## **PROVIDER QUICK POINTS** PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 22, 2021

## **No-Cost Community Health Worker Services added to Commercial Plans**

Beginning on January 1, 2022, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will cover services delivered by community health workers across all fully insured commercial health plans. These include Individual and Family plans – both on and off MNsure – in addition to small and large fully insured employer groups (plans in which Blue Cross designs the benefit structure and pays for covered health care costs). Commercial plans in which employers design their own health benefits and pay for their own health care costs – known as self-insured plans – also have the option to select this coverage, and for those plans who elect this benefit, there will be no cost share for eligible members.

Community health worker programs focus on culturally appropriate assistance and education provided by front-line public health professionals who work in conjunction with primary care providers. Additionally, community health workers serve as trusted liaisons between individuals, the health care system, health insurers and social service agencies. Through community outreach, social support and patient advocacy, community health workers are key to bridging gaps in communication and improving health outcomes in communities with cultural and language barriers.

The benefit will go into effect for all eligible members on January 1, 2022, regardless of specific plan renewal dates.

**Products Impacted** Commercial lines of business.

## **Questions?**

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