

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



October 1, 2018

### 2019 Minnesota Medicare Network Update

#### Medicare Advantage Plans to Replace Medicare Cost Plans in Most Minnesota Counties

Effective January 1, 2019, Medicare Cost plans will no longer be available in most Minnesota counties due to a change in federal law. This change affects more than 400,000 Minnesotans. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) will begin offering Medicare Advantage products across the state to meet the needs of our senior members. It is very important for providers to understand the new Medicare network landscape in Minnesota in order to ensure a seamless transition for Medicare members.

#### Cost plans (Platinum Blue) *will continue in these 21 Minnesota counties in 2019:*

Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Goodhue, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Pipestone, Rice, Rock, St. Louis, Sibley, Stevens, Traverse, Yellow Medicine

For members living in the 21 counties listed above, there will be no changes to their Medicare plan or the network for which it's applicable. For all other counties across the state, the following Blue Cross networks will be supporting Medicare Advantage products in 2019:

- **Group Medicare Advantage** is a state-wide broad network for group retirees that will be offered in the 66 Medicare Advantage counties, including 100% of hospitals and 96% of quality providers.
- **Medicare High Value** is made up of select providers that meet a specific standard of high quality and Total Cost of Care measurements.
- **Medicare Southern MN** is an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) made up of in-network providers in this region.
- **Strive Medicare Advantage Metro Region** is a single-system ACO network included in the Metro region to enable a value-based product with a higher degree of care management.

*Please see the maps below detailing which networks apply to which Minnesota residents across the various counties (based on where the member lives, not where the provider is located).*

To confirm whether a provider is participating in one or more of these networks, please use the "Find a Doctor" tool on the [bluecrossmn.com](http://bluecrossmn.com) website. Once you have searched for the provider, validate they are in the network by

selecting the appropriate network, ‘Group Medicare Advantage’, ‘Medicare High Value’, ‘Medicare Southern MN’ or ‘Strive Medicare Advantage Metro Region’ in the search criteria on the left side of the search results screen.


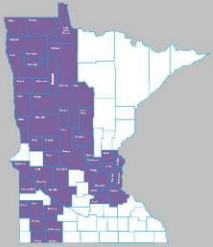



The new Medicare networks were developed by Blue Cross based on:

- Stars Scores of Providers
- Risk Scores of Providers
- Quality Measured (HEDIS Data)
- CMS Network Adequacy Guidelines
- Medicare Total Cost of Care
- 3rd Party Evidence Based Medicine Protocols
  - Choosing Wisely (trusted vendor)

In preparation for 2019, it is important to reiterate that not all providers participate in all Blue Cross networks. Members should be directed to confirm the participation status of providers within their specific plan network by calling the number on the back of their member ID card. We are available to assist members to identify in-network providers in their specific Plan to ensure the most appropriate care at the greatest benefit of their plan. Directories of participating providers are available at [bluecrossmn.com](http://bluecrossmn.com) or upon request by contacting provider services at **1-800-262-0820** or **(651) 662-5200**.

**Questions?**

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

Network Availability Based on Member’s Place of Residence				
GROUP MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	MEDICARE HIGH VALUE	MEDICARE SOUTHERN MN	STRIVE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE METRO REGION	PLATINUM BLUE COST
<p>This is a state-wide broad network used in the 66 Medicare Advantage counties, including 100% of hospitals and 96% of quality providers.</p> 	<p>This network is made up of select providers that meet a specific standard of high quality and Total Cost of Care measurements.</p> 	<p>This ACO will be the in-network provider for members in this region.</p> 	<p>This single-system ACO network will be included for the Metro region to enable a value-based product with a higher degree of care management.</p> 	<p>This network will not change as cost plans are set to continue for these 21 counties.</p> 

Medicare High Value

Platinum Blue Cost

Strive Medicare Advantage Metro Region

Medicare Southern MN

