

Blue Shield Report

A Newsletter for
Professional Providers and
their Staff Members



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The *Blue Shield Report* is published by the professional relations department of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

OUR WEB ADDRESS:
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Reminders

New 1500 Claim Form Alert

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) has been receiving claims submitted on the new CMS 1500 claim form. As a reminder to providers, it is very important that the software used to print claims is updated to accommodate the new form. Using old software causes data to be printed in the wrong fields and not fit correctly in the new fields, in turn increasing processing time and slowing down payments.

We have also been receiving claim forms made on copy machines. While we do accept these claims, processing takes longer because they have to be keyed manually instead of being read by an optical character reader. Therefore, claims should be submitted on original red ink claim forms.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we transition to the new CMS 1500 claim form.

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Note: Codes published herein are current on the publication/effective date and may change in the future.

Sent To: CAP except Dentists and Pharmacies

Contains Public Information

Phoning for Benefits

Each January, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) receives many phone calls from providers inquiring about benefits for our members. This is a reminder that not all of our groups have January anniversary dates; therefore, not all members' benefits change at the beginning of the year.

We ask that providers wait until a patient has an appointment before phoning for benefits. It would then be appropriate to call, if the provider is unable to obtain the needed information from our Web site.

Updates**Ambulatory Event Monitor Providers**

BCBSKS has been receiving claims for services provided by out-of-state event monitoring companies for services ordered by our contracting providers. It is important to know that most of these companies are not eligible providers, as defined in our member contracts. Since we can not pay benefits to ineligible providers, claims received from these companies are denied as member responsibility. When patients receive a bill from one of these companies, it can create a large financial responsibility for them.

Contracting providers ordering services from these ineligible providers must bill us for all aspects of the service from the hookup to the monitoring. BCBSKS will make direct reimbursement to our contracting providers at the lesser of our maximum allowable payment or their charge. It is then the responsibility of the provider to reimburse the monitoring company.

We urge providers to review our current medical policy titled Ambulatory Event Monitors (AEM), which can be found on our Web site at the link below. This policy provides guidance as to the effectiveness and medical necessity of the benefits of this procedure.

http://www.bcbsks.com/providers/publications/professional/med_review/policies.htm

Benefit Design Enhancements

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) recently completed a benefit design enhancement project for a large portion of our business, groups 1-99 and 100-200 in size. The purpose of this project is to simplify administration for insured groups and providers as well as BCBSKS. New plan designs will meet current and future needs of our members while decreasing the level of complexity for the above entities.

BCBSKS will be able to offer better customer service and providers will have fewer coverage options to deal with for members in the above groups. These changes took effect November 1, 2006 for new groups and will be effective for existing groups as they renew on their anniversary dates from January 1, 2007 forward.

Below are some of the changes that apply to both sizes of groups:

- \$25.00 office visit copay
(The office visit copay benefit is not applicable to Basic Blue, Health Savings Accounts [HSA], or Shared Pay Comprehensive.)
- 80/20 coinsurance – Applicable to Comprehensive Major Medical only
- Accidents – 100% up to \$1,000 per person each benefit period
Subsequent accident services are subject to applicable deductible, coinsurance, copay, and shared payments. (The accident benefit is not applicable to AffordaBlue, Value Blue, Essential Blue, Basic Blue or HSA.)
- ER copay - \$100 per incident
Once the ER copay is taken, the remainder of the claim is subject to deductible, coinsurance, and shared payments as applicable. (ER copay is not applicable to AffordaBlue, Value Blue, Essential Blue, Basic Blue, or HSA.)

Essential Blue

BCBSKS is pleased to introduce Essential Blue – a more affordable product designed to provide basic health care coverage. Essential Blue has a \$25 office visit copay (except for the initial visit for an accidental injury) up to a maximum of five visits for each covered person (15 visits for three or more covered persons) each benefit period. This plan includes a **generic only** prescription drug benefit (subject to \$100 per person deductible and 50% coinsurance).

Essential Blue pays a maximum of \$30,000 in benefits for all covered health services (subject to deductibles and coinsurance) per covered person each benefit period.

Members with this product can be identified by the XSB alpha prefix on their BCBSKS identification cards. This is the same prefix used for our AffordaBlue product.

Manual Therapy Techniques

Effective February 1, 2007, manual therapy techniques (e.g., mobilization/manipulation, manual lymphatic drainage, manual traction), one or more regions, each 15 minutes (code 97140) will be considered content of service of the Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment codes (98925-98929) and the Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment codes (98940-98943).

Medical Review - Web Changes

Since our last *Blue Shield Report*, the Medical Review section of our Web site has been updated to reflect revisions or additions of the topics listed below.

Experimental/Investigational Services

- Artificial Disc (i.e. CHARITÉ)

Medical Policies

- BRCA I and BRCA II Testing
- Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)
- Electronic (EDX) Medicine and Related Services
- Extended Fundus Photography
- Minimally Invasive Procedures for Spine Pain
- Panniculectomy and Abdominoplasty
- Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (UPPP) and Tongue Base Reduction Surgery
- Vacuum Assisted Wound Closure (VAC)
- Varicose Veins Guidelines
- Wireless Capsule Endoscopy

This, as well as additional medical review information, can be found at the link below:

http://www.bcbsks.com/providers/publications/professional/med_review/index.htm

Pilot Program for Behavioral Health

HMS/Value Options, in conjunction with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS), is excited to present a new pilot program. The pilot initiative is an integrated health care program designed to improve members' well-being. Members who are experiencing a physical or behavioral health condition possibly caused or exacerbated by stress, depression, or chronic health condition may benefit from this pilot initiative.

HMS/Value Options has a long-standing history of managing behavioral health benefits for BCBSKS members. This pilot program, supported by licensed behavioral health care specialists, assists members in identifying resources available to help them promote positive health changes.

SOK (State of Kansas) and FEP (Federal Employee Program) News

Both the SOK and FEP employer groups renew on January 1, 2007. Benefit information for these groups can be located at their respective links below:

http://www.bcbsks.com/providers/StateKS_emply/stateKS_emply.htm

<http://www.bcbsks.com/providers/federal.htm>

Submitting Claims for Work-Related Services

Our local system does not permit us to process claims involving worker's compensation by line or service. Such claims must be either entirely adjudicated as work related or entirely denied as not work related. Therefore claims for services that are not work related, as well as those already denied by worker's compensation, must be filed separately from those that are for work-related injury or illness.

BlueCard

Eligibility Enhancements Update

In *Blue Shield Report S-07-06* we announced upcoming eligibility enhancements that will be available on the Web and through electronic transactions for both local and out-of-state members. When this project is completed, providers will be able to get member benefits for over 70 specific service types. As an example, there are service types for medical care, anesthesia, surgery, dental care, and others.

Additional information will be contained in future newsletters.

Pharmaceuticals

Formulary Update

Prime Therapeutics updates the BCBSKS formulary (preferred drug list) on a quarterly basis. The most current update can be viewed and printed by clicking on the link below:

http://www.bcbsks.com/resourceblue/prescript_drugs/pdf/BCBSKS_select_formulary.pdf

A searchable version of the formulary is available at

http://www.primetherapeutics.com/formulary/druglist.asp?FML_ID=00070&CLIENT=BCBSKS