

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



October 23, 2019

Pharmacy Benefit Update – New Insulin Zero Copay Initiative for Commercial Lines of Business

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is committed to providing access to safe, quality, cost-effective health care. In response to the rising cost of insulin and as part of its broader efforts to reign in health care costs, Blue Cross is collaborating with our pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) Prime Therapeutics (Prime), to implement a new **Insulin Zero Copay Initiative** to help ensure our fully insured commercial subscribers using insulin have continued access to affordable insulin therapy options.

Starting January 1, 2020, commercial subscribers who have pharmacy coverage through Blue Cross with Tier 1 and Tier 2 benefits will have insulin brand options available with a \$0 out-of-pocket benefit when the insulin is filled at an in-network pharmacy. Applicable network charges will apply when prescriptions are filled at an out of network pharmacy. The Insulin Zero Copay Initiative only applies to the cost of insulin, not diabetes supplies, such as: syringes, diabetic test strips, lancets, or blood glucose monitors.

To review the list of insulin brands included in the Insulin Zero Copay Initiative, subscribers are encouraged to contact Blue Cross Customer Service or search online. Starting December 1, 2019, subscribers can log in to their Blue Cross online account to check their pharmacy benefit plan.

Products Impacted

The Insulin Zero Copay Initiative applies to Blue Cross subscribers of eligible group plans that include:

- Individual and Family Plans (both on and off MNsure)
- Fully insured commercial small group and most large group employer plans
- Minnesota HealthCare Consortium, also known as the Minnesota Service Cooperatives
- Self-insured groups – Only those groups that have decided to participate in the initiative

The Initiative does not impact Government Programs lines of business (Families and Children, MinnesotaCare (MNCare), and Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), and Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) products), Federal Employee Program (FEP), Medicare Supplement (Senior Gold, Basic Medicare Blue and Extended Basic Blue), Medicare Advantage or Platinum Blue as those lines of business have separate pharmacy benefit formularies.

Blue Cross Customer Service

For questions related to the Insulin Zero Copay Initiative, subscribers should call Customer Service at the number listed on the back of their member ID card (Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT).

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.

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