

Blue Edge Newsletter



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



Workers stand on the ground and on different levels during construction of the Wyoming Capitol in 1889. Wyoming State Archives Photo Collection.

LEGISLATURE NEWS TO KNOW

SF-151 PBM Update

As a reminder, SF151, the Wyoming Prescription Drug Transparency, Act was sent to the Governor who released his review on March 17.

We believe the Governor's line-item vetoes improved the bill by removing language that would have created uncertainty for future health plan operations. These critical changes preserve the employers' flexibility required to design their health plans according to their needs.

The line-item vetoed version of SF151 allows pharmacists to stop paying transaction fees when submitting claims and provides additional revenue to independent pharmacies from EGI members. The bill also requires Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to streamline claims submission, appeals and other administrative processes to save pharmacies money and time.

Additionally, we appreciate your incredible support through numerous

communications with legislators and the Governor's Office. Your input helped significantly reduce the negative financial impacts of this legislation. In addition, we reminded legislators that health care in Wyoming is among the most expensive in the nation and SF151 could have made it even more costly.

Unfortunately, issues affecting health care costs will not disappear soon. In fact, the Governor indicated this bill is "only the beginning of anticipated pharmaceutical reform."

BCBSWY continues to voice opposition to legislative mandates that may increase health care costs. We appreciate our employer clients' efforts to remain engaged and willing to visit with elected officials about challenges while the health care costs continue to increase.

As always, don't hesitate to contact your Account Executive if you have further questions.

Interim Topics

The Wyoming Legislature have determined their Interim topics. BCBSWY's Government Affairs team continues to engage with issues that could impact insurance operations. If you'd like to view the entire Interim topics list, it can be found [here](#).

The Labor, Health and Social Services Committee will discuss prior authorizations and white bagging during their first Interim meeting April 27-28 in Casper.

BCBSWY applies prior authorizations to approve some treatments in advance ensuring our members receive the appropriate care in a timely fashion to prevent costly and unsafe treatment. It is our understanding that medical providers are concerned about the administrative and payment burdens presented by the prior authorization process.

White bagging occurs when insurers order expensive specialty drugs and have those drugs sent to facilities to be administered. This practice is employed to obtain the lowest possible cost for administering infusions. Medical providers have concerns about patient safety and access to treatment if these medicines do not arrive in a timely fashion.

BCBSWY will attend the Labor, Health and Social Services meeting and plans to offer education to the Committee regarding how the practices of prior authorization and white bagging impact the cost and quality of health care. We will keep you updated as events unfold throughout the Interim.

WELLNESS RESOURCES

Mental Health Awareness Month in May

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. We are proud to work with our employers for better mental health and the well-being of

employee members around the state.

Please take a moment to see how simple green gestures can liven up the workplace and make a difference in your employee's lives. Download the poster below.



[Green Spaces & Mental Health Poster](#)



Support Workplace Mental Health

Maintaining positive mental health is critical for dealing with work-related stress, burnout and fatigue.

In addition, stress and anxiety can amplify workplace depression.

Learn how ANew360 can help your employees take control of their lives by managing stress.

[Employee Mental Health Handout](#)

BCBSWY IN THE COMMUNITY

Volunteerism Week Can Change Lives for the Better



As a reminder, the third week of April is National Volunteerism Week. We encourage all of our employers and their employees to make a difference in their communities.

BCBSWY proudly dedicates resources to community causes that make a difference in people's lives with nearly 250 volunteer hours in 2022.

We hope our employer business partners will join us in being the change they want to see.

Additionally, if you know of a community organization that could benefit from additional support, please click the button below.

[BCBSWY Volunteer Form](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ENDING FOR COVID-19

Emergency Declarations Have Ended

The federal government will end the COVID-19 national and public health emergencies on May 11, 2023.

Starting May 12, 2023, standard health plan provisions will apply with cost shares as applicable for COVID-19 testing, related services, and vaccine administration. Please click the button below for more information.



[Public Health Emergency Ending](#)

NETRESULTS FORMULARY

Formularies Save Money, Improve Results

As a reminder, a preferred drug list or formulary is a list of prescription drugs and supplies that have been selected to give your employees the best results while saving your organization and your employee the most money.



Many new or experimental drugs are expensive and have not shown efficacy to justify the higher costs. Prime offers the NetResults formulary as a way to exclude these drugs in order to provide proven quality care at reduced costs.

If you are currently not on the NetResults formulary, we encourage you to contact your broker/consultant or Account Executive at BCBSWY for additional details.

[Learn More Here](#)

FLEX ACCESS

Copay Assistance Programs Save Money and Take Advantage Manufacturing Assistance

Flex Access is an automated copay assistance program that is available to groups to help manage the high cost of specialty drugs. There are more than 300 drugs on the list. The member copays range from \$0-\$35.



If a member is not eligible to enroll in the manufacturer copay assistance program claims will be paid according to the standard group benefit. This program maximizes the coupons available from manufacturers and only credits a member's accumulators for what they actually paid.

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE- CAA UPDATE

Gag Clause Prohibition

Effective December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (CAA) prohibits health plans and issuers from entering contracts with health care providers, third-party administrators or other service providers that would restrict the plan or issuer from providing, accessing, or sharing certain information about provider price and quality, beneficiary claim information, and deidentified claims.

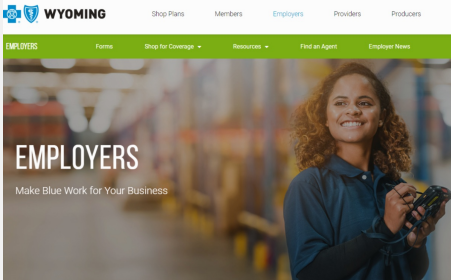
Health plans and issuers are required to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services their first attestation of compliance with the CAA prohibition on gag clauses by December 31, 2023. Annual subsequent attestations are due each December 31. BCBSWY is currently researching the details on the submission of this form and is here to support our clients through this new requirement.

Section 204 Filing Deadline Approaching

BCBSWY wants to remind group leaders that Section 204 filing is due soon. Your Account Executive or consultant/broker will contact you with the necessary information as there has been recent updates by CMS to the requirements.

Under Section 204 (of Title II, Division BB) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), insurance companies and employer-based health plans must submit information about prescription drugs and health care spending annually.

BCBSWY has agreed to submit the data on behalf of its self-funded clients once client information has been provided.



The screenshot shows the BCBSWY website's 'EMPLOYERS' section. The header includes the Wyoming logo and navigation links for Shop Plans, Members, Employers, Providers, and Products. Below the navigation is a green bar with links for Forms, Shop for Coverage, Resources, Find an Agent, and Employer News. The main content area features a woman smiling while holding a smartphone, with the text 'EMPLOYERS' and 'Make Blue Work for Your Business' overlaid.

Employer Resources Available

As a reminder, [BCBSWY.com](https://www.bcbswy.com) has an assortment of resources available for employers. Find useful information to share with your employees to help alleviate questions they may have.

[See Employer Toolkit](#)

If you have questions, please contact your Account Executive for more information.

[Find Your Account Executive](#)

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