

that exceed the limits of the primary plan. For example, if the primary plan has a \$1,000 deductible and Northwind Standard has a \$500 deductible, only the \$500 deductible from the primary plan will be paid.

There are some exceptions to the primary and secondary rules. For instance, if you have Medicare coverage, it will be the primary coverage for medical expenses and Northwind Standard will be the secondary coverage. However, if you have Medicare Part D for prescription drugs, Northwind Standard will be the primary coverage and Medicare Part D will be the secondary coverage.

It's also important to keep in mind that if you have other health coverage, you may need to provide evidence of that coverage to your health plan. This is known as "creditable coverage," and it helps to ensure that Northwind Standard will pay any eligible expenses once the primary plan has paid.

When it comes to understanding primary and secondary rules, it's important to remember that each health plan is different. Be sure to review your plan documents to understand the specific rules and restrictions that apply to your coverage.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns about your coverage, be sure to reach out to Northwind Health. Their knowledgeable customer service representatives are always available to answer your questions and provide guidance on how best to use your coverage.

### **COB's Effect On Benefits**

#### **WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER COVERAGE?**

When you have other health insurance coverage, coordination of benefits (COB) can affect how your benefits are paid. COB is a process where your insurance companies coordinate who pays first when you have multiple health insurance plans that cover the same medical expenses. The insurance company that pays first is called the primary payer, and the company that pays second is called the secondary payer.

#### **Coordination of Benefits Exceptions**

There are a few exceptions to COB rules that may apply to you. If you are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or a veterans' health plan, Northwind Standard may pay first, even if the other plan is usually the primary payer. Additionally, if you are enrolled in a plan that is required by law to coordinate benefits, such as an employer-sponsored plan, Northwind Standard may pay first.

#### **Understanding How COB Affects Your Benefits**

When COB applies, the primary and secondary payers will each pay a portion of the eligible expenses and combined payments cannot exceed the total cost. Depending on the type of service, the primary payer may pay all of the eligible expenses. When this happens, the secondary payer may pay nothing.