton, MA 02021-1166



Quality benefits, low costs, and great savings

With a CarePartners of Connecticut Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO plan, you get great benefits and services that help you stay healthy. From your over-the-counter benefit, to your eyewear benefit, dental coverage, discounts on hearing aids,¹⁰ and more, your plan makes it easier to save on programs and services that help you lead a healthy lifestyle.

