

## Verifying eligibility for expanded hospice benefits

Published: Jun 14, 2018 - Administrative

In the [April 2018 edition of the Network Update](#), BCBSGa announced an expansion of hospice benefits for local BCBSGa fully insured plans to begin on June 1, 2018. The newly expanded benefits allow for disease modifying treatments to continue alongside hospice services, as well as member access to hospice services with prognoses of up to 12 months.

Providers should verify whether members have the expanded hospice benefit under their BCBSGa policy.

For some health plans, updated benefit information will return via an electronic eligibility and benefit inquiry on the Availity Portal or using your Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) interface as early as June 1, 2018. We anticipate that all impacted plans will return the updated language by August 1, 2018. Once updated, hospice inquiries (Service Type 45) will confirm access to the expanded hospice benefit by returning: ***“LIFE EXPECTANCY UP TO 12 MONTHS WITH DISEASE MODIFYING TREATMENT ALLOWED.”***

It may be necessary for providers to contact the Provider Service number on the back of the member ID card to confirm if a member’s plan includes the expanded hospice benefits from June 1, 2018 - August 1, 2018, before all systems are updated to report the more detailed benefit language.

As a reminder, the following plans include the expanded hospice benefits beginning June 1, 2018: Commercial fully-insured group and individual plans. The following plans *do not* include expanded hospice benefits: self-insured plans, Medicare, Medicaid, and FEP.

**URL:** <https://providernews.anthem.com/georgia/article/verifying-eligibility-for-expanded-hospice-benefits-1>

**Featured In:**

June 2018 BCBSGa Provider Newsletter

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of: In Colorado Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. In Connecticut: Anthem Health Plans, Inc. In Georgia: Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare Plan of Georgia, Inc. In Indiana: Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. In Kentucky: Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. In Maine: Anthem Health Plans of Maine, Inc. In Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area): RightCHOICE® Managed Care, Inc. (RIT), Healthy Alliance® Life Insurance Company (HALIC), and HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates administer non-HMO benefits underwritten by HALIC and HMO benefits underwritten by HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates only provide administrative services for self-funded plans and do not underwrite benefits. In Nevada:

Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. dba HMO Nevada. In New Hampshire: Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. HMO plans are administered by Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. and underwritten by Matthew Thornton Health Plan, Inc. In Ohio: Community Insurance Company. In Virginia: Anthem Health Plans of Virginia, Inc. trades as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia, and its service area is all of Virginia except for the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna, and the area east of State Route 123. In Wisconsin: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin (BCBSWI), which underwrites or administers the PPO and indemnity policies and underwrites the out of network benefits in POS policies offered by CompCare or WCIC; CompCare Health Services Insurance Corporation (CompCare) underwrites or administers the HMO policies and Wisconsin Collaborative Insurance Company (WCIC) underwrites or administers Well Priority HMO or POS policies. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Anthem is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Use of the Anthem websites constitutes your agreement with our Terms of Use.

---