

Bulletin



September 29, 2010

Important changes for the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Initiative

This bulletin is to advise you of changes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) will be instituting for administration of the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Initiative.

In an effort to improve measurement and reporting alignment in the provider community, Blue Cross uses Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) measurement specifications and results for specific Recognizing Excellence Measures to determine clinic based performance. These specific Measures, as well as the detailed measurement components, are identified in Attachment A of the 2010 Aware Addendum for Recognizing Excellence Initiative (Addendum).

In response to significant findings in a recently released ACCORD* study, clinical management recommendations have changed since the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Performance Targets were established for the Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Care Composite Measures (outlined in Attachment A of the Addendum).

Specifically, new clinical management recommendations support a blood pressure goal of 140/90 mmHg. MNCM will be using the 140/90 mmHg blood pressure value in the calculation of the Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Composite Measures. Because the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Initiative Performance Targets for the Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Care Composite Measures were based on a blood pressure goal of 130/80 mmHg, Blue Cross will be adjusting these two Performance Targets to align with these new clinical management recommendations. We do not anticipate that the changes in the Performance Targets will adversely impact providers.

Blue Cross will advise providers of the revised Performance Targets as soon as such targets have been finalized by Blue Cross.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to these program changes, please contact Mary Jo Stelzner at **(651) 662-6230** or toll free at **1-888-878-0139 ext. 26230**.

* ACCORD Study Group, The Effects of intensive blood pressure control in type 2 diabetes mellitus. N Engl J Med 2010;362:1575-85. (Class A)