

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



May 12, 2015

Changes to Optician Network for Commercial Business

Effective May 1, 2015, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota initiated a new Aware optician provider network for commercial business. In the past, Blue Cross had discount agreements with Opticians to provide discounted services to subscribers. Those discount agreements terminated on April 30, 2015. In order to best support a new business operating environment under the Affordable Care Act and our mission of making a healthy difference for all Minnesotans, we are transitioning from a discount arrangement for optician providers to a fully contracted provider network for optician providers.

Individual and small group products sold on or off the exchange must include ten essential health care benefits (EHB). One of the EHB's is for corrective lenses for children age 18 and younger. The benefit includes a maximum of one frame, one pair of lenses or a pair of contacts lenses or a one year supply of disposable contact lenses. Payment will be in accordance with the provider's Aware agreement and the benefit is subject to the subscriber's deductible and coinsurance, which will vary by plan.

Blue Plus Referral contracts with opticians are not impacted by this new network and those contracts remain unchanged.

Questions and answers

1. When do the contracts become effective?

The contracts are effective May 1, 2015 or when the provider returns a signed contract, whichever is later.

2. How do optician providers join the network?

Complete and return the Aware Provider Service Agreement that was sent out to opticians. Opticians may also request to join the network at: www.bluecrossmn.com/Page/mn/en_US/join-our-network.

3. Is the discount agreement terminated?

Yes, the discount agreement is terminated effective April 30, 2015. However, providers may still offer discounts to subscribers who do not have an eyewear benefit.

4. Are Minnesota Health Care Programs optician services affected by this transition?

No, they are not impacted.

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