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IAI | IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION



Prefer to receive the IAI via email?

Contact your account service consultant and update your email and communication preference. We'll send the next edition to your email address.

October 2023



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

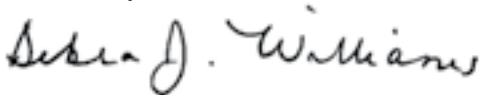
Dear Valued Customer:

Welcome to our *Important Administrative Information* October 2023 newsletter, with the latest health care industry news that affects you. This edition's articles are:

- Announcing Upcoming Webinars
- Health Plan Updates for 2024
- Important Information About Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Eligibility
- Even More Access to Oral Health Care
- Keeping Children's Eye Health in Sight
- Submit Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation by December 31, 2023
- Member Months Coverage Report Available for Self-Insured Accounts at No Cost
- ahealthyme® Platform Reminder
- Effective January 1, 2024, Upcoming Changes to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Formulary and Medical Policy Updates
- Effective January 1, 2024, Upcoming Changes to the Standard Control with Advanced Control Specialty Formulary

As always, if you have any questions, please contact your account executive.

Sincerely,



Debra J. Williams
Senior Vice President and Chief Sales & Marketing Officer

[IAI October 2023]

Announcing Upcoming Webinars

- ✓ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✓ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✓ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✓ Municipal
- ✓ MIIA

We're excited to announce upcoming webinars in our account webinar series. These webinars allow your organization's leadership and human resources teams to learn more about your health plan benefits from our subject matter experts, so you can make the best possible decisions on behalf of your employees. Upcoming topics include:

- High Performing Network Enhancements
- State Legislative Update
- Countdown to 65

Presentations last approximately one hour. You can submit your own questions either when you register, or during the webinar. You'll receive additional details in our monthly webinar emails.



Register for an upcoming webinar at employer.bluecrossma.com/whats-new/account-webinars.

If you have any questions, contact your account executive.

Health Plan Updates for 2024

- ✔ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✔ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✔ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✔ Municipal
- ✔ MIIA

Choosing the right health plan is essential to attracting and retaining top talent. Effective January 1, 2024, and upon renewal, we're enhancing our health plan offering to meet not only ongoing requirements, but also the market demand to provide high-quality, more affordable coverage you and your employees expect from Blue Cross.

In 2024, we'll offer:

- New plans and plan enhancements to expand network access, virtual care options, and riders that address cost-share options.
- Enhanced Dental Benefits that will provide additional services to members with qualifying medical conditions that may require increased oral care, such as intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and mental health conditions.
- Sempre Health discounts to eligible members taking select medications in order to remain adherent and reduce their out-of-pocket pharmacy costs. Members will receive refill reminders and discounted cost information prior to picking up their medication.
- Lifestyle Spending Accounts (LSAs) that are funded by an employer through payroll and fully customizable to provide flexibility and allow employees to spend benefit dollars on what matters most to them, across the wide spectrum of physical, emotional, and financial well-being.

❖ For more details about these new offerings, find the *2024 Benefits and Coverage Updates* brochure at **employer.bluecrossma.com/whats-new**. You can also find plan documents and compare plan information at **bluecrossma.org/plan-comparison**.

If you have any questions, contact your account executive

Important Information About Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Eligibility

- ✔ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✔ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✔ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✔ Municipal
- ✔ MIIA

As states return to normal operations following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, they're restarting eligibility reviews for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that were temporarily paused. This means that your employee members and their family members currently enrolled in these programs could soon lose their health coverage.

To help avoid gaps in care and ensure that members maintain life-saving coverage, we encourage you to extend the period for special enrollment under your plans beyond the minimum 60-day period required by statute for individuals losing Medicaid or CHIP.

❖ To learn more, go to **employer.bluecrossma.com/whats-new/regulatory-updates** or talk to your account executive.

Even More Access to Oral Health Care

- ✔ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✔ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✔ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✔ Municipal
- ✔ MIIA

Our **Dental Blue**® benefits continue to evolve to meet the needs of our members by offering more affordable oral care. Two important benefit enhancements will be effective on 10/1/2023 for new accounts, and existing accounts upon renewal:

- Expansion to Enhanced Dental Benefits: We'll offer additional, specific support, including full coverage for preventive and periodontal services to members with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and mental health conditions.
- 100% Coverage for Kids Under 13: We'll provide 100% coverage for kids under the age of 13, with no cost and no deductible for covered dental services. This coverage applies only to large group (51+) dental plans.



More details about Dental Blue benefit enhancements are available at bluecrossma.com/employer in the **Plan Updates** section under **What's new**.

If you have any questions, contact your account executive.

Keeping Children's Eye Health in Sight

- ✔ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✔ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✔ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✔ Municipal
- ✔ MIIA

August was **Children's Eye Health and Safety Month**, and as kids settle back into the classroom, it's a good reminder to stay focused on the importance of vision care for kids. Trouble reading or seeing the board in school is sometimes perceived as a learning disability, even when it's vision related. That's why routine vision exams are so important, even for kids who have had screenings at school. Our **Blue 20/20** vision plan benefits can help your employees and their kids keep their eyes healthy. These benefits include:

- Routine eye exams with copays as low as \$0
- Additional \$50 frame allowance with Blue 20/20 PLUS, reducing out-of-pocket expenses
- Full coverage for standard polycarbonate lenses for dependents under the age of 19 when using an in-network provider
- In-network access to major retail providers such as LensCrafters®, Pearle VisionSM, and Target Optical®



Learn more about Blue 20/20 coverage for kids at bluecrossma.com/employer in the **Special Announcements** section under **What's New**.

Submit Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation by December 31, 2023

- ✔ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✔ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✔ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✔ Municipal
- ✔ MIIA

In compliance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) Prohibition on Gag Clauses provision, we've removed all gag clauses from our provider contracts.

As required by the CAA, self-insured accounts must submit a Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation to the Health and Human Services portal by December 31, 2023. Fully insured accounts don't need to take any action as we'll submit attestations on their behalf.



For more information and to learn how to submit your attestation, see the **Regulatory Updates** page under **What's New** at employer.bluecrossma.com, or contact your account executive.

Member Months Coverage Report Available for Self-Insured Accounts at No Cost

- ✓ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✓ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✓ Municipal
- ✓ MIIA



We're offering a Member Months Coverage Report to our self-insured accounts for the 2023 tax year at no cost. The member information in the report is required by the IRS under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accounts are responsible for sending the report file to their tax vendor and filing with the IRS.

To request a report, contact your account executive before November 1, 2023. For more information, read the full article on Employer Central. Visit employer.bluecrossma.com, select **What's New** from the drop-down menu, and click **Special Announcements**.

ahealthyme® Platform Reminder

- ✓ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✓ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✓ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✓ Municipal
- ✓ MIIA

We recently launched the upgraded ahealthyme. This wellness platform, available to fully insured accounts with 500+ subscribers and self-insured accounts with 100+ subscribers, has new and enhanced features including:

- Opportunities to offer incentives to meet the needs of the employees and workplace culture
- Interactive health and wellness courses and content, curated by experts
- 24/7 reporting access for employers to gain insight on employee participation and drive engagement
- Easy integration with multiple wearable devices to track activities and goals over time, including MyFitnessPal®, Apple Health®, Google Fit®, Garmin®, and Fitbit®

Account Transitions

Our current ahealthyme program will continue to run through 2023, with accounts transitioning on a rolling basis to the new platform, based on their current ahealthyme program effective dates. Health engagement strategists will partner with accounts to handle transitions for ASC 100+ and fully insured 500+ accounts.

Accounts that aren't currently customized on ahealthyme and those with 1-99 members will no longer have access to ahealthyme after December 31, 2023.



Questions?

If your account is fully insured with 500+ subscribers or self-insured with 100+ subscribers and is interested in learning about the enhanced ahealthyme platform, contact your account executive or health engagement strategist.

Effective January 1, 2024, Upcoming Changes to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Formulary and Medical Policy Updates

- ✓ Small accounts (50 or fewer enrolled)
- ✓ Mid-size (51–99 enrolled)
- ✓ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✓ Municipal
- ✓ MIIA

Effective January 1, 2024, we're updating our formulary (list of covered medications) for medical plans with pharmacy benefits, as well as Medex[®] plans* with a three-tier pharmacy benefit. As part of this update, certain medications may:

- No longer be covered (exceptions may be granted)
- Have new quantity or dosing limits
- Require prior authorization and/or step therapy
- No longer be covered under the medical benefit and will only be covered under the pharmacy benefit

We're also making medical policy changes, effective January 1, 2024.

Complete details about these changes will be available by October 25, 2023 at bluecrossma.com/employer in the **What's New** section.



If you have any questions, contact your account executive.

*This doesn't include Medex[®] 2 plans with Blue MedicareRx (PDP) prescription drug coverage.

Effective January 1, 2024, Upcoming Changes to the Standard Control with Advanced Control Specialty Formulary

- ✓ Large (100 or more enrolled)
- ✓ Municipal
- ✓ MIIA

Effective January 1, 2024, CVS Caremark[®], an independent company that administers your pharmacy benefits on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, is updating their formulary (list of covered medications) for select self-insured plans (500+) with the Standard Control with Advanced Control Specialty Formulary. As part of this update, certain medications may:

- No longer be covered (exceptions may be granted)
- Switch tiers
- Have new quantity or dosing limits
- Require prior authorization and/or step therapy
- Be added to the list of covered medications
- Be designated as preferred



Complete details about these changes will be available by October 25, 2023 at bluecrossma.com/employer in the **What's New** section.