

Quick Points



November 11, 2011

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota announces two new High Performance networks

Two new High Performance networks which offer employers deeper savings while retaining open access to high quality providers have been developed for use with employer accounts for the upcoming 2012 benefit year.

The new networks, named Blue Performance Enhanced and Blue Performance Basic, are multi-tier and are based on provider Total Cost of Care calculations and discount savings respectively. Providers were assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2 in each of the networks based on the data analysis methodologies summarized below.

Blue Performance Enhanced tier assignment methodology

In the Enhanced network, providers are assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2 based on Total Cost of Care analysis as performed by a third party health information and analytics organization. Care Systems comprising both hospitals and clinics as part of the same system under one provider service agreement were assigned together into either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

To determine tier placement, a stratification line was set at a specific, optimized Total Cost of Care threshold. Providers with a lower Total Cost of Care than the threshold amount were placed in Tier 1. Providers with a higher Total Cost of Care than the threshold amount were placed in Tier 2. Providers with no Total Cost of Care data were defaulted to Tier 1 for 2012. However, as data access and analysis of specialists and independent hospitals become available, providers who were defaulted to Tier 1 the first year may find their position changing in future years. The network will be analyzed and updated annually, using the same methodology described above. This network is currently being offered to fully insured commercial employer accounts for use in the January 1, 2012 benefit year.

Blue Performance Basic tier assignment methodology

In the Basic network, providers are assigned to Tier 1 and Tier 2 based on their aggregate discount percentage. An optimum threshold was determined through analysis of current discount data and depending on whether the provider's current discount is greater than or less than this threshold, the provider is assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2 respectively. The Basic network will also be analyzed and updated annually. This network is not currently being offered to employer accounts, but may be used in the future under specific circumstances.

Additional information

For information on your clinic or facility tier placement in the Blue Performance Enhanced network, go to providers.bluecrossmn.com.

As with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota's other multi-tier network offerings, the network name will be visible on the front of the member's identification card. All provisions of your current Provider Service Agreement continue to apply to these new networks.

Questions?

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