

## **2017 Product and Benefit Updates**

# **Accounts with 100 or more Enrolled Subscribers**

Effective on January 1, 2017

We're making changes to our health plans beginning on or after January 1, 2017. These changes will ensure that our health plans continue to meet the ongoing requirements of health care reform under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), while providing employers and their employees access to high-quality, affordable health plan options.

The 2017 changes to our health plans for employers with 100 or more enrolled employees are explained in the following pages.

#### **Habilitation Services Clarification**

Our standard large group plans include coverage for short-term rehabilitation therapy. We're updating the language in the Subscriber Certificate to clarify that this benefit includes coverage for both rehabilitation and habilitation services.

There are currently no benefit changes being made to the short-term rehabilitation therapy coverage, which requires pre-approval on HMO plans.

As defined by the Uniform Glossary of Health and Coverage and Medical Terms, rehabilitation services are health care services that help a person keep, get back, or improve skills and functioning for daily living that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, hurt, or disabled. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and psychiatric rehabilitation services in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings.

Habilitation therapy services are health care services that help a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Examples include therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings.

#### Methadone

Due to the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, we will be making a benefit change for methadone. We are also developing a new Opioid Treatment Provider Network that will be in place as of January 1, 2017. These changes will help to remove barriers to treatment for our members.

Effective January 1, 2017, upon renewal for ASC accounts, methadone will be covered under the Medical Care Outpatient Benefit. This will apply no in-network cost share on most plans and will not require prior authorization or referral. It will be a core ASC benefit as of 1/1/17 upon account renewal unless the ASC account opts out. Coverage under the medical benefit will be applied as listed below:

#### Non-Saver plans

- No in-network member cost share will apply for medically necessary methadone for opioid addiction that is administered at a participating methadone clinic
- + This includes no deductible, no copayment, and no co-insurance
- + No authorization required

#### Saver plans

- Medically necessary methadone administered at a participating methadone clinic to treat opioid addiction will apply to the deductible
- After the member meets the deductible, there will be no in-network copayment and no co-insurance applied
- + No authorization required

Please note that this benefit update went into effect on July 1, 2016, for fully insured plans.

#### **Out-of-Pocket Maximum**

All non-grandfathered health plans must include an out-of-pocket maximum that limits costs for all Essential Health Benefits, including pharmacy. Out-of-pocket costs include copayments, co-insurance, and deductibles.

Our standard health plans include an out-of-pocket maximum that is set at, or below, the Affordable Care Act's 2017 limits. If you would like to offer a different out-of-pocket maximum that is equal to, or lower than the ACA's limit, contact your Account Executive to discuss your options.

#### ACA's annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum for 2017:

Plan Type	Self Only Coverage (Individual)	Family Coverage
Health Savings Account (HSA) qualified high deductible health plans	\$6,550	\$13,100
Non-HSA qualified health plans	\$7,150	\$14,300

## HSA Preventive Medications on Preferred Blue PPO Plans

We are updating the following Preferred Blue PPO plans to apply the overall deductible to preventive (non-ACA) drugs:

Preferred Blue PPO Saver	Preferred Blue PPO Basic Saver	Preferred Blue PPO Saver with Co-insurance
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If you would like to exempt the overall deductible from the medications on the HSA preventive medication list, contact your Account Executive to discuss your options.

## Pharmacy Benefit Exclusion

All drugs in the therapeutic class of inhaled nasal steroids used to treat allergies will be excluded from our pharmacy benefit coverage across all of our plans. This is a one day change effective January 1, 2017. We previously communicated this change because it appeared in Subscriber Certificates issued beginning January 1, 2016.

Prescription drug exceptions, including those previously approved, will no longer be available for this class of medications.

## Blue Options v.5 and Hospital Choice Cost Sharing Update

As a result of favorable improvements in the following hospitals' cost or quality performance, we are updating their tier in our Blue Options v.5 benefit designs and Hospital Choice Cost Sharing benefit designs.

This is effective as a one-day change for all plans and accounts on January 1, 2017. With this update, members will have lower out-of-pocket costs when receiving services at these hospitals.

#### Blue Options:

Hospital	Previous Blue Options Tier	New Blue Options Tier	Reason for Tier Improvement
Sturdy Memorial Hospital	Basic Benefits Tier	Standard Benefits Tier	Met moderate cost benchmark
Nashoba Valley Medical Center	Standard Benefits Tier	Enhanced Benefits Tier	Met quality benchmark

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#### Hospital Choice Cost Sharing:

Hospital	Previous HCCS	New HCCS	Reason for Tier
	Cost Share	Cost Share	Improvement
Sturdy Memorial Hospital	Higher Cost Share	Lower Cost Share	Met moderate cost benchmark

## **New Plan Options**

We are excited to introduce several new Limited Network plan designs to our large group employers.

The following plans will be available to employers with 100 or more enrolled subscribers for new sales, effective January 1, 2017:

HMO Blue Select Deductible (Insured)
 Network Blue Select Deductible (ASC)

**Questions?** Please contact your Account Executive with any questions.

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