

Premera Designated Centers of Excellence

NEW MEDICAL BENEFIT FOR FULLY-INSURED EMPLOYERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIVE PROCEDURE TRAVEL PROGRAM

It's no surprise Alaskans often experience high healthcare costs and difficulty finding local providers who provide specialty medical services¹. At Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, we are committed to improving the access our Alaska members have to specialty medical services at facilities that deliver better patient outcomes at affordable prices. That's why we've selected Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle as a Premera designated Center of Excellence (COE) to provide certain specialty medical services for our Alaska group members.

About the benefit

This new benefit has been added to our [Elective Procedure Travel program](#). The program includes enhanced services that support your employees and their dependents when they seek care from a Premera COE provider.

What's included

- Access to three of the most common specialty procedures:
 - Total joint replacements (knee and hip)
 - Spine surgeries
 - Gynecological procedures
- Bundled payment arrangements for eligible specialty medical procedures which include:
 - Pre-surgical consultations and related services
 - Hospitalization, surgery, and related inpatient care
 - Post-surgical checkups
- Employee cost shares waived, except the qualified high-deductible health plan deductible
- Predictive analytics, targeting, and outreach to identify eligible members, increase awareness, and educate members on the benefits of using a Premera COE provider for eligible services
- Air travel for your employee and a companion, black car services from airport to hotel, and lodging at a select Virginia Mason hotel (up to IRS limits)
- Dedicated care coordination from Premera medical travel experts and Clinical Programs clinicians during and after your employee's procedure

¹Alaska Public Media, Healthcare costs in Alaska, 2016

High-quality care

For the third year in a row, Virginia Mason is rated in the top one percent of healthcare facilities in the nation. Its network of specialty care medical centers and providers offer superior treatment results².

When your employees need one of the qualifying procedures, we'll use predictive analytics to engage them at the right time and encourage them to seek high-quality, affordable care at Virginia Mason.

Fair prices

Because the cost for the same healthcare procedure can vary greatly from one provider to the next, Premera is collaborating with providers to help eliminate unpredictable prices.

Premera Designated Centers of Excellence offer bundled rates for Premera members who receive the specialty procedures covered by this benefit. A bundled rate is one lump sum for pre- and post-appointments and all related surgery costs.

Bundled rates help manage healthcare costs. They also help your employees know they're paying a fair price for the care they need. Plus, certain cost shares are waived for non-qualified preferred provider organization (PPO) health plans and qualified high-deductible health plans.

We make it easy

- A medical travel expert will help answer your employee's questions about eligibility, covered services, and costs. They'll also provide travel assistance, including making travel arrangements and handling travel prepayments.
- A Premera clinician will coordinate your employee's out-of-state care with Virginia Mason, before, during, and after their procedure.

Find out more

Ask your Premera account manager or producer for more information about this benefit. They can also help you find out how to add the Elective Travel Procedure program to your Premera medical plan.

²Healthgrades America's Best Hospitals 2019