Health insurance terms can be confusing resulting in patients avoiding recommended care. Here are some basic terms:

Copay - Patient's out of pocket costs that must be paid to provider of care. Full amount until deductible is reached then a percentage. Premiums do not count as "co-payment" for covered care that is provided.

Deductibles - Threshold of costs paid by patient (copays) before Insurer covers full cost of care.

Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum - Limit of patient responsibility each year.

Allowable Costs - Insurers sometimes can specify therapies, meds and treatments that they deem "allowable" based on their assessment of effectiveness.

Preventative Care - Care deemed "effective" by national expert panels.

Pre-existing Conditions - Conditions existing prior to this insurance coverage begins.

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What do the Terms in Health Insurance Mean for Patients' Cost of Care?

Produced by



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundations Funded Project "Clear on the Cost: Patients and Providers Co-authoring the Care Plans"

HOW "TYPICAL" HEALTH INSURANCE WORKS

