

For behavioral health providers

Welcome to the first edition of *Blues Brief* for Behavioral Health providers

This special issue of *Blues Brief* is designed to cover topics of interest just for you. It will be published at least once per year. For more frequent news from us, you can subscribe to our monthly edition of *Blues Brief* for professional providers or quarterly edition for hospitals and facilities. These publications, along with the *BCN Provider News* and *The Record* newsletters, are available via email subscription. To sign up and avoid possible subscription errors, add *Blues Brief* to your subscriptions by clicking the Manage Subscriptions link at the bottom of your *BCN Provider News* or *The Record* newsletter emails. You can also visit the subscription page on bcbsm.com/providers to choose your preferred *Blues Brief* versions. Read more on [Page 6 of the March–April 2019 BCN Provider News](#) or the [March 2019 issue of The Record](#).

How to request prior authorization for State of Michigan enrollees

New Directions Behavioral Health will manage behavioral health and substance use disorder benefits on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for State of Michigan enrollees (group number 007000562), effective Oct. 1, 2019.

These benefits were previously managed by Magellan Health. This change affects services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2019. Read more in the [September 2019 issue of The Record](#).

Online visits available to MPSERS members with Medicare Plus Blue starting in January

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, our Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO plan will offer Blue Cross Online VisitsSM

to Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System group members. Members who use this benefit can virtually connect with a physician, therapist or other health care provider using a smartphone, tablet, computer with a web camera or video conferencing device. Read more in the [November 2019 issue of The Record](#).

We're using updated utilization management criteria for behavioral health

On Aug. 1, 2019, Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO, BCN HMOSM and BCN AdvantageSM plans began using the 2019 InterQual[®] criteria for behavioral health utilization management determinations. In addition, certain types of determinations are now based on modifications to InterQual criteria or on local rules or medical policies.

For more information, see [Page 21 of the July–August 2019 BCN Provider News](#) or the [July 2019 issue of The Record](#).

Encourage follow-up care for mental health, substance use disorder after a patient visits ER

In the United States, 18% of adults and 13% to 20% of children experience mental illness, according to the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Follow-up care for mental health issues is crucial. It helps to:

- Decrease repeat visits to the emergency room.
- Improve physical and mental function.
- Increase compliance with follow-up instructions.

Read more in the [November 2019 issue of The Record](#).

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Articles apply to all lines of business unless noted by the icons below:

Key:  BCN HMOSM  Blue Cross PPO  BCN AdvantageSM HMO  Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO

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Board-certified behavior analysts will need to be licensed to be eligible for reimbursement

Starting Jan. 7, 2020, board-certified behavior analysts practicing in Michigan must be licensed by the State of Michigan to be eligible for reimbursement from Blue Cross and BCN. Board-certified behavior analysts who aren't licensed aren't eligible for reimbursement for services provided on or after Jan. 7, 2020.

For more information, see [Page 23 of the September–October 2019 BCN Provider News](#) or the September 2019 issue of *The Record*.

Concurrent billing is allowed for some ABA procedure codes for commercial members

Board-certified behavior analysts can bill for services provided to the same client by two providers at the same time for the following applied behavior analysis procedure codes. This was effective Sept. 1, 2019:

- *97153 and *97155
- *97154 and *97155

This applies to Blue Cross' PPO (commercial) and BCN HMOSM (commercial) members.

For more information, see [Page 21 of the November–December 2019 BCN Provider News](#) or the November 2019 issue of *The Record*.

Reminder: Blue Cross and BCN now accepting applied behavior analysis claims with 2019 procedure codes

Blue Cross and BCN began accepting claims for behavior analysis services billed with the following

codes, for dates of service on or after June 1, 2019: *97151, *97152, *97153, *97154, *97155, *97156, *97157, *97158, *0362T and *0373T.

Claims billed with the following codes will still be honored: H0031, H0032, H2019, H2014, S5108 and S5111.

For more information, see [Page 17 of the November–December 2019 BCN Provider News](#) or the July 2019 issue of *The Record*.

Changes to reimbursement policy for board-certified behavior analysts take place Jan. 1

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the following two reimbursement policy changes affecting board-certified behavior analysts will occur.

1. Regarding Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's *Board Certified Behavior Analyst Participation Agreement*, Addendum C (Reimbursement Methodology), the payment policy will change to reflect that "BCBSM will pay the lesser of the billed charge or **80%** of the published maximum payment."
2. Approved amounts for adaptive behavior assessment and treatment codes will also change Jan. 1, 2020. Revised amounts are available for viewing on web-DENIS.

Read more in the [October 2019 issue of *The Record*](#).

Holiday office closings

Blue Cross and BCN offices will be closed Dec. 24 through 25 (Christmas) and Dec. 31 through Jan. 1.

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