

# Get more information about your doctor before you visit!

Specialists with the Aexcel® designation

Aetna Advantage Plans for individuals, families and the self-employed



Our Performance Network gives you access to some of the highest-performing specialists.

Specialty doctors and doctor groups with the Aexcel designation:

- are part of the Aetna<sup>+</sup> network of health care providers
- have met industry-accepted practices for clinical performance
- have met Aetna's efficiency standards

## You'll find other advantages, too

You may be able to lower the costs you pay out of pocket.

Saving money — now that's a smart idea!

They meet standards for clinical performance and efficiency.

## Get care in 12 specialty areas

Visit doctors and doctor groups in these 12 areas:

- Cardiology
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Orthopedics
- Otolaryngology/ENT
- Plastic Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

Consider Aexcel-designated doctors when you need specialty care.

We want you to know<sup>®</sup>



# Get the details about Aexcel

## Here's how we evaluate

### Frequently asked questions:

#### How do we choose specialists for Aexcel designation?

We analyze their performance using nationally recognized standards from many groups.

These include the American Heart Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Agency for Health Research and Quality, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

We also study cost efficiency.

#### Measurable standards

We track:

- hospital readmission rates after 30 days
- rates of health complications during hospital care
- other treatments, by specialty, shown to improve outcomes

As a result, we find that 96 percent of those evaluated for Aexcel meet these clinical standards.\*

#### Cost efficiency

We also review the costs of treating Aetna members in each of the 12 Aexcel areas of care. We try to include all costs — not just visits to the doctor's office.

We review inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic, lab and pharmacy claims. Then we compare the total costs of care from each doctor to the costs of other doctors in the same region.

\*Aetna Health Analytics reporting, January 2008.

‡Aetna Advantage Plans for individuals, families and the self-employed are underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance Company (Aetna) directly and/or through an out-of-state blanket trust. In some states, individuals may qualify as a business group of one and may be eligible for guaranteed issue, small group health plans. These plans are medically underwritten and you may be declined coverage in accordance with your health condition.

This material is for information only and is not an offer or invitation to contract. Providers are independent contractors and are not agents of Aetna. Provider participation may change without notice. Aetna does not provide care or guarantee access to health services. Aexcel designation is only a guide to choosing a physician. Members should confer with their existing physicians before making a decision. Designations have the risk of error and should not be the sole basis for selecting a doctor. Not all health services are covered. See plan documents for a complete description of benefits, exclusions, limitations and conditions of coverage. Health insurance plans contain exclusions and limitations. Rates and benefits vary by location. Plans are not available in all states. Aetna receives rebates from drug manufacturers that may be taken into account in determining Aetna's Preferred Drug List. Rebates do not reduce the amount a member pays the pharmacy for covered prescriptions. Aetna Rx Home Delivery and Aetna Specialty Pharmacy refer to Aetna Rx Home Delivery, LLC and Aetna Specialty Pharmacy, LLC, respectively. Aetna Rx Home Delivery and Aetna Specialty Pharmacy are licensed pharmacy subsidiaries of Aetna Inc. that operate through mail order. Information is believed to be accurate as of the production date; however, it is subject to change. For more information about Aetna plans, refer to [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com).

The doctors who best meet these qualifications are chosen to receive the Aexcel designation.

#### How can I find an Aexcel-designated doctor?

It's easy to find a doctor with the Aexcel designation. Just visit our DocFind® online provider directory at [www.aetna.com/members/individuals.html](http://www.aetna.com/members/individuals.html). Then click on "Find a Doctor" on the left.

Or call your agent and ask for a directory of providers. Doctors with the Aexcel designation have a blue star next to their name (★).

#### Do I need a referral to see an Aexcel-designated doctor?

No.

#### Will I pay extra?

No. In fact, you'll reduce your out-of-pocket expenses compared to visiting a specialist who does not have the designation. Your out-of-pocket costs will also be lower, because your benefits are considered in-network. If you choose a non-designated specialist in any of the 12 specialty areas, your out-of-pocket expenses will be higher because your claim will be reimbursed at the out-of-network level.

Plus, doctors with the Aexcel designation have been shown to work efficiently within the health care system. That is good news for your health ... and your health care budget.

#### What if a doctor is part of a group?

If a doctor is part of a group, we evaluate the entire group. In this case, performance-measurement results of other doctors in the group affect each individual doctor's evaluation.



**We regularly review specialists for the Aexcel designation. Please check your doctor's status before making an appointment.**

We want you to know®  
  
[www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com)

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