

# INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE

If you are looking to buy health insurance in North Carolina through an individual or family insurance plan, then you have a lot of options available to you.

## Different Types of Health Insurance Plans:

### Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

HMOs establish a network of local medical professionals from which you can choose your care. These plans are generally more cost-effective as long as you stay within the network. With an HMO, you will have a designated primary care provider who must provide referrals for you to see specialists.

#### Point-of-Service (POSS)

POS plans also establish a network of local medical professionals. They require you to choose a primary care provider and referrals are necessary for seeing specialists. However, with a POS plan, you have the option to choose an outof-network specialist, although this may result in higher costs. Additionally, preauthorization for medical procedures may be required under this plan.

# Exclusive Provider Organizations (EPOs)

Similar to HMOs, EPOs create a network of local medical experts for you to choose from. In-network specialists do not require referrals from a primary care provider. However, EPOs typically do not cover any expenses if you seek care outside of the network, except in cases of emergency.

### Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs)

PPOs offer the widest network of medical professionals for you to choose from. They do not require you to have a primary care provider and you can see specialists without needing referrals.

Having a clear understanding of these different health insurance plan types will empower you to make informed decisions when selecting the coverage that best suits your needs.