What is the difference between in-network and out-of-network benefits?
The PPO Plan utilizes a PPO network—any provider (hospital or physician) not part of the
PPO network is considered “out-of-network.”

In-Network Benefit: Insurance companies contract with hospitals and physicians to form what is called a provider
network. If you use your Highmark PPO Blue insurance and get medical treatment from an “in-network” provider:
- You may be responsible to pay an office visit copayment amount.
- You may have a deductible of $400 per person, up to a maximum of $800 per family deductible, applicable
to certain services – this is on an annual calendar-year basis.
- Once the deductible has been satisfied, Highmark Blue Shield will then pay 100% of the allowed dollar amount
to the hospital or physician.
- The hospital or physician will not be able to bill you for any difference between the allowed rate and the actual
cost of the services beyond your copayment or deductible. This is generally the most cost-effective way to
obtain hospital or physician services.

Out-of-Network Benefit: Your hospital or physician is considered “out-of-network” if you get nonemergency
medical treatment from a hospital or physician not participating with Highmark Blue Shield. Highmark Blue Shield
agrees to pay a specified dollar amount or allowance towards the cost of the medical services by a hospital or
physician even if they do not have a contract with them. More than likely, Highmark Blue Shield’s allowance will not
cover the full cost of the medical services. This out-of-network hospital or physician may bill you the difference
between the charges for the health care services rendered and the amount paid by Highmark Blue Shield—this is
called balance-billing—in addition to your deductible and coinsurance. Before you obtain medical services out-of-
network, please carefully investigate the costs you may incur.

If you use an out-of-network provider:
- You will be subject to the out-of-network deductible, which is $800 per person, up to a maximum of
  $1,600 for the family—this is on an annual calendar-year basis.
- You will be subject to the out-of-network coinsurance, which is 20% of the cost charged after the
deductible has been met.
- You will be subject to an out-of-network out-of-pocket maximum limit, which is $3,200 for an individual,
  up to $6,400 for the family (which is applicable to coinsurance only – does not include the deductible).
  This is on an annual calendar-year basis.
- You may be subject to balance-billing - the provider can bill the difference between the insurance
  allowance and their full charge, which can be significant.
- Copayments do not apply—eligible services are subject to deductible and coinsurance.
- Routine preventive care requires member cost share—eligible services are subject to deductible and
  coinsurance.
- You may be required to pay some or all of the cost of services at the time of the visit/service.
The example below uses hypothetical dollar amounts associated with a surgery at a PPO In-Network versus PPO Out-of-Network provider.

For actual surgery cost comparison, please use the “Care Cost Estimator” tool on the Highmark Blue Shield website to compare costs between different providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-Network Provider</th>
<th>Out-of-Network Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provider charge</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed charge by Highmark</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your deductible</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$7,600</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your coinsurance 0% coinsurance</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount paid by Highmark</td>
<td>$7,600</td>
<td>$5,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Responsibility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deductible</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coinsurance</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Balance Bill</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your TOTAL Cost</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$4,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>