

# Blue Edge Newsletter



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF WYOMING FOR LARGE EMPLOYERS

*"One kind word can warm three winter months."*

*- Japanese Proverb*



Enjoy the first quarterly update from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming for 2023.  
We have important information to share with you and your employees.

## NEWS TO KNOW

### 2023 PBM Legislation Update

It's a busy General Session with 29 new legislators (27 in the House and 2 in the Senate). There are almost 500 bills with more to come before drafting deadlines occur at the end of January. Committees have new members making legislator education an important part of the new session.

BCBSWY identified the following bills of key importance for our ASO clients:

- [HB0191](#) – Pharmacy Benefit Manager Act Enhancements is very similar to last year's SF0036 and is sponsored by Senators [Lynn Hutchings](#), [Beau Biteman](#), [Evie Brennan](#) and Representatives [Dalton Banks](#), [Bill Allemand](#), [John Bear](#), [Chip Neiman](#), [John Winter](#).

BCBSWY **OPPOSES HB0191** as written as there are five large cost drivers found in the bill:

- The language eliminates actively managed drug formularies, which use member cost share to encourage use of lower cost medications as well as eliminating Rx rebates and manufacturer administrative fees (MAFs);
- It eliminates the use of specific pharmacies, which can reduce the cost of drugs through bulk purchasing and use of coupons;
- It eliminates pharmacy-paid fees, requiring these fees to be passed onto ASO clients;
- It has a requirement to reimburse at NADAC or wholesale acquisition cost plus applicable dispensing fees.

This bill essentially increases costs and removes most tools PBMs use to control drug costs.

HB0191 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. We urge you to contact the following Committee members to voice your opinion about HB0191 immediately:

**Chairman Art Washut**

[Art.Washut@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Art.Washut@wyoleg.gov)

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**Ken Chestek**

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**Barry Crago**

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Cell (307) 250-5008

- [SF0151 – Wyoming Prescription Drug Transparency Act](#) is the second PBM bill brought to the 2023 Wyoming Legislature and is sponsored by Senators [Lynn Hutchings](#), [Anthony Bouchard](#), [Dan Dockstader](#), [Troy McKeown](#) and Representatives [Dalton Banks](#) and [Sarah Penn](#).

BCBSWY **OPPOSES SF0151** as written for the following reasons:

- The introduced language limits the ability of employers to manage drug costs of their health plans by restricting PBM cost-saving services;
- It increases costs through the elimination of coupon programs and claim costs passed onto employers;
- It limits access to medicines when pharmacists are allowed to deny services to members based on how much the pharmacist receives in payment for the drugs.

SF0151 has been referred to the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee and we urge you contact to the following Committee members to voice your opinion about HB0151 immediately:

**Chairman Fred Baldwin**  
[Fred.Baldwin@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Fred.Baldwin@wyoleg.gov)  
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**Eric Barlow**  
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**Anthony Bouchard**  
[Anthony.Bouchard@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Anthony.Bouchard@wyoleg.gov)  
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**Lynn Hutchings**  
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**Dan Dockstader**  
[Dan.Dockstader@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Dockstader@wyoleg.gov)  
Home (307) 885-9705

We suggest you review these and future bills to determine the impacts to your organization and encourage you to reach out to your legislators to voice your concerns. You can find your legislators [here](#).

Don't hesitate to contact your account representative if you have questions on these bills or others which concern you.

## WELLNESS RESOURCES

### Preventive Care Updates

By investing in Employee Preventive Care, you can lower health care costs and reduce chronic absenteeism. To meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, BCBSWY must implement the following changes to our fully insured benefits starting on renewals 1/01/2023 and later.

BCBSWY will visit with you during renewals to discuss the preventive care changes to your program. Non-grandfathered self-funded groups should also consider these updates for the 2023 plan year to benefit your employees.

Here are some examples of the updated changes to expect:

- **Adding coverage for behavioral/social/emotional screenings for members ages 0-21 years old.**
- **Expanding the diet and behavioral counseling benefit to include women ages 40 to 60 with normal or overweight body mass index (BMI) (18.5-29.9) to maintain weight or limit weight gain to prevent obesity.**
- **Expanding coverage for well-woman preventive office visits to include:**
  - **Pre-pregnancy, prenatal, postpartum, and interpregnancy visits.**
  - **Contraceptive management support, counseling services, initiation of contraceptive use, and follow-up care.**
  - **Removal of the preventive visit maximum for females.**

These are just some of the mandated updates. To see the complete list of updates, click the button below. For more information, please contact your Account Executive.

[Learn More About Preventive Care](#)



## January Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Cervical cancer screenings are crucial in detecting the disease early, which leads to prompt treatment and improved outcomes. Early detection of abnormal cervical cell changes (pre-cancers) through screenings can prevent most cervical cancer cases from progressing.

Empower your employees to take charge of their health by providing them with information on the importance of these screenings. Encourage them to take advantage of these important screenings by sharing this important information.

[Employee Cervical Cancer Handout](#)

## February is Heart Month

Does your company promote healthy blood pressure?

High blood pressure (Hypertension) can damage your heart and cause health problems. 1 in every 3 deaths in the United States are related to cardiovascular disease, according to the CDC.

Express your care for your employees' well-being by encouraging them to improve their cardiovascular health with our Heart Healthy Check Handout.

Download it below.

[Employee Heart Healthy Handout](#)

## BCBSWY IN THE COMMUNITY

### Hearts for Hunger Hustles on the Court and in the Cupboard

BCBSWY is once again partnering with the Wyoming Hunger Initiative to raise money to combat food insecurity.



The fourth annual #heartsforhunger fundraising campaign is an opportunity to support Wyoming Hunger Initiative by purchasing a heart for only \$5.

All hearts will be displayed in the Wyoming State Capitol while the Wyoming State Legislature is in session in February 2023. Purchase yours today by clicking the button below.

[Hearts for Hunger](#)

## MAFs

### Manufacturing Admin Fee (MAF) Credit Reminder

As a reminder, Prime recently changed the way it distributes Manufacturing Admin Fees (MAFs) regarding pharmacy utilization. These fees are paid to a PBM by a pharmaceutical manufacturer for the administration of formulary rebate programs.

- MAFs are not rebates, but they are similar in that they are based on utilization and tied to specific drugs obtained at a pharmacy.
- Prime previously retained MAFs to offset internal administrative expenses but is now passing back 100% of MAFs attributed to pharmacy utilization to BCBSWY.
- BCBSWY recently distributed the initial MAF credits received in 2022 to self-funded clients. In the future, BCBSWY will distribute subsequent credits as they are received.

## CAA Update

### BCBSWY Undertakes CAA Requirements for Clients

As required by Section 204 of Title II, Division BB of the Consolidate Appropriates Act, 2021 (CAA), insurance providers and employer-based health plans must submit annual reports on prescription drug costs and health care spending. This applies to both fully insured and self-funded clients.

BCBSWY will submit the required data to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for its fully insured clients and will also submit the data on behalf of its self-funded clients. We are committed to meeting the deadline set by the Health Insurance Oversight System (HIOS) and will submit the 2020 and 2021 reference year data before January 31, 2023.

## Regulatory Updates

### BCBSWY's Work on Our Client's Behalf

With the ever-changing legislative regulations and requirements, BCBSWY is actively working on the following areas in compliance with the Consolidated Appropriates Act and Transparency in Coverage Rule on our client's behalf. The following bullets highlight some of these critical points:

**No Surprises and Balance Billing Protection**

- Applies to out-of-network providers and air ambulance
- Out-of-network ancillary care at in-network provider
- Exception with 72-hour notice and consent if non-emergency
- Independent dispute resolution (IDR) process
- Baseball-style arbitration
- Originally closest to “qualified payment amount” (QPA) wins
- Recent court ruling struck down QPA presumption
- Ground ambulance variances

**Continuity of Care**

- 90-days of in-network coverage after change
- Serious and complex conditions
- Contract termination, network change, plan change

**Provider Directory**

- Verification every 90 days and changes in 48 hours
- Respond to member network questions within one day
- If error, member gets in-network cost-sharing
- Providers to afford refunds in certain situations

**Covid-19**

- Testing and vaccination coverage without cost
- Ongoing compliance during national health emergency

**Self-Funded Billing Calendar**

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	CE	4	5	6
8	9	10	A	11	12	13
15	16	17	CE	18	19	20
22	23	24	CE	25	26	27
29	30	31				

**Billing Calendar Available**

Our latest Billing Calendar is available for download. The Calendar has all the important dates for 2023 for self-funded billing.

**2023 Billing Calendar**

If you have questions, please contact your account executive for more information.

**Find Your Account Executive**

**Follow Us**



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