

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

Provider information



November 8, 2012

New Medicare product for 2013

Blue Essentials is a new Medicare Advantage plan for 2013. The Blue Essentials benefit design closely resembles that of the terminating MedicareBlueSM PPO (Regional PPO) product.

Blue Essentials (HMO-POS) is a Medicare-approved health maintenance organization plan with a point of service option being offered by Blue Plus for 2013. Blue Essentials is a Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plan, providing health and prescription drug coverage in one convenient plan. It will provide members with Medicare Part A, Part B and Part D benefits.

Here are some key plan features:

- No referrals needed
- A single monthly premium for health and drug coverage
- Predictable copays for many health care services
- Limits on combined annual out-of-pocket costs
- Travel coverage

Who is eligible?

The Blue Essentials plan is available to residents in 78 Minnesota counties for plan year 2013. It is currently not available to residents of Beltrami, Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Itasca, Pope, Renville and Stevens counties.

Provider network

Blue Essentials has a large provider network in Minnesota*, and the border counties of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin and more than 63,000 pharmacies nationwide for prescriptions.

*Note that there are contracted providers in all counties in Minnesota, not just the eligible service area (see above).

Questions?

If you have any provider specific questions about Blue Essentials, please call Blue Essentials Provider Service line at **1-866-383-5173** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

Member eligibility, benefits, or claims specific questions should be directed to the Blue Essentials Customer Service line at **1-866-383-5146** (TTY: 711), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT daily.