

# 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

### NPI Contingency Plan – Stage 2

As reported in *Blue Shield Report S-14-07*, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) will implement Stage 2 of our NPI contingency plan effective January 1, 2008.

This means that all claims **received** by BCBSKS on or after that date must include an NPI. Service date is not a factor.

Electronic claims showing only a legacy number will be rejected. Paper claims showing only a legacy number will be returned to the provider.

## Updates

### FEP Benefits for 2008

The FEP group renews on January 1, 2008. Benefit information can be located at <http://www.fepblue.org/>.

For 2008, FEP is offering a pilot High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) called Basic Consumer Option. This health plan is available to members who live or work in the states of Tennessee, Ohio, and Minnesota, and in certain counties in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Although FEP members living in the Kansas company service area are not offered this option, members from the pilot areas might seek services from Kansas providers.

Additional information about this new coverage as well as the other FEP benefit options can be obtained at the Web site indicated above.

### FEP – New ID Cards

From February through April of 2008, all FEP members will be issued newly redesigned identification cards. Examples of these new cards appear below.

Standard Option



Basic Option



**NOTE:** During the FEP open season, new enrollees will be issued these cards, so providers may actually see these cards prior to February.

### State of Kansas

The State of Kansas group renews on January 1, 2008. Benefit information can be located at the following link: <http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Members/State/index.htm>

### Tyson Foods – New ID Numbers

Beginning January 1, 2008, employees of Tyson Foods, Inc., with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield health coverage will be issued new eight-digit identification numbers reflecting an alpha prefix of **TYS**. Prior to this, the identification number was the member's social security number. As always, it is advisable to ask patients for their current identification card.

The BCBSKS company service area currently includes over 2,250 contracts covering 5,621 Tyson Foods members. Claims should continue to be submitted to BCBSKS.

### Web Changes – Medical Review

Since the publication of *Blue Shield Report S-11-07*, updates to the following medical policies have been posted to our Web site at the link below:

<http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Providers/MedicalPolicies/index.htm>:

- Ambulatory Event Monitors and Mobile Outpatient Cardiac Telemetry
- Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (CMR)
- Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)
- Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP)
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) for Acute Stress Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- LASIK (laser in situ keratomileusis )
- Scanning Laser Ophthalmoscopy (SLO) for Glaucoma and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) for Retinal Conditions

## BlueCard

### Accuracy of Identification Numbers

At BCBSKS, we strive to process claims quickly and accurately. Providers, too, can make a difference in how quickly claims are processed. To avoid unnecessary payment delays, all claims must contain the member's complete identification number to include the **three-character alpha prefix**.

## 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:

[https://www.myrxhealth.com/MyRxHealth/forms/KS\\_Alpha\\_Drug\\_List.pdf](https://www.myrxhealth.com/MyRxHealth/forms/KS_Alpha_Drug_List.pdf)

A searchable version of the formulary is available at:

<https://www.myrxhealth.com/MyRxHealth/app?service=external&page=myrx:FindDrugsPlanSelector&sp=SKSBCBS&sp=SSAMST>

The following brand-name drugs will become non-formulary as of January 1, 2008:

Brand-Name Non-Formulary Drug	Therapeutic Class	Generic Alternative Drug	Brand-Name Formulary Drug
Avandia	Antidiabetics		Actos
Avandamet	Antidiabetics		Actoplus Met
Augmentin XR	Penicillins	amoxicillin/potassium clavulanate	
Helidac	Ulcer Drugs		Prevpac
Neoral	Miscellaneous Products – Assorted Classes	cyclosporine	
Proventil HFA	Antiasthmatic and Bronchodilator Agents		Proair HFA, Xopenex HFA
Sandimmune	Miscellaneous Products – Assorted Classes	cyclosporine	

### Prescription Drug Changes for 2008

The January 1, 2008, prescription drug changes will affect most members with BCBSKS prescription card benefits. These programs will lower costs to members, with the member savings reaching \$360 per year, depending on the drug and benefit design.

#### Change in Coverage of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)

Beginning January 1, 2008, BCBSKS will cover generic and formulary brand-name Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs), which include omeprazole, Aciphex® and Protonix®. Non-formulary brand PPI tablets and capsules (Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prevacid Solutab® (for ages >17), Prilosec®, and Zegerid®) will not be covered and prior authorization does not apply. Members currently utilizing a non-formulary brand will be notified of this change prior to January 1, 2008. Therefore, prescribers will likely have patient requests to change to a BCBSKS covered PPI drug. Omeprazole is the lowest cost choice for the member.

#### New Step Therapy/Prior Authorization Programs

Step Therapy/Prior Authorization programs will be implemented for:

- ACEI/ARB antihypertensive drugs
- SSRI/SNRI antidepressant drugs

These programs require a member to initially use an available generic alternative drug prior to having coverage for certain brand-name drugs. Members currently receiving brand-name therapy may continue to do so without interruption. These programs will only affect new members or members who receive these medications for the first time in 2008.

An electronic claims edit will determine if a patient has been receiving the brand-name medication or has tried a required generic. In either case, the requested brand-name drug will be approved. Persons new to BCBSKS prescription drug coverage will not have a claim history to automatically approve the brand-name drug. Therefore, a prior authorization (PA) process is in place to provide a manual review of claims that do not meet the electronic edit. The PA form is available at the following link:  
[http://www.bcbsks.com/Customerservice/Forms/pdf/PriorAuth\\_ACEI-ARB-SSRI-SNRI.pdf](http://www.bcbsks.com/Customerservice/Forms/pdf/PriorAuth_ACEI-ARB-SSRI-SNRI.pdf).

For more information, including a list of the drugs affected and the prior authorization criteria for Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEI) / Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists (ARB), Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI), and Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRI) brand-name approval, see *Blue Shield Report S-13-07*.