

Temporary changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic

For Blue Cross' PPO (commercial), Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO,
BCN HMOSM (commercial) and BCN AdvantageSM members

April 30, 2020

Here are some of the temporary actions Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have taken to support providers and protect members during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will update this list with any additional changes or to revise the end dates of these changes, as needed.

Category	Item	Effective start date	Effective end date
Testing	Medically necessary diagnostic tests covered with no member cost share	Feb. 4, 2020	Until further notice
	Influenza testing added to physician in-office laboratory testing	Feb. 4, 2020	Until further notice
	COVID-19 specimen collection reimbursement increase and no member cost share	March 1, 2020	Until further notice
	Laboratory testing network for COVID-19 expanded to be consistent with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act	March 18, 2020	Until further notice
Treatment	Member cost share for COVID-19 treatment waived	March 18, 2020	June 30, 2020
	Licensed practitioners can provide services to our members outside of their state of provider licensure	March 26, 2020	Until further notice
Telehealth	Incentives introduced through Blue Cross' Physician Group Incentive Program to encourage physician offices to use telehealth	March 1, 2020	Until further notice
	Most common medical office visits, hospitalization follow-up visits and common behavioral health therapy available to members with an existing telehealth benefit with no member cost share (please consult the Telehealth procedure codes for COVID-19 PDF)	March 16, 2020	June 30, 2020
	HIPAA requirements relaxed to allow for alternative channels, such as Skype and Apple FaceTime, for telehealth visits	March 16, 2020	May 31, 2020
	Autism spectrum disorder services for assessment (*97151) can be performed via telehealth and protocol modification (*97155) can be performed by a parent or caregiver 100% of the time via telehealth	April 14, 2020	Until further notice

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Category	Item	Effective start date	Effective end date
Utilization Management	Prior authorizations waived for diagnostic tests and covered services that are medically necessary if diagnosed with COVID-19	March 6, 2020	Until further notice
	Clinical review replaced with plan notification to AIM Specialty Health for CT scans of the chest for COVID-19	March 13, 2020	May 31, 2020
	Requirement for clinical review replaced with plan notification at acute care hospitals for all admissions and for first three days of skilled nursing facility care following transfer from acute care	April 3, 2020	May 31, 2020
	Authorization durations for elective and non-urgent procedures, including PT, OT and ST extended for 180 days from the date the authorization was approved	For authorizations approved on or after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 13, 2020 from Blue Cross or BCN Utilization Management April 6, 2020 from AIM Specialty Health March 26, 2020 from eviCore healthcare 	May 31, 2020
	Extended the benefit period for PT, OT and ST from 60 to 180 days from the first treatment for members with a 60 consecutive day benefit	March 26, 2020	Until further notice
Pharmacy	Early medication refill limits on 30-day prescription maintenance medications waived; no-cost substitutions if drugs are out of stock	March 6, 2020	Until further notice
	Authorization end dates extended for select medical and pharmacy benefit drugs for Blue Cross' PPO (commercial) and BCN HMO SM (commercial) members	For authorizations scheduled to expire between March 1 and June 1, 2020	The new expiration date is Aug. 1, 2020

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Category	Item	Effective start date	Effective end date
Pharmacy, cont.	Authorization end dates extended for select medical drugs for Medicare Plus Blue SM PPO and BCN Advantage SM members	For authorizations scheduled to expire between April 1 and May 31, 2020	The new expiration date is Aug. 31, 2020
	Authorization end dates extended for select pharmacy benefit drugs for Medicare Plus Blue PPO and BCN Advantage members	For authorizations scheduled to expire between April 1 and Aug. 31, 2020	Expiration dates have been extended for 90 days
Claims	90-day extension of claim submission time limits for original claims with submission dates of Jan. 1, 2020, and after	Jan. 1, 2020	Until further notice
	DRG enhancements of 20% for inpatient treatment for COVID-19 patients with Medicare Plus Blue PPO or BCN Advantage coverage	Jan. 27, 2020	Until further notice
	Increased fees for COVID-19 specimen collection	March 1, 2020	Until further notice
	Blue Cross PPO commercial rate reimbursement increase for home health care and home infusion therapy for in-home care	April 1, 2020	Aug. 31, 2020
	Blue Cross PPO commercial professional provider rate reimbursement increase for select procedure codes	May 1, 2020	Aug. 31, 2020
	2% sequestration is suspended to applicable providers for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage reimbursement	May 1, 2020	Dec. 31, 2020

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