

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



September 25, 2017

Two New Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Products in 2018

For more than 80 years, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) has been Minnesota's leading health plan and Blue Cross will continue to make available a portfolio of products that meet the needs of Minnesotans. Blue Cross will also introduce two new Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) PPO plans for the 2018 plan year. These plans will be available in 55 Minnesota counties. More details about these two plans will be available beginning on October 1, 2017, for the Annual Election Period (AEP) marketplace preview. Enrollees will be able to choose one of the MAPD plans starting with the AEP on October 15, 2017. As we build our capabilities, we will be seeking to expand access and availability in 2019.

This year's AEP for Medicare (October 15 - December 7) marks the beginning of a two-year transition in the Medicare market as Congress has mandated changes in 2019. Specifically, insurance companies must retire Medicare Cost plans January 1, 2019, which includes Platinum Blue. However, Blue Cross' Medicare Cost plan, Platinum Blue, will continue to be available in 2018.

Impact to Providers

The MAPD plans will be managed care Medicare products, which means that services will require more clinical review than our current Medicare plans. Future Provider Bulletins will address these changes in detail.

Questions?

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