

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

Provider information



June 11, 2012

## Change in Minnesota law may affect providers performing health services for county prisoners

This is reminder that last year the Minnesota legislature amended Minnesota Statute §641.15, subdivision 2, relating to medical aid paid for by county boards for the cost of medical services provided to prisoners. The changes became effective July 1, 2011.

The amendment limits the amount a provider can charge and the amount any county board can pay for prisoner health services in certain circumstances. The maximum allowed charge is the medical assistance payment rate for the service, as determined by the commissioner of human services. This statutory limitation applies “*in the absence of*”: 1) a health or medical insurance plan that has a contractual obligation with the provider or the prisoner; 2) a health plan that has a contractual obligation with the provider or the prisoner; or 3) an agreement between the county and the provider.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) participating providers, pursuant to their provider service agreements with Blue Cross, agree to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, orders and requirements. Therefore, providers are encouraged to closely review this statutory change to assess the applicability of the statute to the services they provide to prisoners. Information regarding how providers are to submit charges that are to be paid in accordance with Minnesota Statute §641.15 can be found at the Minnesota Department of Human Services website,

[http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_164360](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_164360).

### Questions?

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