

Centers of Excellence Program

Centers of excellence (COEs) are hospitals that have an expertise and concentration of resources in a particular area of medicine. COEs are able to perform specialized procedures regularly at a reduced cost with better outcomes for the patient.

In fact, both the District and employees will have lower out-of-pocket costs when you receive the covered surgeries from a Designated Center of Excellence.

Although COEs are not new to our plan **and usage is voluntary**, the District is expanding this benefit as of Jan. 1, 2022. The plan covers the surgeries listed below at COEs in both eastern and western Washington:

Covered Surgery	Eastern Washington Provider	Western Washington Provider
Cardiac	Kadlec Regional Med. Center – Richland	Overlake Hospital – Bellevue
Bariatric	Several different hospitals	Several different hospitals
Spine	Yakima Valley – Yakima	Valley Medical - Renton
Knee / Hip Replacement	Kadlec Regional Med. Center – Richland Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center – Spokane	Providence Regional Med. Center – Everett Swedish Edmonds Hospital – Edmonds Swedish Medical Center – Ballard Swedish Medical Center First Hill – Seattle Providence St. Peter Hospital – Olympia

Your Cost. You will continue to pay your deductible; however, starting Jan. 1, 2022, the plan will pay 100% of the remaining cost after the deductible is met, and will provide travel and lodging benefits (up to IRS limits).

Plan	Regular Plan Costs	COE Costs as of Jan. 1, 2022
PPO	Deductible: \$300 + co-insurance: 80% in-network/60% out-of-network (up to \$1,000)	Deductible only: \$300
CDHP	Deductible: \$1,250 + co-insurance: 80% in-network/60% out-of-network (up to \$2,050)	Deductible only: \$1,250

Using the COE Benefit. If any of the covered surgeries are recommended, you (or your covered family member) must first call the customer service number on your Premera card to be connected to a Premera Personal Support Clinician and begin the coordination and pre-authorization process. Once the pre-authorization is received, Premera will connect you with the COE closest to your home and assist with travel arrangements.